

Community Involvement Committee

Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2010

Committee Members Present: Jason Barnstead-Long, Liz Gatti, Linda Nettekoven, Stanley Penkin, Howard Shapiro, Alison Stoll, Peter Stark

Absent: Paula Amato, Judy Bluehorse Skelton, Judith Gonzalez Plascencia, Anyeley Hallova, Brian Heron, Shirley Nacoste, Lai-Lani Ovalles, Rahul Rastogi, Ryan Schera

Staff (BPS): Raihana Ansary (Mayor's Office), Debbie Bischoff, Eden Dabbs, Joan Frederikson, Alex Howard, Deborah Stein, Marty Stockton

Visitors: James Parkish, Omar Saliazar

Welcome and Announcements – Howard Shapiro

Howard welcomed everybody and invited the visitors to introduce themselves.

Marty announced the following upcoming events.

1. Planning & Sustainability Commission hearing/recommendation on the factual basis and buildable lands analysis– Tuesday, December 14, 6:00 pm; 1900 Building, Room 2500A
2. Dr. Julian Agyeman on Reimagining (E)quality – Wednesday, December 15th, 7:00pm
3. Cynthia Girling and Ronald Kellett on Designing for Environment and Community – Monday, January 10th, 7:00pm, although the date has since been changed to Wednesday, January 12th.
4. Bob Weissbourd on Economic Development – Monday, January 17th, 7:00pm

Howard shared that the Planning and Sustainability Commission has reviewed the inventory of buildable lands for current and future buildable lands. It is important to the coalitions that the neighborhoods be aware of this process. Bonny McKnight's letter was read out loud. Peter recommended focusing outreach on the neighborhood land use chairs. Linda summarized the requests from the PSC: 1) they requested that a letter on the buildable lands inventory be sent to all the neighborhood land use chairs; and 2) they wanted more analysis done on how air quality relates to current placement of high density building. Linda shared that there have been two presentations at Citywide Land Use by Bureau of Planning & Sustainability staff on this topic and that the situation does pose a bit of a "chicken and egg" scenario regarding public engagement. Jason said that Eric defined the buildable lands inventory at the PSC and that this same presentation should be communicated to the coalitions. Jason continued that the more effective engagement could occur if the coalitions knew where to plug in during this effort and that Commissioner Fritz should be briefed as well.

Regarding the Portland Plan – Inspiring Communities Series, Jason recommended marketing the date change for the Cynthia Girling and Ronald Kellett event. Jason said that he has been pleased with what the speakers, panel and moderator have had to say at the speaker series events he had been to so far.

Follow Up to Focus/Discussion Group on Communication of the Six Proposed Strategies – Eden Dabbs

Eden gave a summary of the collective feedback on the strategy messaging. The four focus/discussion groups that convened were the Diversity & Civic Leadership Partners, Portland Plan Community Involvement Committee, the Multnomah Youth Commission and a group representing business. Highlights and/or main themes from the focus/discussions groups were:

Generally ...

- Tie the strategies to the principles and show how they are interconnected.
- Avoid planner jargon.
- Language favors families and parents with children, but not all people have kids.
- Imagery used was too restrictive.
- Must show accountability.

City Green

- No mention of the two rivers that define Portland.
- The City Green or Nature in the City title is confusing.

Economic Op & Affordability

- Tension between supporting small business and attracting large employers.
- “Decent” housing too minimal of a goal.

Education

- Education focuses too much on K-16 success and not live-long learners.
- What about immigrants’ need to gain new skills in Portland.
- Student achievement is more than test scores or developing worker bees, but should incorporate how to be an involved and caring member of the community.
- Include culturally sensitive practices in schools.

20-minute Neighborhood

- The 20-Minute Neighborhoods title is problematic for many in the DCL community, but recognized by many in the community.

21st Century Technologies

- Unsure how the 21st Technologies works as a strategy by itself; does it mean Big Green or little green (i.e., all sustainable practices or just green technology)

Stan asked who makes the final decision on all this wordsmithing edits. Eden responded that there are a lot of cooks in the kitchen, but also that she would like the Communications Subcommittee to view a copy of the Curbsider draft. Deborah stated that leading up to the Portland Plan Phase III Fairs, the Curbsider is more like an advertisement and that it is meant to capture the spirit of the draft strategies, but that the content is evolving everyday. Great input was received at the focus/discussion group testing, but the product is still changing. Deborah added that the Mayor will approve the final language, but that the process of editing flows from the technical action groups (TAGs), BPS managers, Mayor, Portland Plan Advisory Group (PPAG), BPS managers, testing with the focus/discussion groups, back to the TAGs for a new template, and round again. Eden elaborated that there are many different levels of review of this dense material and that the Curbsider will be a distillation or a teaser. Eden asked how we make sure the comments are incorporated when some are in a direct conflict.

Liz asked about the timeline for the Curbsider copy. Eden responded that the final goes to the printer in late January. Stan asked that the Curbsider copy be sent to the entire CIC. Eden said that staff will know when to send to the CIC after the meeting with the Mayor later that day. Eden shared that a graphic designer will be creating images for the strategies. Jason said that a drawing of the 20-Minute concept would be helpful.

Update on Grants to Diversity and Civic Leadership (DCL) Partners for Culturally Appropriate Portland Plan Involvement – Deborah Stein

Deborah gave the background behind the City of Portland-provided grants to the DCL partners so that they may more actively and comprehensively participate in the development of the Portland Plan in ways that are most relevant, culturally appropriate and meaningful to the particular communities served. An update of each DCL partner's efforts to date for Portland Plan involvement is as follows:

NAYA has:

- Recruited community participation in reviewing draft materials for the next round of workshops and participated in Technical Advisory Group work, including providing feedback on language used in materials to ensure greater inclusivity.
- Introduced Portland Indian Leaders Roundtable partners to the Portland Plan by sharing the handbook. Discussion by 28 attendees included upcoming opportunities to educate within member organizations.
- Participated in planning efforts for Multnomah County Youth Commission to ensure NAYA youth inclusion in an overall youth involvement effort.
- Participated as part of PYEC in discussion and information sharing with partner DCL organizations at workshops and community events.

Latino Network has:

- Provided Portland Plan information and collected participant survey responses at various venues and summer events, including Portland Parks & Recreation free summer lunch program, Latino-centric flea markets, faith-based organizations and the Bite of Oregon.
- Introduced Portland Plan concepts and facilitated the Portland Plan game and discussion at small community gatherings, the 2011 DCL Academy and Verde's Green Leaders group.

CIO has:

- Partnered with ONI to provide a Portland Plan overview and group discussion around the Equity strategy at the CIO PILOT retreat.
- Participated in brainstorming around the Portland Plan communications focus/discussion groups.
- Provided videotaping services for three Portland Plan communications focus/discussion groups.

Urban League has:

- Collected 86 issue-oriented surveys from African Americans and conducted door-to-door canvassing to 1,000 homes in outer SE and NE Portland.
- Provided Portland Plan information at a Candidates Forum attended by 200 people.
- Partnered with City staff to provide a Portland Plan overview at an Urban League civic engagement event at Leander Court attended by 20 people
- Participated in a discussion at a Social Justice and Civic Leadership training attended by 50 people.

IRCO has:

- Held a Community Needs Assessment Conference attended by over 300 people.
- Participated in the development of a Portland Plan PowerPoint presentation for individuals with limited English skills and conducted training with a small group of IRCO community leaders.
- Selected appropriate survey questions and provided Portland Plan information at Winter Giving 2010 event.

Deborah said that Jeri Williams with the Office of Neighborhood Involvement, who works as a coordinator with the Diversity & Civic Leadership Partners, had been invited and has an open invitation to attend future CIC meetings to give her own DCL update on approach, desired outcomes and efforts on culturally appropriate Portland Plan involvement. Howard asked are we touching upon the University of Portland diversity. Deborah responded that we are just touching the surface and that leadership development can have a ripple effect.

Briefing on the North/Northeast Quadrant and I-5/Broadway-Weidler Plans – Steve Iwata, Stephanie Beckman and Nicholas Starin

Steve Iwata gave a Central City 2035 (CC2035) overview; focusing on the North/Northeast Quadrant and I-5/Broadway-Weidler Plans. The process entails going through the quadrants in a sequence, starting with the North/Northeast Quadrant. The project is a collaboration between the City of Portland and the Oregon Department of Transportation, to jointly develop a land use plan and plan for the I-5 Freeway in the vicinity of the Broadway/Weidler Interchange in a mutually beneficial way. The CC2035 advisory group has been formed, which includes a diverse set of opinions and experience with transportation-related efforts, including the proposed Mt. Hood Freeway, Albina and the Columbia River Crossing Project. The project will address challenges and opportunities related to land use, urban design, the Willamette River and multi-modal transportation infrastructure. The final plan will come out a year from now. The Southwest Quadrant Plan will begin in fall 2011.

Stephanie Beckman reported that the advisory committee reviewed the draft public involvement plan and incorporated the Public Involvement Advisory Council's (PIAC) principles and the Portland Plan's measures of success. Stephanie said the North/Northeast area is sensitive to the various outcomes from urban renewal projects and is reaching out to the African-American community. Specific to the North/Northeast Quadrant, a stakeholder advisory committee has been formed. The committee has approximately 30 members, with wide representation from area stakeholders and community interests, including business and neighborhood associations, property owners, affordable housing, cultural heritage, the environment, economic equity, labor, urban design and transportation.

Public events have included community walks in September. An open house held jointly with Portland Development Commission was in November. Neighborhood, business district and other community groups have and will be contacted to inform them about the process and seek their input within their standing group's meetings. An electronic mailing list has been created and is used to provide frequent updates to interested parties regarding meetings, events and new products. Occasional articles and notices will be distributed through the BPS bimonthly e-newsletter. Hard copy notices of important events such as public hearings will be mailed to businesses and residents within the N/NE Quadrant area and other interested parties.

Liz asked if this effort is being driven by government. Stephanie responded that pedestrian access, bicycle access, getting to the bridges and downtown and urban form relate to many regional users and that public comment has elevated this effort. Stan stated that the Rose Quarter and Memorial Coliseum are integral to this quadrant and asked who does this all work. Steve said that Karl Lisle is

the project manager and is well coordinated with Portland Development Commission and the Coliseum effort. Peter said the quadrants have artificial boundaries and asked how the boundaries are being expanded. Steve stated that Mark Raggett is the lead urban designer and acknowledges these interrelationships and will show connections.

Nicholas Starin gave a PowerPoint presentation on the North/Northeast Quadrant incorporating much of the rich African-American history of the area. Themes of the area include: distinct and evolving communities; importance of transportation; and big plans, big projects and big impacts. Following the presentation, Peter asked that this presentation be shared with the schools and Liz offered that 3rd grade focuses on Portland.

Phase III Workshop/Fair Design – Alex Howard

In preparation of the Portland Plan Phase III Fairs, Alex described the engagement spectrum consideration that is going into the design of the fairs. Alex then gave an overview of the workshops/fairs and walked through the materials and activities. Alex discussed with the CIC the strategy stations, the strategy work sessions and requested that comments be directed to her. Alex said that she would schedule a workshop subcommittee meeting in early January before the next CIC meeting.

Debbie and Eden said that they would also coordinate with their subcommittees to schedule a joint Communications and Outreach Subcommittee meeting in early to mid- January as well.

Deborah ended the meeting by saying that BPS staff will be enlisting the CIC to assist in the public involvement design for the Comprehensive Plan. Deborah shared that BPS staff will be meeting with the Neighborhood Coalitions Directors and Chairs on January 14th. A similar meeting with the Diversity & Civic Leadership Partners will also be scheduled.

Approval of Minutes from October 20, 2010 and November 17, 2010 Meetings

Quorum was not achieved for the CIC to vote on the minutes from the previous meetings.

Next Steps:

The next CIC meeting is as follows:

- **Wednesday, January 19, 5:30-8:00 p.m., Rm. 7A (7th Floor, 1900 Bldg.).**

CIC Decisions and Follow up Actions

Follow up items:

- 1. The CIC recommends that the Mayor looks broadly in the community to identify a new community-at-large representative. The Mayor's Office has asked for language in drafting recruitment language for an application to fill vacancies on the Portland Plan Community Involvement Committee.***
- 2. The January 2011 meeting will be in the evening to try out the timeframe. The meeting will be used to re-engage with CIC members that have not been able to attend meetings due to the usual morning meeting time.***
- 3. Curbsider language to be reviewed by CIC.***

Meeting adjourned.



Attachments:

Bonnie McKnight's Letter

Nicholas Starin's N/NE Quadrant Powerpoint Presentation

Testimony
12/14/2010

Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission

Re: Consideration of the Buildable Land Inventory

Members of the Commission:

Citywide Land Use Group asked Eric Engstrom of the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability to attend our September 27 meeting and discuss the Buildable Land Inventory questions we provided him in advance of that meeting.

Eric not only attended the meeting but also provided his answers in writing. The core question we asked was "How will it (the Buildable Land Inventory) impact zoning decision in the City?"

His answer points out the problem we believe still has not been dealt with:

"First, knowing the overall amount of potentially available land helps us understand the scale of zoning changes that may be necessary to accommodate expected growth."

Our concern is that accommodating growth is only part of the overall issue. The other part of that decision must be how do we ensure our on-going capacity to serve that growth and sustain our quality of life as a City.

For those of us in the Neighborhood Association Land Use Review role we see the impacts of growth with inadequate infrastructure first hand. It is the core of most issues around change in our neighborhoods. And we are not only concerned about our inability to maintain current infrastructure or provide adequate new infrastructure. We are concerned that by merely accommodating growth we continue to undermine the assumed basis for our zones – that infrastructure is available now and in the future.

It is too late to ask whether the infrastructure is adequate after we have added new structures and new residents. It is too late to assume fixes to that inadequacy will be made some time in the future. It is too late to assume funding mechanisms to provide for our infrastructure needs will somehow be identified in the future.

Decisions around growth have to be made by considering whether we have room but, as importantly, whether we have the capacity – either real or planned – to serve it.

Neighborhood Associations need to be part of that decision and a few opportunities to testify downtown at meetings of this Commission are simply not enough. We have sympathy for staff limitations due to current funding inadequacy in the City. Our Neighborhood Association system is an existing, separately funded resource to discuss and more fully inform you as Commissioners about how the Buildable Land Inventory should be framed before it is simply sent to City Council for adoption.

We can no longer afford to invite growth without looking at the financial implications of that growth.

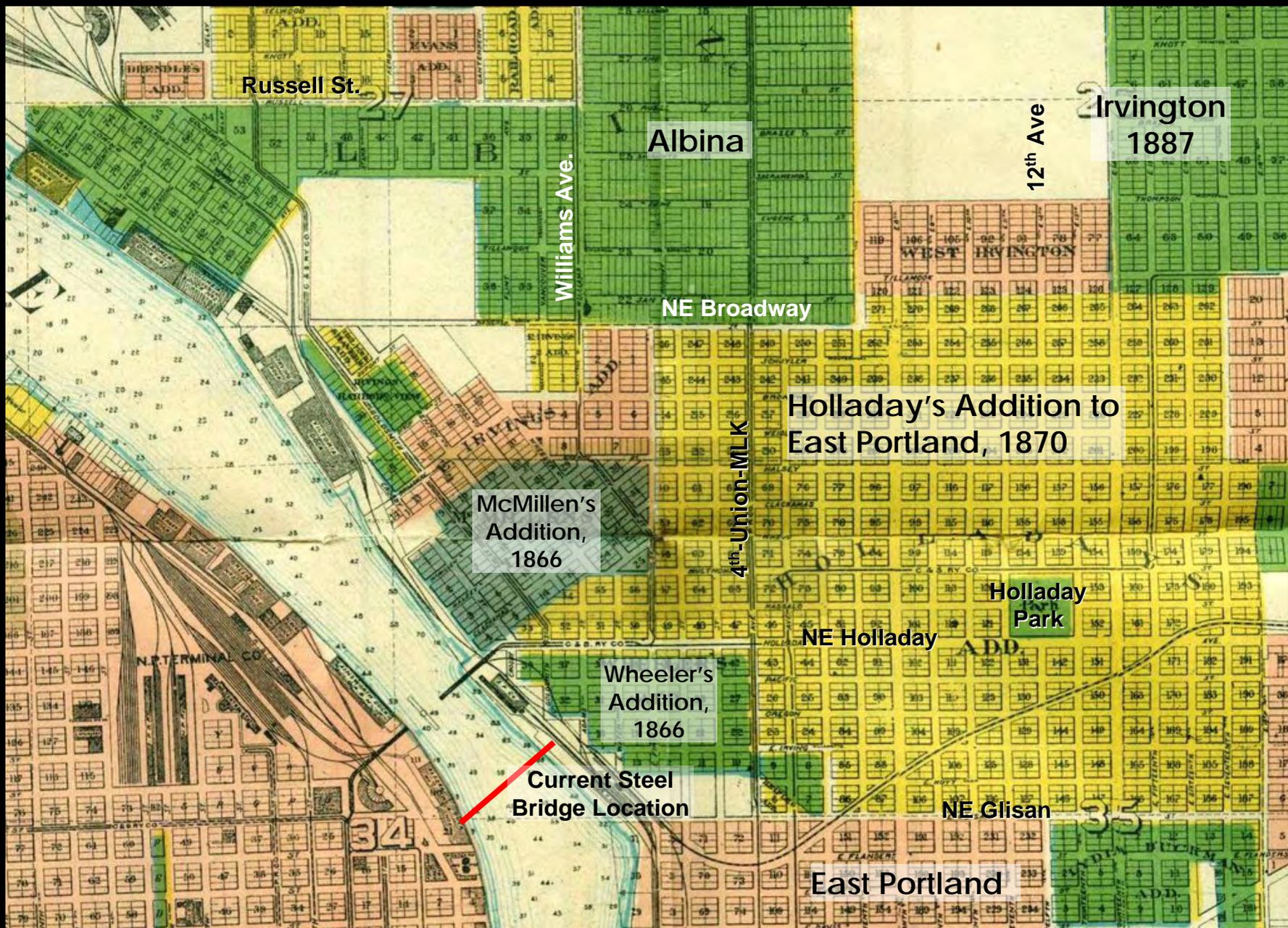
Revenue problems seem to indicate that the City will not have extra resources to build and maintain the infrastructure we need as we grow without that infrastructure we risk losing much of the livability of our city. It is important that we strengthen all public discussion of this problem now, when it can only get more difficult to solve if we delay finding answers.

Please use this key question to form a strong partnership with city residents by using the Neighborhood Association Coalition system of land use review to further process and gather ideas before you form your final Buildable Lands Inventory recommendations for City Council.

The Portland Plan and other current public planning efforts will not deal with the question in detail, if at all. Neighborhood Associations do it routinely in contributing informed volunteer hours within their officially defined city boundaries. We think it is time to make a stronger tie between the citizens you are seeking to serve and the issues you are reviewing for Council. This is an opportunity to make that happen in the way envisioned by the Portland Comprehensive Plan.

Bonny McKnight
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Citywide Land Use Group

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Growth of the East Side: Subdivisions & Development



I-5 Construction at the I-84 Interchange, 1962

