



City of Portland
Bureau of
**Planning and
Sustainability**
Sam Adams, Mayor
Susan Anderson, Director

Planning

1900 S.W. 4th Ave., Ste. 7100
Portland, OR 97201-5350

Phone 503-823-7700
FAX 503-823-7800
TTY 503-823-6868

Sustainability

721 N.W. 9th Ave., Ste. 195
Portland, OR 97209-3447

Phone 503-823-7222
FAX 503-823-5311
TTY 503-823-6868

www.portlandonline.com/bps

An equal opportunity employer

 Printed on recycled paper

SE 122nd Ave. Pilot Project Community Working Group Draft Meeting Notes November 16, 2009

In Attendance: Mark White, John McDonald, Lauree Carlson, Annette Mattson, David Edwards, Jose Pinomesa, Jennifer Will-Thapa, Erin Kendrick, Rhonda Richardson, Sue Gillean, Michelle Lohn, Sue Stahl, Mollie Ruskin, Pascal Maboko

Absent: Jean DeMaster, David Berniker, Jill Kuehler, Kevin Odell

Staff in Attendance: Julia Gisler, Barry Manning, Chris Scarzello, Lora Lilliard, Graeme Oberhausen, Ashleigh Paschal, Mutasin Farah

Welcome

Staff introduced themselves.

Community Working Group members group went around the room for a brief introduction including a few words about why they were interested in this project.

Annette Mattson: David Douglas School Board representative; lived in area many years; concerned about impacts of more population on schools and community as well as equity, social and aesthetic issues.

Sue Stahl: lives in SW Portland but is interested in accessibility issues from perspective of a disabled person. Has background in public health.

Lauree Carlsen: long-time homeowner and business owner in area; interested in growth and safety issues; wants to make 122nd a nicer place.

Sue Gillian: 15-year resident; concerned about people's perception of the neighborhood as a place to live, including prospective residents.

Pascal Moboko: recent immigrant that moved first to the 122nd area; concerned about bus and transit safety; currently works with refugees in community.

Erin Kendrick: recently moved to the area; interested in improving walkability, bus, retail and services in the area.

Michelle Lohn: 19 year resident; concerned about sidewalks and pedestrian safety issues.

Mollie Ruskin: assistant to State Representative Jefferson Smith – interested in learning how the representative can be helpful.

Jose Pinomesa: East Portland Chamber of Commerce representative and board member.

John McDonald: land use chair of Powelhurst-Gilbert; concerned about streets, sidewalks and connections; interested in development issues, particularly design of infill development

Rhonda Richardson: 19-year resident; concerned about “haphazard” development, and the health aspects of the project.

Jennifer Will-Thapa: ROSE Community Development representative; resident coordinator for Leander Court; works closely with 4H youth group at Leander.

David Edwards: business owner and Midway Business Association representative; raised in area - remembers the “rural” roots of the community; wants to see more storefronts and greater sense of community.

Mark White: President of Powellhurst-Gilbert Neighborhood Association; interested in sidewalks and safety as well as impacts of growth and social change.

Four CWG members were absent:

David Berniker, an at-large member with a background in architecture and design;

Jean DeMaster, Executive Director of Human Solutions, a non-profit housing and service provider;

Jill Kuehler, Executive Director of Zenger Farm; and

Kevin Odell, representative of OPAL (Organizing People Activating Leaders).

Staff mentioned the upcoming Portland Plan workshop in East Portland (November 19) and encouraged folks to attend.

Study Update

Barry provided information on the background, scope, and process on the project in a PowerPoint presentation (see web site).

Group members raised some questions and expressed interest in density, minimum density requirements, land division “vesting” issues, “a”-overlay provisions, potential for development moratorium (none)

Staff shared information on the working groups’ structure and covered anticipated meetings. In addition to the Community Working Group (CWG) there is a Health Partners Working group (HPWG) and a Technical Advisory Group (TAG).

Julia provided info on health aspects of study. This project is being partially funded by a grant from the NW Health Foundation to incorporate health issues into a community planning process. Julia explained how the ‘public health lens’ was being applied in the various steps of this community planning process.

Background and Start-Up:

- Established a **Health Partners Working Group (HPWG)** with members from Public Health Agencies (Multnomah Health Department, Oregon Public Health Division), Portland State University (Institute on Aging, School of Community Health, Institute of Portland Metropolitan Studies),

Non-profit Organizations (Community Health Partnership, Food Bank, Upstream Public Health,) Metro (Transportation), and Medical Organizations (Oregon Medical Association, Kaiser Permanente, American Heart Association/American Stroke Association)

- Hire a PSU graduate student intern with public health background (Heidi Guenin)
- Planning staff learning about the field of public health and health impact assessments as they apply to the building environment.

Exiting Conditions:

- Work with HPWG to identify additional maps and data related to public health
- Work with HPWG to identify survey questions that relate to public health

Explore Issues & Constraints:

- Discuss importance/influence of healthy & sustainable planning parameters: safe convenient options for walking and biking to destinations, neighborhood goods and services, access to food, environmental factors, good transit service, community gathering places.

Explore & Refine Alternatives:

- Consult with HPWG

Develop Recommendations:

- Work with HPWG to secure implementers for health related recommendations that are outside the scope of the City.
 - Encourage advocacy for recommendations that have health related implications (sidewalks, better transit, etc...)
- Question - will the project include considerations of housing proximity to busy streets and asthma rates in children? Are obesity issues included? Will staff send information to the neighborhood residents so they know about the workshop?
 - Comment - Neighborhood has a lot of diversity, people from other countries, and they aren't aware of the rules or laws. People are cutting down a lot of trees - some must be over 300 years old - to use for firewood.
 - Comment - the tree cutting issue needs to address more than just the rules - we need educational materials in multiple languages that helps explain the rules but also the benefits of keeping trees. Can the city put this kind of information into packets for new residents? The city should regulate trees that are 8-inches diameter or larger - 8 inches is pretty significant.
 - Question - are there studies that link health with good design?
 - Comment - we need positive places to provide for positive interactions.
 - Question - will the study look at access to clean water, good sewer services, and proximity to freeway?

Existing Conditions

Barry distributed a snapshot of the area's demographics.

Lora Lilliard provided information on design and infill and showed a series of maps that are being developed to further describe conditions in the area.

The group commented on map showing potential development - so if the large underdeveloped lot has Doug Firs, you have to cut them down to build.

There was a short discussion about minimum density requirements - if the lot is vacant, minimum density applies, if the lot is not vacant, minimum density does not apply.

- Question about "amenities" - do we have to define amenities as something related to the built environment? I think of amenities as the number of children in a neighborhood, or the amount of diversity, etc.
- Question - we have unpaved streets in the area, and when other folks come here to use the Springwater Corridor they park in our neighborhoods and sometimes create problems. Is the city planning to build parking lots to accommodate visitors to the area?
- Response – staff acknowledged parking issues, but indicated parking lots were not anticipated. There was discussion about parking impacts on substandard streets and a lack of defined public vs private space.
- Question about commercial uses - is there a way to identify the types of commercial uses, such as liquor store, fast food, full grocery, mini-mart, etc???
- Response – we did a land use inventory of the area and have that data – but we need to sort through it and make it usable.

December Workshop

Barry announced the upcoming December community workshop: December 8, 2009, 7-9PM, at Gilbert Heights Elementary on SE Holgate at SE 128th. (Doors will open at 6:30 for an open house.) The CWG, as well as Health Partners Group and Technical Advisors are encouraged to attend along with the general public. The format will include a project overview and update, briefing on existing conditions and feedback from the walks. We will also have people to confirm issues identified on the walks. The second half of the workshop will include small group discussions focused on neighborhood shops and services (existing and desired) and discussion about how people access local goods/services and what could be done to improve the safety and convenience for pedestrians, bikes, and cars.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Community Working Group is scheduled for January 14, 2010, 7-9 PM, location to-be-determined.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.