



The Other Side of the Fence

E-News from ONI ~ April 2003

Enhancing the quality of neighborhoods through community participation.

Civic Involvement Center

Community Residential Siting Program The CRSP is working to develop a comprehensive education and outreach plan to develop strategies/action items that reach a broader constituency to proactively exchange information and education about siting issues in a more effective and efficient way. Several elements of the plan include:

- ❑ Continue to utilize CRSP Informational Packets
- ❑ Create Informational Fact Sheets for various special needs populations
- ❑ Create Flip charts/poster boards that provide a visual aid to explain the siting process
- ❑ CRSP Web site development
- ❑ Continue Neighborhood Association CRSP presentations
- ❑ Continue to present information about CRSP services to Social Service Providers and Community-Based Developers
- ❑ Conduct Workshop at Neighborhood Summit- Fall 2003
- ❑ Develop a Proposal for a Cable Access TV show
- ❑ Partner with a Neighborhood Coalition Office to Conduct a Siting Workshop
- ❑ Conduct a targeted mailing (approx. 1000 people) to key stakeholders.

Several siting situations that the CRSP is working to resolve include:

- ❑ The development of a Good Neighbor Agreement between the Center Neighborhood Association and the Portland Providence Medical Center as part of a conditional use Master Plan
- ❑ Working with St. Francis and the Buckman Community as part of an Ad Hoc Advisory Committee to define 'Day Camping' and recommend any additional rules and regulations to St. Francis and the Police to re-open St. Francis Park as part of a Nuisance Abatement agreement.
- ❑ Working with a stakeholder group to address community safety issues in the Richmond Neighborhood and develop a Good Neighbor Agreement between neighbors and Cascadia Plaza (a mental health facility) to improve communication.

Burnside Triangle Advisory Group (BTAG) Portland City Council accepted the report and recommendations of BTAG on March 19. Group co-chairs, Melinda Pittman and Jacob Brostoff, made an eloquent presentation to council on the history of the Burnside Triangle and the groups recommendations. Highlights included recognizing the area as a gay, lesbian, bi and trans historical and cultural district along with building a GLBT community center.

Interwoven Tapestry Project The **Small Grant Project** is underway. Requests for Proposals were sent out to neighborhood, immigrant, refugee and other community based groups. The

grants are for \$2,000 to encourage leadership, organizational relationship building, and special projects to help immigrants and refugees integrate into Portland's civic and public policy-making efforts. We have been receiving lots of inquiries and providing advice. A workshop will be held April 3 to provide advice on writing the grant.

We helped design and promote a workshop organized by IRCO, "**How to Communicate With Your Legislators**," to help immigrants and refugees better understand how to work with elected officials and advocate for their community needs. The workshop and day at the legislature will take place April 5 and 7.

Public Involvement Standards Taskforce This group has compiled comments from over 110 participants from the Feb. 25 public workshop and from questionnaires returned to ONI. These comments will help the taskforce narrow the scope of what issues to tackle and help identify case studies so that PSU student interns can research what works and doesn't work. The first taskforce meeting is Wednesday, April 2.

GREAT - Guidelines Review This group is reviewing the ONI guidelines that define the roles and responsibilities of neighborhood associations, coalitions, and ONI. Three subcommittees are drafting language on the most controversial topics including Public Meetings law, how to deal with Grievances, and Communities Beyond Neighborhood Boundaries or incorporating outreach to diverse constituencies.

ABC's of Land Use Workshop Due to a death in the family of a trainer, the land use workshop for neighborhood leaders is being rescheduled for June or later.

PSU Student Interns The neighborhood program now has about 10 student interns. Several students helped with phone calls to clean up the immigrant/refugee resource directory database. Others have been completing interviews with bureau staff about PI standards. 5 MURP students will be writing a chapter for the involvement handbook on how diverse communities initiate and organize community projects. Brian was part of a panel for a public involvement class on community organizing.

King Neighborhood Association and Miracles Club We are assisting the King neighborhood with organizing their annual meeting in May and producing a newsletter to help them promote their efforts to rebuild the association. In addition, the Crime Prevention Program is assisting with restarting the Good Neighbor Agreement joint review committee to problem-solve issues between residents and the Miracles Club.

Oregonian We are discussing with neighborhood coalition directors how to work with the Oregonian to restart listing neighborhood association meeting calendars. The paper informed ONI they were considering eliminating the listing due to new Metro section design layouts.

Metropolitan Human Rights Center **Refugee-Immigrant Coordination Program**

- Disseminated RFP and provided community-based organization members with additional information about the Project Interwoven Tapestry Small Grants via telephone and email. Continued to meet with community-based organizations and refugee/immigrant leaders to receive input on the Refugee and Immigrant Coordination Program's 2003-2004 work plan.

- Attended the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (formerly INS) Community Roundtable meeting. Requested DHS staff to make a presentation at the general meeting of the Refugee & Immigrant Consortium of Oregon and SW Washington, which was held on March 25th at the Southeast Asian Vicariate, to share information about the INS reorganization.
- Attended the Thirteenth Annual Cesar E. Chavez Youth Leadership Conference, which was held on March 10, 2003 at the University of Portland. The event was a big success with more than 1,300 Hispanic high school students statewide participating in the full-day conference. Also worked with Russian-speaking community leaders to organize the Seventh annual Slavic Youth Leadership Conference, which will be held at Mount Hood Community College on April 11, 2003.
- Continued to organize the Eleventh Annual Asian American Youth Leadership Conference, which will be held at Lewis and Clark College on May 14, 2003. Also participated in the Award Selection Committee of the Nikkei Student Relocation Commemorative Scholarship Program to review 48 applicants from the Southeast Asian refugee/immigrant communities.

Information and Referral (I&R) Center

- Like everyone else, we have been impacted greatly by the outbreak of war. We had had a pretty normal month until March 19th came and war began. The Mayor, Police Chief, Sheriff, County Chair and FBI had a press conference that day to inform citizens of the local governments preparedness efforts to deal with the level Orange alert, enhanced security and plans to work with the expecting protests. In this news conference our phone number, 823-4000, was given out a couple of times. As the result of this we got a flurry of calls from citizens who saw the news conference with a huge variety of questions. We also had some media outlets contacting us to find out what we were all about. Channel 12 was here and did a piece on I&R, which was aired that night, and the next day on their station. We also had several phone calls from the media and a visit from the Portland Tribune.
- We worked with Sarah Bott from the Mayor's office on a Questions and Answers document for common questions the City may receive regarding the war and emergency preparedness. At the time of this writing the document is pretty much complete but still in draft form awaiting the blessing of the Mayor.
- We have also put together a list of all local emergency phone numbers from the information in our database.
- We have been experiencing many different types of calls since the war began. While our call volume is up only slightly since the start of war the type of calls we are receiving are definitely different. Most of the calls we have been getting that are related to the war have been with regards to the demonstrations and protests that have been on the minds of so many citizens. Initially nearly all of the calls we got were individuals very upset with the way they felt the protests were being handled because they felt that the Police did not do enough to enforce the laws and the protesters were allowed to be too disruptive. On Tuesday March 25th we were barraged with calls regarding the Fire Department's decision to take US Flags off of fire trucks. Though Commissioner Sten rescinded this by 9am the calls and emails rolled in for a couple days.

- With all this unusual activity the stats have been a real battle. We were slightly above our 90% goal before the war outbreak but with a couple days left in the month at the time of this writing we are a little below 90% but are doing our best to squeak out a 90% showing before the month is done.
- On March 21st we conducted a site visit to the OSD office in NW Portland. This was a chance for our unit to meet with some of the staff over there to get a better idea of what they do and to see where it all happens. The EcoTrust Building is an excellent example of the Green Building program the OSD seeks to promote. They also run the Solid Waste & Recycling program and have many innovative projects they are involved with. We split into two groups to be able to make this trip and still keep adequate phone coverage. The tours were very educational and enjoyable for staff.
- David Lane sent a letter to Police Chief Kroeker on our behalf to enhance the I&R info we have on the Police Bureau so that we can provide more and better I&R service for that bureau. At present we have very limited information in our database regarding the Police Bureau's services and we would like to enhance the amount and quality of the information that we do have to better serve both the citizens and the Police Bureau.

ONI Website There was not much activity regarding the ONI website in the month of March. We hope April will be different. We have decided to move our website to the new City portal, PortlandOnline.Com. We are waiting for CGIS to complete some of the testing they have been doing with the site and are on the top of the list of bureaus that desire to make this move. There is a meeting scheduled for April 3rd to discuss the steps to migration and we hope to begin work on this shortly after this meeting.

Bureau Administration Center

2004 Budget Having developed and submitted ONI's 2004 Requested Budget in February, bureau administration staff are now anxiously awaiting Mayor Katz's budget decisions. Bureau staff and community partners will be notified as soon as possible once ONI finds out more.

Crime Prevention Center

- **Amy Cammack** has accepted a temporary position at BDS. Crime Prevention will miss her professionalism and expertise -- we truly have appreciated her contribution to crime prevention.
- We are waiting to receive language from the City Attorney regarding liquor licenses and the addition of a new rule on the hours of operation of problem outlets.
- **Paul Dinberg** has been working with BDS on some problem solving in the Piedmont neighborhood concerning parking issues impacting community foot patrol's ability to use the sidewalk.
- **Katherine Anderson** has been working with the Multnomah County Family Center and residents of the Vista De Clara Vista on housing issues. Katherine is working with management and tenants to address crime concerns.
- **Amy Cammack and David Little** are working with OLCC on product restrictions in target areas in SE. David will be meeting with **Marcia Dennis** and **Rhetta Drennan**, PPB, neighbors and neighborhood associations on documenting problem outlets. David Little will take the lead on the project which hopes to reduce street drinking in SE Portland.