

City of Portland - Office of Neighborhood Involvement
Bureau/Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) Summary Notes
January 4, 2010

In Attendance: Christina Albo, Richard Bixby, Sylvia Bogert, April Burris, Carmen Caballero Rubio, Betsy Coddington, Anne Dufay, Donita Sue Fry, Vicki Hersen, Kayse Jama, Jerry Powell, Midge Purcell, Doretta Schrock, Mark Sieber, Alison Stoll, Jen Tonneson, Bob Ueland, Peiru Wang

ONI Staff: Amalia Alarcon de Morris, Michael Boyer, Celeste, Carey, Nickole Cheron, Brian Hoop, Michael Kerstin, Paul Leistner, Judith Mowry, Stephanie Reynolds

Officials and other city staff: Commissioner Amanda Fritz, Tim Crail, Dora Perry, Keizia Wanner.

Facilitators: Elizabeth Erickson, Eryn Deeming Kehe, Lisa Reed Guarnero, Joe Hertzberg.

Debrief of ranking exercise at previous meeting

- Some members of the group shared that the process felt confusing and because of time constraints ended too abruptly to ask clarifying questions. Doretta Schrock reviewed the process and math used to determine the rankings that the committee performed as required by the OMF budget process. The group indicated that their concerns and questions had been covered.

Budget

- Commissioner Amanda Fritz shared with the committee her goals for the budget process as well as giving an overview on the political process regarding the budget. The Commissioner reminded the group that the focus is on getting through this next year, cutting as little as possible and keeping programs intact. Hopefully the economy will begin recovering and we will be able to restore programs in future years. The Commissioner is committed to the transparency and accountability of the ONI/BAC budget process.
- The City Council has directed bureaus to make a total cut of 4% with 1% being identified as one time cuts to ongoing funds.
- Nine million dollars are available for one time funding and there are over 12 million in one time requests.
- One of the strategies for funding includes inclusion of some programs in overhead funding (each bureau pays a part) that benefit all city bureaus.

Cut Package review

The committee reviewed options that ONI management drafted identifying cuts and options for “add packages” – one time requests. The committee can mix and match components, shift things around and suggest other options not included in these 6 options.

Several “large” ticket components were reviewed and discussed.

- Vacant crime prevention position – There is currently a vacant crime prevention coordinator position. The proposal is to leave that position unfilled. Discussion: Impacts include more work for current staff (who already have an overwhelming workload) and the potential for reduced services and longer waits for services, but the crime prevention program would rather lose a vacant position than lose one of their coworkers.
- Reduce NRC position (Paul Leistner) to .5 FTE. Brian shared that Paul wouldn't chose the reduction but felt he may be in the best position of NRC staff to absorb it. Paul duties would have to be reduced. These currently include administering the small grants program, support for coalitions and neighborhood associations and internal consultation with bureaus to improve public involvement process
- Reduce RNW contract by managing facilitation services (Community Residential Siting Program) within ONI. Impacts include reduced facilitation services to the community RNW are currently able to offer (with a .5 FTE position). Management of services within ONI would impact Judith's workplan and reduce some of the projects she is available to do with the community.
- Shifting RNW contract 100% to one time funding for this budget cycle. Impacts: May not be possible this year and services too important to risk 100% cut.
- Eliminate the Effective Engagement Solutions Program (Judith Mowry). – Commissioner Fritz said she feels both the Effective Engagement Solutions Program and the services of RNW are essential and in high demand.
- Cutting Neighborhood Small Grants Program

Impacts: The grants program is one of the newest programs that was developed to meet the goals for ONI developed out of the Community Connect process. It's been highly effective for getting people involved in neighborhood projects, building partnerships with neighborhood groups and creating access to diverse groups and creating equity.

All the other coalition funding goes to basic operating needs. There is no other place to cut. One advantage to cutting small grants is that you can bring them back (unlike people). Question whether the amount of overhead required to administrate makes it worth it to reduce. Does it make more sense to cut completely?

Next Steps

- A request was made for some visuals to be developed for the next meeting.
- Attendees were asked to give written feedback that includes:
 - What proposed cuts are acceptable?
 - What proposed cuts are unacceptable?
 - Other ideas people have for cuts.

Next Meeting:

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Introductions**
- II. Narrow the list of cuts under consideration (with a dot exercise)**
- III. Develop option packages ready for committee consideration**
- IV. Identify a workgroup to develop recommendations for next ONI/BAC meeting**

Monday, January 11, 2010

5:30-8:30pm

Portland Building, 1120 SW 5th Ave, 2nd Floor Room C NOTE LOCATION : Due to the size of our meetings, we are holding our meetings next door to City Hall, in the Portland Building (the blue building with Portlandia statue in front).