



CITY OF

PORTLAND, OREGON

OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD INVOLVEMENT

CHARLIE HALES, MAYOR

Amalia Alarcón de Morris, Bureau Director

Noise Control Program

1221 SW 4th Avenue, Room 110

Portland, Oregon 97204

Promoting a culture of civic engagement

Noise Review Board Meeting

5-14-14

Minutes

Present: Carole Gossett, David Sweet, Paul van Orden, Melissa Stewart, Julie Greb,

Absent: Elki Lahav

Minutes: Kathy Couch

Call to Order: 6:00 pm

Updates/Discussion Sellwood Bridge existing multi-year variance

Mike Pullen and Michael Minor from Multnomah County presented the update.

Most retaining wall work and pile driving is done, on schedule. Bridge opening is scheduled for Sept 2015. Construction is to be completed in 2016. They will build the last piece after opening the new bridge. The noisiest work is completed. Excavation on the Westside is done. Due to rock conditions, there was minimal need to blast. They did receive complaints while installing soldier piles. Types of complaints were mainly due to:

1. Back up beepers during evening hours while pouring concrete. The type of beeper receiving complaints was the warning feature used when the pump is up high. They will share complaints with the contractor.
2. Expansion joint at the east end of the bridge, which consists of loud clicks when vehicles drive over. They are trying to fix it. Now that the bridge is closer to neighbors, they are able to hear more.

With regard to the back up beepers, it was explained that the alarm during concrete pumping can't be silenced because it is a required safety device.

A 3rd sound monitoring device has now been installed. There are now 2 on the west side, along with 1 on the east side. They also have 2 vibration monitoring systems. Noise levels are randomly sampled. They have been in compliance except for one time, according to the monitoring devices.

There previously was an issue of the Noise Control office receiving complaint logs from the bridge project. Currently, tracking of complaints has been adjusting. Paul now receives copies of complaints right away.

Public Testimony

A group of citizens who reside at areas severely impacted by ongoing bridge construction testified. Names and a brief summary of concerns are listed:

Stephanie Wild; Riverpark resident, Pati Gallagher; Riverpark resident, Steve Atkins (via letter read by Pati Gallagher); Riverpark resident and HOA representative, Marsha Lattig; Sellwood Harbor resident, Jim Lartinger; south end of project, and Steve Beis; Riverpark resident

- Joint noise on deck from tires
- Better communication between contractor and subcontractors
- Back up beepers
- Impacts to wildlife (eagles and salmon)
- No notice of vibration testing

In response to the joint noise on the bridge deck, Michael Minor believes the problem is related to temperature and is hoping to fix the issue this week. Paul van Orden suggests that he and Mr. Minor meet at the site to see if it's an adequate location for a meter.

Commission will look for report next month about progress.

Mike Dowd, SW Miles –Now the Water Bureau is doing work on Miles. (Mr. Dowd thought this was part of the Sellwood Bridge variance) Paul van Orden says that the Noise Control office is seeing an increase of city bureaus working at night. We need information from them and they need a variance. Chair Sweet would like Mr. Dowd to keep a log of nighttime noise complaints and let Officer van Orden know.

Public Testimony

A group of citizens who reside at the Sitka Apartments in the Pearl District testified on construction noise related to pile driving in the Block 17 project. Names and a brief summary of concerns are listed:

Patrice Hanson, Maura Jess, Lisbeth Applefield, John Jeserski, Mary Sipe, Barbara Sementa, Grace Forrester, Jamie Rich, Nancy McCay and Sheila Campion

- Health concerns due to noise, exacerbating pre-existing conditions
- Impact on hearing for children
- Inability to escape ongoing pile driving noise between 7 am and 6 pm
- The perspective that there are alternative methods to driven piles that aren't being used.
- Pile driving noise to be held to 80 dBA or less.
- Anxiety about other upcoming construction projects
- Restrict hours that pile driving may occur
- Lack of understanding as to who to go to that can change City Code for pile driving

Reply by NRB –Chair Sweet explains that City has no noise limits on pile driving construction noise during regular hours. He would like the Noise Review Board to look at regulations but it won't be instantaneous. We are now in the busy season. We now have 2 people in the field. There is no extra staffing time to commence the public process to change code until fall.

Paul van Orden says City Council is the ultimate decision-making body. It will be helpful to be agreement with what to bring forward before Council. Citizens need a united voice for what they want. There is no magic way to immediately stop the loud noise of pile driving.. As you make plans, think about a strategy. David Sweet adds that realistically that's not the way council does things. Changing code involves bringing together all who have interest in it – including the chance to review cost, available technology, research on geo-technical restrictions, and input of various people that are part of the process. City is not in a position to impose a short-term solution. The contractor is working within the code we enforce. David tells the citizens that they can certainly approach the contractor and make a proposal.

Justin Calloway

Truck noise problem is the reason he is here. He lives in East Columbia.

Paul van Orden explains that he has set up a meter at Mr. Calloway's residence but we need an accompanying log from the complainant delineating times and sounds in order for the Noise Control Office to disseminate the information. Even though the meter was set up, there were no logs kept. It takes many hours of listening to days of data and without any log there is no way to have potential penalties stick. A judge would simply toss a case against the trucking companies without accompanying citizen logs.

Adjourn- 8:22 pm