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- *23 Authorize a contract and provide for payment for the NE 138th Avenue pollution reduction wetland facility, Project No. 5700 (Ordinance)

Disposition: Ordinance No. 171921. (Y-5)

- 24 Authorize Agreement for Multi-Agency benchmarking study (Second Reading Agenda 1972)

Disposition: Ordinance No. 171922. (Y-5)

City Auditor Barbara Clark

- 25 Contract with Arthur Anderson, LLP for audits of construction-related contracts and other professional services and provide for payment (Second Reading Agenda 1980)

Disposition: Ordinance No. 171923. (Y-5)

REGULAR AGENDA

- 5 Accept bid of Albina Fuel Co. for furnishing cardlock fueling for \$452,836 (Purchasing Report - Bid 98088)

Discussion: Britta Olson, Acting Clerk of the Council, said the Purchasing Agent requested this item be returned to the Bureau.

Disposition: Referred to Bureau of Purchases.

- 1 **TIME CERTAIN: 9:30 AM** - Adopt the revisions to the Office of Neighborhood Association Guidelines as recommended by the Guidelines Review Committee and resolve that the Office shall henceforth be known as the Office of Neighborhood Involvement (Resolution introduced by Commissioner Kafoury)

Discussion: Commissioner Kafoury said both she and Commissioner Hales had begun this process some years ago. She moved to amend Page 11, Section 5, Item A9, replacing the word "alternative" with "other" and Commissioner Hales seconded.

Diane Linn, Director of Neighborhood Associations (ONA), said this resolution will bring closure to a multi-faceted process to review the overall system of citizen involvement and update the ONA guidelines. Several of the 1996 recommendations from a citizen task force, which deliberated for a year, involved increased funding. Council adopted several of the changes in the budget just prior to Ballot Measure 47 passing, contingent upon its passage. Some of the increases were for

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communications, conflict resolution, a neighborhood enhancement program and more equity funding among the coalition offices. After Measure 47 passed, ONA tried to restructure, holding public hearings, to provide services at a lower cost. Changes were possible to make within the task force's goals. Highlights of the changes are to include neighborhood business associations -- loop them into the social infrastructure and include "communities beyond neighborhood boundaries," specifically ethnic groups that are part of private, non-profits. This is a way to systematically include more voices and perspectives in public policy decisions and changes. Another incorporation into the guidelines is the alternative services delivery structure, really the North Portland model. They chose to have the City oversee their office, it is working well and the guidelines acknowledge this is an appropriate way to provide citizen involvement services. The guidelines and task force took on the process of figuring out boundary overlap problems. The guidelines committee and the task force reiterated the plan to change ONA's name to Office of Neighborhood Involvement for two specific reasons: 1) reduce the confusion that ONA runs the neighborhood associations and 2) broaden the scope to include other groups to emphasize it is about overall neighborhood involvement.

Laurel Dutton, 5254 N Princeton, said she was a member of the guidelines review committee to address the policy for the development of alternative service delivery structures into the City's neighborhood network. This policy seeks to support the grass roots concepts of self-governance and provide a clear avenue for neighborhood associations to resolve structural issues. The policy requires majority rule when lacking a clear or complete consensus. Provision is made to determine consistency with City policies and procedures, for parity of funding, to ensure legal consistency and accountability through a new work plan. There will be a one-year evaluation and reaffirmation by the neighborhood associations. After that, to provide stability, the policy prohibits significant alteration for three years. This policy will assure a clear and accountable process for continued self-determination on how services are delivered.

Jim Losk, Alliance of Portland Neighborhood Business Associations, said the original task force, by a nearly unanimous vote, recommended that a procedure be devised to welcome business associations into the public involvement process. These guidelines will do that. Approval will not impact the coming budget.

Mayor Katz said there have been complaints that business association meetings were not open to the public. Will they now be required to be open meetings?

Mr. Losk said if a business association wants to be recognized by the City, their by-laws must have provision for open meetings.

Mayor Katz added the concern from some neighborhood associations that business association members not living in the neighborhood can drive some decisions in the neighborhood association meetings.

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Ms. Dutton said they tried for consistency with the open meetings law. Often, business associations require dues payment which will be mitigated through the acknowledgment process. Presently, many neighborhood associations now allow neighborhood business owners to become members. As for undue influence, business association boundaries often overlap neighborhood associations.

Charles Shi, 4417 NE 70th Avenue, 97218, Chair of Refugee/Immigrant Consortium of Oregon/SW Washington and of the Asian Alliance of Oregon, said there are communities beyond neighborhood boundaries. Many new immigrants, because of culture, language and other differences, cannot be involved in neighborhood associations. These people are isolated, even to the point of not knowing their neighbors. As a school teacher, he has seen this issue from both sides. It needs to be recognized that such groups exist. Mr. Shi said most seek help from the same ethnic relative or friend but there is an effort for them to integrate into the whole system.

Commissioner Francesconi said money for staffing, printing, etc. had not been addressed. A number of neighborhood associations are spread pretty thin and are questioning if there are resources to handle this.

Ms. Dutton said the funding and support issue is addressed in the guidelines. There are no additional funds for the other groups at this point, without diminishing the neighborhood association funding. There are other funds for those groups, such as Portland Development Commission. The acknowledgement process goes into ONA so those groups will be on official notification lists and in the ONA Directory.

Commissioner Francesconi asked what services, such as organizing help, photocopying and notification, will be offered to communities of color.

Ms. Linn said in the last year the Metropolitan Human Rights Center has been incorporated into ONA but, beyond that, this is a question for the budget process.

Kay Collier, 1718 SE 100th Avenue, 97216, Chair of Hazelwood Neighborhood Association, said funding through ONA should be contingent upon consistent and equal monitoring. The policy on overlapping boundaries should be altered to not permit any new overlap of services. Most of the overlapping problems are driven by personalities, not issues. Funding for neighborhood boundaries outside the City limits should be withheld. She said district coalitions should not be involved in resolution of disputes between neighborhood associations on any issue unless both parties request a mediation role. She suggested a commission consisting of citizen representatives and City commissioner staff as a procedure for appeal of ONA decisions and adding language to include liaisons to the board or advisory committee of any alternative service delivery structure for those neighborhoods not in district coalitions.

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Lee Perlman, 512 NE Brazee, 97212, said, based on his longtime involvement with neighborhood associations, the accomplishments of neighborhood groups prior to documents such as this were great and there was not nearly as much internal dispute. There is a direct connection. He noted that he received no notice of this meeting nor heard about others in all the meetings he attends. He said there has been a great deal of tinkering with guidelines over the decades and the more legalistic the process is made the more the process slips from the hands of the people it was meant to serve.

Commissioner Sten asked if he had some general thoughts on what he would do.

Mr. Perlman said he would narrow the guidelines down to one page and tell neighborhood groups they will receive notices of issues that concern them and minimal assistance. Everything else would be earned. If this were an invitation to work, not an invitation to power, the people causing problems would not be interested.

Moshe Lenske, 4314 SE Crystal Springs Blvd., 97206, said the update of the guidelines continues the principle of the original codification. By having status, the neighborhood nurtures citizens' sense of place and is an essential City investment.

Steve Rogers, 533 NE Brazee, 97212, said a community of color is a broader issue than just that -- it is an issue of class and income. How to include lower income folks in the neighborhood system has not been addressed. He said this current proposal does not provide enough inclusiveness at the grass roots level. It creates a separate table for each organization. The guidelines is a mixing of categories and, at worst, will dilute the City's neighborhood system.

Jerry Powell, 1441 SW Harrison, 97201, said the possibility for inclusivity in place-based organizations is something that cannot happen in self-organizing organizations. The issue of class is a real one. The lack of emphasis on place-based organizations is a weakness in the guidelines.

Commissioner Francesconi said it was rare in Council meetings to address race and class. Is the concept of drawing congressional boundaries to take minority groups into consideration appropriate?

Mr. Powell said it is inappropriate and the original neighborhood associations were set up to ignore those kinds of boundaries. People living at a fair distance might be more closely associated with an organization not closest to them. Originally, the organizations were social constructs, rather than geographic. In answer to Commissioner Francesconi's question on how to address the fact that 83 percent of children of color in the City live in poverty, Mr. Powell said it would help to strengthen place-based organizations.

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Commissioner Francesconi said there could be all kinds of conditions on receiving money, but then it would take away the flexibility of the organizations.

Mr. Rogers said an example of an empowering mechanism would be a liaison neighborhood police officer to whom people could talk in a non-threatening or a non-criminal situation. Lower income people could benefit from training in how to participate in organizations.

Mayor Katz said if any neighborhood group relevantly deals with poverty and crime, such as Hope and Hard Work in Northeast, low income and people of color will come and actively participate. People respond to accountability and purpose and they do not necessarily need by-laws.

Commissioner Sten said low income people are rarely ever heard from in Council Chambers. Philosophically, it is sensible to strengthen place-based organizations. However, pragmatically, there is 22 years of history that says it will not work. A small step is to notify various groups and get them into the loop.

Mayor Katz said Council will be discussing the issue of citizen participation this month.

Commissioner Francesconi said Council is often caught between business and neighborhood concerns. These battles should be fought in the neighborhoods where a balance can be better struck. There will not be neighborhood livability without both being involved with each other.

Commissioner Hales said issues need to be taken from the shelf and refreshed. These guidelines are the right kind of evolutions to make sure the organizations stay healthy. The two changes acknowledging without boundaries and business associations recognize that healthy citizen involvement is more than politics, although they are political. Many good things are accomplished by neighborhood organizations and other civic groups working in concert toward a goal and these guidelines will allow 100 different flowers to bloom.

Commissioner Kafoury said Council recognizes that the issue of citizen involvement needs more of its time and attention and is committed to work on this in the next year. There have been some exciting happenings, such as Housing Our Families, a board consisting of women, many of whom are low income.

Commissioner Sten said this could simply be a name change or a meaningful change. He said it is not true that Council does not hear from people of color -- that is not fair to many hard-working organizations.

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Mayor Katz said her Japanese friends told her that "oni" means ogre in their language. She said Council needs to figure out how to reach out and talk to many more people. It is limited to what can be done within strict legal parameters.

Disposition: Resolution No. 35667 as amended. (Y-5)

- 2 Support the community building effort in conjunction with Multnomah County and other jurisdictions (Resolution introduced by Commissioner Kafoury)

Discussion: Lorenzo Poe, Multnomah County Department of Community and Family Service, said for the past 12-14 months they have been working cross-jurisdictionally with the City, the County, Portland Public Schools, the Educational Service District, the Leaders Roundtable and the State Office of Human Resources on the issue of how to address and work with neighborhoods to pay homage to the great work already occurring in the communities. Calling it a community building initiative addresses critical neighborhood concerns and interest in an integrated, collaborative approach among the jurisdictions. The most interesting thing they found was that they all had the same kind of goal in mind -- to do a better job of addressing how they work in the neighborhoods. Mr. Poe said this past November, the Multnomah County Commissioners passed a similar resolution.

Diane Linn, Director of Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI), said she co-chaired the core group to find out what jurisdictions could do to work better together and respond more efficiently and effectively to community problems.

Norm Monroe, Multnomah County Community Investment Coordinator, said he has been working in a community-building effort in outer Southeast. The people working on this originally came together around the welfare reform dollars issue. From that beginning, they developed programs running the gamut from teen pregnancy, Kelly House, Southeast Works and pre-school and day care projects. They are doing the important work of building long-term leadership for the outer Southeast. Much of that was stimulated by the community-building process and it is the groundswell of self-reliance and self-development for low-income residents.

Nancy Biasi, Commissioner Kafoury staff, said community-building is not a program, it is a process, reflecting the best of what jurisdictions want to see in their collaboration around specific programs and issues.

Commissioner Francesconi asked how the City and County community folks could advance something like "after school?"

Charles Jordan, Director of Parks and Recreation, said, regarding the new community center in mid-county, Parks has contacted over 67 organizations and 80 people to let them know who we are and what we do. Parks is in a support role and asks the community what it wants, such as after-school programs. He said they