

Problem Statement	Issue	Solution/Remedy	Source of Ideas
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Public Involvement Task Force

Adopted City Principles of Public Involvement Workgroup

Summary of Problems, Issues and Solutions

Charge: Review and update public involvement principles as appropriate. Suggest policy options and opportunities regarding implementation.

Below is a summary of comments received to date broken down into problem, issue and solution statements. Source of ideas lists what constituency/summary document the idea originated from along with known examples of good models. This is meant to help each workgroup begin discussion and prioritization on the broad range of ideas. Not prioritized in any order.

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No set of common citywide expectations or standards. Only broad principles set by Council.	The purpose of this Task Force, in essence, to develop recommendations that will give the adopted principles more meaning that will result in measurable and accountable expectations, guidelines, standards, and/or best practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish citywide expectations, guidelines, standards and/or principles for public involvement for City bureaus to be met before projects are funded/implemented. Document we create needs to be initiated from City code. 	Comm of color mtg African-Amer mtg. Inner SE mtg.
City bureaus need flexibility to respond to unique geographic, constituent needs, program changes.	City bureaus need flexibility in designing public involvement processes that are able to adapt and respond to program and funding changes, unique geographical and constituent needs.	The City recognizes the need for flexibility in designing and implementing public involvement processes to meet changing program, geographic and constituent needs.	City staff mtg.
	Principles should include these themes. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planning for public involvement. 2. Clarity about expectations – if not here – where they say. 3. Public engaged in discussion. 4. Opportunities for input. 5. There must be a feedback loop. 6. Transparent communications. 7. Access to decision process. 		PI consultants mtg. There was general agreement for these ideas.

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Public views City commitment to PI as a hollow promise.	There needs to be a policy commitment that Portland will involve citizens in key public policy decisions.		PI consultants mtg.
Inadequate time and funding to meet expectations on City PI efforts.	Commitment to adequate funding and advance planning time for scope of work needed to implement quality PI. Especially the funding of culturally appropriate outreach. But also, overcome excuse that there aren't enough resources.	The City will support adequate funding and allowances for advance planning time of public involvement processes that meet expectations of established best practices by IAP2.	PI consultants mtg. APANO/Latino mtg City staff mtg.
No system of accountability in place.	There must be a policy commitment and accountability for project managers to follow guidelines, standards, best practices.	The City will hold bureau management accountable to meet the expectations established in these principles, guidelines, standards, etc.	PI consultants mtg. East/CNN mtg.
Public is limited to always reacting to proposals by City bureaus. Few opportunities for assessing what the public's priorities are early on.	Value pro-active public involvement efforts vs. limiting public to a role of typically reacting. Provide ongoing needs assessment that engages public and neighborhood associations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The City values early and pro-active engagement of the public at the beginning of planning for a project. City will support a yearly Neighborhood Needs Assessment effort to gauge community priorities for City projects. 	APANO/Latino mtg North PDX mtg. Inner SE mtg.
City not being honest about how PI efforts will be used/respected.	Provide commitment to upfront honest assessment of how public participation will be used, just for public information or real participatory decision-making efforts.	The City will provide early and honest parameters for how public participation will be incorporated into project decision-making.	APANO/Latino mtg.
City not committed to culturally appropriate PI.	Go beyond simply saying City committed to diversity. Spell out priorities for improving efforts to reach Portland's diversifying demographics including: training for staff, looking at contracting procedures, providing culturally appropriate outreach services, etc.	City is committed to reaching Portland diverse communities by working closely with a broad range of community interests to define best practices for culturally appropriate outreach techniques.	APANO/Latino mtg.
Contracting procedures for PI consultants inaccessible for many small firms.	Current PTE (Professional, Technical and Expert) contracting requirements are very burdensome to small firms effectively limiting access to City contract dollars to established larger firms.	City is committed to removing barriers to PTE contracting for minority, women and emerging small businesses.	APANO/Latino mtg.
Community groups do not	Provide commitment of City or neighborhood	City is committed to providing neutral	North PDX mtg.

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have advocates to help navigate intricacies of City bureaucracy.	coalition staff dedicated to specific topic areas to assist residents with accessing services and/or problem-solving issues.	advocates (Ombudsman) to assist with neighborhood problem-solving and technical assistance on complex issues.	Inner SE mtg.
Public not notified or engaged early enough in decision-making effort. Not enough time to respond to land use notices.	Provide early notification to engage public in decision-making effort or with enough time to allow for adequate time for organizations to mobilize their constituency.	Strengthen existing principle to specify public has a right to participation in defining problems, project planning effort, and providing adequate notice to allow for organizations to mobilize membership.	East/CNN mtg. Inner SE mtg. City staff mtg.
Bureaus are able to spend money on major projects without/with minimal public involvement.	The release of funding for major projects should be contingent on meeting very specific public involvement requirements. Model is federal Ryan White Act funding for AIDS work that must go through local Regional Planning Councils. Council has diverse representation, which would be needed for neighborhood associations.	Before releasing funds for (what types of projects) City bureaus must meet public involvement requirements including support from (public councils).	Inner SE Mtg. Federal Ryan White funding requires citizen planning to release funds
City not providing access to quality information for public to be informed participants.	Provide good, high quality and accessible information to the community to allow for an informed public to have high quality participation and responses.	The City values providing high quality and accessible information to the community to allow for an informed public that can provide quality responses.	City staff mtg. Inner SE mtg.
Decision-making processes are not understood by public so they don't know how they can get involved.	Public needs to be educated on clear, understandable process from beginning to end with seamless integration of public involvement from the original problem solving to the decision making.	The City values providing a clear and understandable process from beginning to end with seamless integration of public involvement from the original problem solving to the decision making.	City staff mtg.
The public often does not hear back from bureaus how public input was used or what was final decision.	Need to close the loop and improve communication between City bureaus and the public regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following up with disgruntled participants • Getting back to participants about what decision was, how it was made, by whom, etc. 	City values the importance of following-up with participants to ensure a transparent process so that public understands how and why a decision was made.	City staff mtg.

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Neighborhood Association system

The topics below are primarily related to the Neighborhood Association system. It needs to be determined if the PI Taskforce or Guidelines Review committee (GREAT) should address these topics.

Neighborhood Coalitions and Offices are not funded to adequately provide quality services to Neigh Assocs they serve.	City is increasingly transferring funding for staff roles located in Coalition offices to City positions. Neighborhood Coalitions need greater staff capability to focus on the day-to-day support of the Neighborhood Associations.	Provide adequate funding directly to Neighborhood Offices to meet the needs of Portland's Neighborhood Association system.	Inner SE mtg.
City not utilizing neighborhood associations as primary vehicle for public involvement.	Provide commitment that neighborhood associations and their coalition offices will be the City's primary means for public involvement. Require bureau's to use the offices a certain percentage of times for public involvement efforts such as measured through contracting dollars. Other organizations would work through coalitions in coalescing public concerns/organizing on issues.	The City shall utilize Neighborhood Associations as the primary means for engaging the public in their public involvement efforts. Encourage other organizations to work through coalition offices in coalescing public comment and organizing efforts.	East/CNN mtg. Inner SE mtg.
Neighborhood Assocs do not have a significant role in City decision-making anymore so why bother.	Give Neighborhood Associations a bigger role that would give purpose for people to participate. Ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bureau reps go to NA's first on major projects and land use issues. • Major projects must be cleared through NA's to proceed. • Neighborhood Needs Assessment program. 	The City values the role of Neighborhood Associations in determining, prioritizing, and implementing projects that impact the livability of their neighborhoods.	Inner SE mtg.
Neighborhood Associations need cash if they are really going to make a difference.	Neighborhood Associations would be able to draw in a larger cross section of the community if they were given money and authority to implement small scale neighborhood projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NA's get discretionary \$\$ for neighborhood projects. (\$10,000 each?) • Dedicate a % of federal Community Development Block Grant money to projects decided on by Neighborhood Associations. • Dedicate a certain percentage of tax or dedicate a revenue fund for neighborhood associations. 	The City values decentralized community control of small-scale neighborhood livability projects with dedicated funding to such purposes.	Inner SE mtg. Minneapolis, MN model on CDBG Eugene discussing tax dedicated to NA's

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Neighborhood Association leaders are disconnected and need to work together on fundamental citywide issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to legal counsel. <p>Neighborhood Association leaders need opportunities to gather together citywide on a regular basis to deliberate and ensure better representation of community concerns, funding for neighborhood system and improvements to City participation processes.</p>	The City supports the (annual/bin-annual ?) convening of a Neighborhood Summit/Neighborhood Congress for the purpose of public discourse on citywide community issues and improvements to Portland's public involvement processes.	Inner SE mtg.
Are Neighborhood Associations participatory or representative?	There has been much misrepresentation on the purpose of the neighborhood association system. It was originally set up as an opportunity for participatory democracy at the neighborhood level, not to be representatives of everyone who lives in the neighborhood. That is impossible without a formal electoral district representation process.	The City supports the Neighborhood Association system to provide an opportunity for participatory democracy at the neighborhood level for	Brian Hoop based on many conversations
Neighborhood Assocs do not have adequate systems of accountability nor diverse participation that City bureaus need for their PI efforts.	City bureaus need assurances that neighborhood associations have a system of accountability and have broad and diverse participation to justify using Neighborhood Associations as a core component of their public involvement strategies.	Neighborhood Associations shall abide by the roles and responsibilities outline in the Office of Neighborhood Involvement Standards that provide measures for an accountable, fair and accessible Neighborhood Association system.	City staff comments