

Communities of Color **constituency meeting**

Public Involvement Standards Taskforce

Thursday, June 12, 2003, King Facility

Attendance: Harvey Rice, RARE Services Group and Co-Chair Vernon Neighborhood Association; Cynthia Strickland; JoAnn Bowman, African American Chamber of Commerce; Fareeda Saahir, President – Woodlawn Neighborhood Association; Bobbie Nunn, African American Chamber of Commerce; Roy Jay, African American Chamber of Commerce; Aida Rashad, AABE; Kristy Fleming, African American Health Coalition; Keith Dempsey, African American Health Coalition; Jonath Calon, Proclean Group; Paulina Morgali, Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber; Dora Asana, African American Health Coalition; Nanci Luna Jimenez

Facilitator: JoAnn Bowman, African American Chamber of Commerce of Oregon

Hosts: African-American Chamber of Commerce of Oregon
Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber
Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Oregon

Summary of brainstorm ideas

Comments are organized into categories of themes that mirror the workgroup topics the Public Involvement Taskforce will be working on.

Process note: Listings are not in order of priority.

Process design and implementation:

- ❑ One-mile radius from impacted area should be a trigger for notification on major projects.
- ❑ Discussion about how much notice should be provided for projects ranged from comments of one week to 30 days, depends on issue and desired outcome. If it involves a vote by council, should be more time.
- ❑ Various bureaus must network with each other – bureau that leaves door hanger for one issue can also leave notice re: other issues. Street cleaners can leave info on street corners.
- ❑ Outreach to community through one single clearinghouse at City Hall.

Diverse and accessible public involvement strategies:

- ❑ Provide translation and interpretation services when needed.
- ❑ Engage youth 16-22 (City/County Youth Commission?)
- ❑ Provide childcare and time of day; transportation (church transport), location all tailored to audience.

- ❑ Prioritize funds to provide food, childcare, transportation, interpretation if it is a priority to get broad community participation – budget line item.
- ❑ Partner with organizations trusted and respected in communities (Albina Ministerial Alliance, for example).
- ❑ Hold meetings at senior centers.
- ❑ Engage pastors to spread the word to their parish members.
- ❑ Go to locations where public feels comfortable.
- ❑ Organize quarterly information fair. Provide information in different styles of learning: Written material, workshops – welcome families and children – skits, music, etc.
- ❑ Find ways to connect renters to process.
- ❑ Break down barriers and make meeting formats a safe and comfortable place, less didactic, chairs in a circle, no tables to sit behind.

Education and skills training for staff and public:

- ❑ Distributing information is not enough. Public must be trained in city advocacy and leadership skills so as to recognize important notices when they are received and then act upon them.

Communication and access to information:

- ❑ -Reduce duplication in database so people don't get 4 mailings on one issue (\$ savings) – Have one point for public involvement information/notification.
- ❑ Direct mail to all neighbors, need to be carrier route to reach renters of apartments.
- ❑ Use neighborhood merchants – put business ad on flyer, get business to pay postage.
- ❑ Discussion on ways participants get info:
 - ❑ ONI e-notification.
 - ❑ Neighborhood newspapers
 - ❑ African American Chamber/Hispanic Chamber
 - ❑ Skanner
 - ❑ Asian Reporter
 - ❑ El Hispanic Observer
 - ❑ Cable, Radio
 - ❑ Neighborhood Association meetings (about half)
 - ❑ Word of mouth from neighbors
- ❑ Brainstorm of best ways to get information:
 - ❑ Mail
 - ❑ Email
 - ❑ Newspaper (neighborhood)
 - ❑ Partnering with cable
 - ❑ Radio
 - ❑ Calendar of public involvement events and a recording on a line

- ❑ Posting permanent signage in location of project giving people a number to call and a start and end date.
- ❑ Post information in churches/local businesses (build partnerships where people hangout)
- ❑ School centers
- ❑ Go door to door with flyers. Talk one on one instead of in a large group.
- ❑ Neighborhood Association newsletters

Other comments:

- ❑ Its important to standardize the procedures for public involvement.
- ❑ Define the “public” in public involvement.
- ❑ Example of development process that occurred without neighborhood notification – sent out information with kids through schools, leaving out people with no children.