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*enhancing the quality  
of neighborhoods  
through  
community participation*

**City of Portland, Office of Neighborhood of Involvement  
Great – Guidelines Review Committee Meeting**

Tuesday, November 26, 2002

8:30 AM to 10:00 AM, Lovejoy Room, Portland City Hall

**MINUTES AND SUMMARY NOTES**

Members Present:

Moshe Lenske, Co-Chair	Woodstock Neighborhood Association
Kathy Bambeck	Bridlemile Neighborhood Association
Nancy Chapin	Alliance of PDX Neighborhood Bus. Assocs.
Raymond Hites	Lents Neighborhood Association
Brian Hoop	Office of Neighborhood Involvement
David Lane	Office of Neighborhood Involvement
Stanley Lewis	Downtown Community Association
Jerry Powell	At-Large
Charles Shi	Communities Beyond Neighborhood Boundaries

Absent

Cathy Crawford	University Park Neighborhood Association
Leonard Gard	Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc.
Patricia Gardner, Co-Chair	Pearl District Neighborhood Association
Michael O'Malley	Irvington Community Association
Mark Sieber	Neighbors West/Northwest
Ruth Spetter	City Attorney's Office
William Warren	Central Northeast Neighbors

Visitors

Lee Perlman	Media
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*Decisions by this group are subject to change at future meetings.  
Opportunities for public input are at the end of meeting and future workshops.  
The committee has approved these summary notes and are final..*

**Approval of Summary Notes**

**Information & Referral  
Center**  
503-823-4000

**Crime Prevention  
Center**  
503-823-4519

**Neighborhood Mediation  
Center**  
503-823-3152

**Metropolitan Human  
Rights Center**  
503-823-5136

**Civic Involvement  
Center**  
503-823-4519

- Withdraw motion that we created minimum geographical size and just call it a proposal.
- Minutes approved for Nov. 12, 2002.

### **Approved Recommended Code or Standards Revisions**

- No formal vote taken on language at the 11-26-02 meeting.

### **Summary Notes for Nov. 26**

- Update on new commissioner, Randy Leonard. Suggestion that the chairs meet with new commissioner and suggestion that we invite Randy Leonard to our meeting.
- Committee voiced that we need a commissioner who will advocate for and ask other commissioners “Have you talked to the neighborhood association,” on issues before they bring it up to Council meetings.

### **Update on Public Meetings Ad-Hoc Group**

#### Issues brought up:

- No discussion.

#### Motions:

- No action.

### **Updates on Communities Beyond Neighborhood Boundaries Ad-Hoc Group**

#### Issues brought up:

- Group mostly discussed Charles Shi’s vision for why to create Communities Beyond Boundaries. He envisioned coalition and crime prevention staff working with immigrant groups to be a welcome wagon to contact newcomers in their native language and review how government and the police work and answer their questions. It was commented this is more a program idea and less a policy issue.

#### Motions:

- Group agreed to send out form letter to community organizations of color inviting them to participate in this discussion.

### **Evaluation of Nov. 19 evening meeting for comment**

- Committee members were impressed with the depth of conversation on the structure of neighborhood district coalition, different decision making styles, socio-economic differences between coalitions, etc.
- Who holds power in the coalition leadership structure was a key issue brought up and what ability this committee has to impact how decisions are made. Does the existing structure of coalition boards weaken the strength of individual neighborhood associations?

- SW and NW structures give significant power to each neighborhood association in developing policy issues. Each neighborhood association needs to deliberate and vote on issues before the coalition votes on it.
- Some feel the guidelines should focus on the role of the coalition to focus on developing and strengthening neighborhood associations. The focus should not be on the development of strong coalitions. We need to push government agencies to work first with neighborhood associations and not directly with the coalitions.
- Some feel the guidelines already give coalition boards a lot of authority. Some coalition neighborhood representatives and boards are strong advocates for focusing on neighborhood associations whereas some individuals and boards have allowed staff to have a stronger voice.
- Coalition staff are being pulled in multiple directions due to decreasing budgets and need to pursue grants that require them to do the outreach work of bureaus, thus de-emphasizing neighborhood associations.
- ONI and the guidelines can only address structural issues and can not build "power" for neighborhood associations. The staff structure can facilitate building "social capital" - or strength through strong leadership.
- Neighborhoods within a coalition will often have differences of opinion, and may lead to tyranny of the majority. Should consider the guidelines acting as a guarantor of "rights" for neighborhood associations that may have minority opinions different from the coalitions.
- Some coalitions have created strong land use committees that overpower the minority opinions of some associations.
- Power can not come from City Hall. It has to come from the associations. What City Hall giveth can be taken away.
- Definitions to consider:
  - Civic capital - education and empowerment.
  - Political capital - building organizing power.
- It should be the responsibility of the City working through the coalitions to provide the education and empowerment to build strong leadership. We can create a structure that channels resources down to associations. But the structure and guidelines we can alter can not automatically create people power.
- Neighborhood associations need to be the base where the power rests. Coalitions should only serve a networking role to support neighborhood associations to build their power.
- Some neighborhood associations have chosen to stop attending coalition meetings because they don't like the majority opinions. "Take their marbles and go home."
- Should coalitions be limited from taking a position on public policy issues so that the power base is with neighborhood associations?
- This committee should not be dealing with internal coalition organizational issues and focus on the broader structural issues.

## **Standards for Neighborhood Associations**

- Homework - Moshe wants everyone to think about whether we create a city wide grievance committee. How many grievances might there be? How much staff support would it require?
- No other discussion

*The committee has approved these summary notes which are final. The information contained in this document is preliminary and informal in nature and does not necessarily reflect the views or adopted policies of the City of Portland or the final outcomes of this project; the reader should exercise caution in its interpretation.*

## **NEXT MEETINGS**

Cancelled

Tuesday, December 24

8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

City Hall, Lovejoy Room, 1221 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Tuesday, January 14, 2003

8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

City Hall, Lovejoy Room, 1221 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Tuesday, January 28, 2003

8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

City Hall, Lovejoy Room, 1221 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Prepared by: Brian Hoop, Office of Neighborhood Involvement