



# Neighborhood Association Summit 2002

## Summary Packet

Saturday, March 16  
Cleveland High School

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Dan Saltzman, Commissioner  
David Lane, Ph.D., Director

If you need an alternative format of this information  
please call 823-4519 TTY and voice

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**PORTLAND, OREGON**

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May 21, 2002

Dear Neighborhood Leader:

Thank you for making the third annual Neighborhood Association Summit a great success! Over 310 neighborhood activists attended the *3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Neighborhood Association Summit* representing 70 neighborhood associations, 47 local community groups, four Commissioner's offices, and 13 government agencies. Over half of the attendees had no previous leadership role in a neighborhood association, a good sign of our efforts to encourage more neighbors to get involved. We thank Metro and the seven neighborhood districts for their sponsorship and support. There were many reasons for the success of the Summit, but the main reason is your dedication and enthusiasm.

Included with this packet is a survey to provide an opportunity for you to express your priorities for the neighborhood association system. The goal of this survey is to provide feedback to ONI and the neighborhood coalitions in their ongoing efforts to design a support system that best meets the needs of volunteer neighborhood association leaders. Please call Amy Cammack (503-823-5284), Joleen Jensen-Classen (503-823-3203), or Brian Hoop (503-823-3075) from ONI if you have any further questions about the survey.

Thank you again for your attendance and support. I am excited about continuing to build on the success of the Summit and make our neighborhood associations even stronger.

Sincerely,

Dan Saltzman  
Neighborhood Commissioner

## **Sponsors, Partnerships and Volunteers**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Neighborhood Association Summit**

Saturday, March 16, 2002

8 AM to 2 PM, Cleveland High School, 3400 SE 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue

#### **Theme:**

Continuing a Vision and Increasing Participation for Portland's  
Neighborhood Association System

#### **Sponsored by:**

The City of Portland

Office of Neighborhood Involvement

Metro Regional Government

#### **In partnership with:**

Central Northeast Neighbors

East Portland Neighborhood Office

Neighbors West-Northwest

Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods

North Portland Neighborhood Program

Southeast Uplift Neighborhood Program

Southwest Neighborhoods Inc.

#### **Special Thanks to:**

Pamela Peck

Metro

Aaron Abrams

ONI Intern

Kerry Dugan

ONI Volunteer

Julie O'Dell

PSU Student

Hosford Abernethy Neighborhood Development Volunteers

- Susan Pearce
- Marilee Tillstrom
- Kelley Canode
- Linda Nettekoven

Southeast Uplift staff

Jamae Hilliard-Creecy Bureau of Enviro. Services for donations

Portland Cable Access for videotaping and sound system

## Agenda

- 9:00 AM**                    **Welcome:** Dr. David Lane, Director ONI and Susan Cox, Past President of Southeast Uplift.  
**Greetings from special guest:** Congressman Earl Blumenauer
- 9:15-9:30 AM**            **Metro: Let's Talk Portland overview:** David Bragdon, Metro Councilor
- 9:45-11:30 AM**        **Workshops:** Neighborhood leaders share their ideas and skills on these topics:
- **Metro "Let's Talk Portland" discussion**
  - **Taking Charge of the Rules** - Discussion with neighborhood leaders about proposed changes to ONI Guidelines.
  - **New to the Neighborhood: Getting People Involved with your Association-** Discussion with neighborhood and community leaders on outreach tools and other methods to get new people involved, particularly ethnic and renter constituencies.
  - **Dignity comes to the Neighborhoods-** Neighborhood activists and Dignity Village representatives dialog about homelessness and neighborhood livability.
  - **Neighborhoods and the Good Government Initiative-** Learn about measure 26-30 (the Good Government Initiative) and discuss the potential impact this change would have on local government and the neighborhoods.
  - **Visioning a Healthy Neighborhood System-** Learn about the Healthy Neighborhood Project in SE and how to develop a vision plan for your neighborhood.
  - **Northeast Passage: The Inner city and the American Dream-** View an independent film and discuss the impact of gentrification in North/Northeast Portland.
  - **Safe Neighborhoods are Everyone's Business-** Discussion with neighborhood leaders on how to keep their neighborhoods safe.
- 12:00 PM**                    **Lunch Plenary Session:** Commissioner Dan Saltzman and other panel members
- 2:00 PM**                    **Conclusion of the Summit**
- 2:30 PM**                    **Let's Talk PDX field trip**

## **Summaries of Workshops**

### **Taking Charge of the Rules**

**Facilitator:** Sylvia Bogert, Executive Director Southwest Neighborhoods Inc.

**Presenters:** Patricia Gardner, Pearl District NA; Co-chair ONI Guidelines  
Moshe Lenske, Woodstock NA; Co-chair ONI Guidelines  
David Lane, Director Office of Neighborhood Involvement

Approximately 20 activists gathered to discuss proposed changes to the ONI Guidelines, the rules and responsibilities of neighborhood associations and coalitions recognized by the city. City Code requires the guidelines to be reviewed every four years. Neighborhood leaders enjoyed learning the history of the guidelines. They expressed the need for more information regarding:

- ❑ how to identify their membership
- ❑ settling boundary disputes
- ❑ developing and amending bylaws
- ❑ a more defined grievance procedure
- ❑ a better understanding of the federal state and city requirements neighborhood associations must comply with.

### **New to the Neighborhood: Getting People Involved with your Association**

**Facilitator:** Amalia Alarcon-Gaddie. Metropolitan Human Rights Center

**Presenters:** Harvey Rice, Vernon NA  
Juan Mayoral, St. Johns Target Area Program  
Ron Sumner, Brentwood Darlington NA  
Anna Crowell, Russian/English Learning Center  
Anna Aguilar & Michael Anderson, Community Alliance of Tenants

The workshop focused on how to get new people involved in neighborhood associations with an emphasis on involving ethnic and renter constituencies. Over 40 neighborhood leaders learned how to use outreach tools such as door to door canvassing; identifying community leaders; making meetings more friendly and fun, and building and sustaining relationships with various constituencies living and working in their neighborhood associations. Neighborhood leaders were encouraged to participate in cultural and ethnic celebrations, take a facilitation workshop and focus on building relationships one person at a time.

Participants expressed appreciation for the information provided and more than one person commented that they came to the workshop to learn an easy way to improve outreach and found out there is no easy way, that it is a lot of work but well worth the effort. In addition, participants commented that the workshop helped them think of ways to work better and smarter.

## **Dignity comes to the Neighborhoods**

**Facilitator:** Eric King, Community Residential Siting Program

**Presenters:** John Hubbard, community organizer

Mark Lakeman, City Repair Project

Gaye, Tara and Tim, Dignity Village residents

Neighborhood activists joined with representatives of the Dignity Village community to talk about the issues of homelessness and neighborhood livability. Twenty-seven neighborhood representatives learned how Dignity Village was created in December, 2000 as a “green” sustainable urban village for those who are currently seeking shelter but unable to find it. Dignity Village is a community-based living facility designed to provide a safe space until residents can access another form of housing. Dignity Village residents explained how the community operates on a day to day basis and about their goals for the future of the community. Neighbors were able to express their concerns about the community’s potential negative impacts on livability and talk about ways to prevent problems before they occurred. The participants agreed the dialog helped increase understanding of the issue of homelessness and that more opportunities like this would be beneficial.

## **Neighborhoods and the Good Government Initiative**

**Facilitator:** Jim Gladson, Office of Neighborhood Involvement

**Presenters:** Frank Dixon, Northwest District Association

David Redlich, Homestead NA

Chris Smith, Northwest District Association

Tom Badrick, Sunnyside NA

Measure 26-30 will appear on the May 2002 ballot. The measure changes Portland’s form of government from the Commission form to a Mayor Council form. If the measure passes, the Council would have nine members, seven elected from districts and two at-large. The measure gives the mayor administrative and executive authority and gives the Council all legislative and quasi-judicial authority. Over thirty participants engaged in a lively, often heated, discussion of how this initiative will impact grassroots neighborhood association power and access to city hall. Discussion focused on representation by district versus city at large representation on council and the role of the mayor. Evaluation forms submitted by participants indicated that the majority of participants enjoyed the spirited debate.

## **Visioning a Healthy Neighborhood System**

**Facilitator:** Kelly Caldwell, Southeast Uplift

**Presenters:** Scott Vala, Mount Scott NA

Noelle Dobson, Sunnyside NA

Linda Nettekoven, Hosford-Abernethy NA

Southeast Uplift has begun a three-year project entitled The Healthy Neighborhood Project designed to strengthen the power and effectiveness of neighborhood associations in the coalition. This workshop provided an opportunity for over 20 participants to hear how SE neighbors are defining their priorities and developing their vision of a strong neighborhood association system. Participants learned how to develop and use a neighborhood questionnaire and survey, organize community dialogs and evaluate the information collected. Participants were encouraged to:

- ❑ Identify neighborhood association resources, priorities & needs
- ❑ Engage a variety of stakeholders in dialogue
- ❑ Create a self-assessment tool for neighborhoods
- ❑ Collect baseline information
- ❑ Develop action plans
- ❑ Evaluate the impact of neighborhood association actions
- ❑ Illustrate and promote the neighborhood association track record.

Individuals wanting more information can join a list serve discussion group at [HNP1-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:HNP1-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

## **Northeast Passage: The Inner-city and the American Dream**

**Presenter:** Neil Swart, Filmmaker, Eliot NA

This workshop focused on an independent film documenting the class tension that arises from mixed income communities. The forces of gentrification are rapidly changing the character and complexion of inner North/NE Portland. Despite this change, efforts are going forward to build and preserve affordable housing in these neighborhoods. The film illustrated the perspectives and expectations of both old and new residents and their efforts to remake their communities.

Participants found the film compelling and a good starting place for the discussion that followed.

## **Safe Neighborhoods are Everyone's Business**

**Facilitator:** Art Hendricks, Office of Neighborhood Involvement

**Presenters:** John Welch, Lents NA

Kimberly McClain, Montavilla NA

John Frye, Sellwood Moreland Improvement League

Keturah and Phil Pennington, Hillsdale NA

Neighbors gathered to share their expertise and experience in keeping their neighborhood safe. Topics included such traditional techniques as how and why to organize a neighborhood foot patrol and identifying and eliminating drug houses from neighborhoods. New technology has led to the utilization of e-communication and neighborhood-based websites to disseminate crime prevention information and techniques quickly to a large number of people.

Participants enjoyed the opportunity to learn "the basics" (neighborhood watch, foot patrols, etc.) as well as the chance to explore how to use new technology. They expressed an interest in additional training that would address how to cope with the increase in pornography related businesses in neighborhoods and ways to improve the safety of children.



## **Summary of Lunch Plenary**

**Topic: Continuing a Vision and Increasing Participation for Portland's Neighborhood Association System**

**Panelists included:**

- Commissioner Jim Francesconi
- Commissioner Charlie Hales
- Commissioner Dan Saltzman
- Commissioner Eric Sten
- Joanne Bowman
- Patricia Gardner, Pearl District Neighborhood Association
- Bonny McKnight, Russell Neighborhood Association
- Nathan Nguyen, Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon  
Caring Community and Project Interwoven Tapestry

This year's theme called on participants to join in a discussion on a vision for the future of Portland's neighborhood association system. The lunch plenary system was an interactive discussion with four city commissioners and four neighborhood and community leaders. Participants were asked to focus on the following questions:

- What would be your number one action or change to reach your vision for Portland Neighborhood Associations?
- How do we build a more dynamic system in a time of decreasing public resources?
- How do we increase broad based and diverse participation in our neighborhood associations?
- What are essential services that associations and individuals need from the City?

# **Summary of Evaluations**

## **General**

90% rated the workshops as excellent to good, 10% rated the workshops as fair. 90% rated the facilities as good to fair, 10 % rated the facilities as excellent. 80% rated the food as excellent to good, 20% rated the food as fair. 70% gave the summit an overall rating of excellent to good, 24% rated it as excellent and 6% rated it as fair.

## **What did you like best about the summit?**

As in the past two years the most popular aspect of the summit was the networking opportunities that allowed neighborhood activists to meet each other and share ideas and experiences. The valuation comments made it clear that more opportunities would be appreciated. The workshops and the chance to talk with city commissioners were close seconds. Participants also expressed appreciation that Metro was involved and they liked the information tables.

## **What could have been improved about the summit?**

Most participants wanted a second round of workshops. They did not like the fact that all workshops were offered at the same time and they had to make choices. Second, there was universal criticism of the public address system. It was too awkward and people had difficulty hearing. Finally, the participants wanted the question and answer period more tightly controlled. We got lots of complaints that questioners took too long to ask a question and were not on point. Suggestions ranged from eliminating the Q and A to requiring that questions be written and submitted in advance. Several attendees expressed regret that we did not follow the plan for small group discussions after the panel. They felt this would have been a valuable opportunity to share ideas with each other and could have helped keep the Q and A session focused on the summit theme.

## **What topics would you like to see addressed in the future?**

There were many suggestions for future topics but the most common request was for more training on increasing diversity and general participation in neighborhood associations. Participants also requested more opportunities to help neighborhood associations work together on common issues and concerns as well as more opportunities to increase their influence with city leaders.

## **Other comments and suggestions.**

Participants suggested time be set aside for neighborhood leaders to share success stories with each other and city officials. Many folks also suggested the creation of an email list serve to allow attendees to keep in touch with each other. Future Neighborhood Summits should focus on strengthening neighborhood associations and their influence with City Hall.

## **Survey: Your vision of a healthy neighborhood system**

**Why:** Due to unforeseen audio/visual technical problems with the lunchtime plenary we were unable to complete the small group discussion about our collective vision for the neighborhood association system.

**Goal:** The results will be used by ONI and neighborhood offices to:

- Better understand and support your Neighborhood Association priorities
- Shape the work plans of ONI in the coming two years
- Help determine what types of additional resources and assistance should be developed for the coalitions

We are building off a survey effort already underway called the Healthy Neighborhood Project, which Southeast Uplift Neighborhood Program has initiated.

**What to do:** Either complete the enclosed paper survey or email survey (if you received this via email.) One survey is for those already active in a neighborhood association. Another is for those who are not involved. You are free to fill out which ever survey is appropriate for you.

**Questions:** Ask for Amy Cammack – 503-823-5284, or Joleen Jensen-Classen – 503-823-3203 or Brian Hoop – 503-823-3075.

**Return to:** Return in the envelope provided or email:  
Summit Survey  
Office of Neighborhood Involvement  
City Hall, 1221 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., Room 110  
Portland, OR 97204  
Email to: [acammack@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:acammack@ci.portland.or.us) or  
[bhoop@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:bhoop@ci.portland.or.us)

## Already active in a neighborhood association?

### Survey questions:

1. What activities or goals are your neighborhood's top priorities for the coming year?
2. What are your Neighborhood Association's top priorities for assistance from your neighborhood coalition or office in the coming year?
3. Are you active in any other community organizations or groups? Which ones?

## Not currently active in a neighborhood association?

### Survey questions:

1. What neighborhood do you live in? \_\_\_\_\_ Don't know.
2. What issues or activities are most important for your neighborhood?
3. What barriers or reasons limit you from getting involved with your neighborhood association?
4. Are you active in any other community organizations or groups? Which ones?

### For both surveys:

Which of the following areas should be your Neighborhood Association's priorities?

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletters, web sites, list-serves, bulletin boards and info sharing | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood art & community spaces, projects, local culture        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building relationships among community groups & organizations         | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting small businesses & local economy                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Promoting connections among neighbors & sense of community            | <input type="checkbox"/> Advocating for a greener & eco-sustainable neighborhood             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Encouraging civic participation & volunteerism                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Addressing land use and transportation issues                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building more diverse participation (Renters, people of color, etc.)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic calming   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Identifying and working on neighborhood issues & needs                | <input type="checkbox"/> Working on public safety issues (Block Watches, foot patrols, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strong organization (active leadership, working committees)           | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning or promoting community events & activities                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Political advocacy & organizing                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Tree plantings   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising   | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Clean-ups  |