



NOISE TASK FORCE AGENDA

Thursday, October 1, 2015

3:30 – 5:30 pm

*Pettygrove Room, Portland City Hall
1221 SW 4th Avenue, Portland, OR 97204*

Schedule	Topic	Lead/Presenter	Notes/Outcomes
3:30 p.m.	Introductions, minutes and handout review	Claire Adamsick, Office of Commissioner Fritz	Introduce Mary Sipe as new Task Force member (vacant community position)
3:40 p.m.	Feedback from Commissioner Fritz re: EX Zones discussion and recommended areas of focus for Variance/Appeals/Notification discussion	Claire Adamsick	See Commissioner Fritz's proposed considerations below
3:50 p.m.	Variance, Appeals and Notification discussion	Claire Adamsick, City Staff and Task Force members	See purpose statement below
4:45 p.m.	Public comment	Members of the public present	
5:00 p.m.	Continued discussion and preliminary recommendations	Task Force members	Outline initial recommendations and identify key questions still unanswered
5:30 p.m.	Adjourn		

Variance, Appeals and Notification: Proposed "Problem" Statement

Context: Currently, Noise Variance requests are submitted to the Noise Office for review and processing. Requests that the Chair of the Noise Review Board has deemed as having significant impacts on the community are scheduled for a public hearing in the context of a Noise Review board hearing. In instances where the direction given by the Chair needs clarification, the Noise Control Officer consults the Chair for direction on the legal venue of review. Current legal venues of review include the Noise Office,

Noise Review Board and City Council. The events deemed less impactful are delegated to staff for review. In recent City Council hearings, community members have suggested that the window of time in which a variance is appealed is too narrow, and that notification of variance approvals may not be reaching those directly impacted by the variance decision. Construction and development representatives want reassurances that the variance process will allow them to complete their projects in a timely manner and that it will also limit the noise impacts on a given area.

Central Question: How can the Noise Code be appropriately revised to create a variance review process that is responsive to:

- the community’s desire for timely and transparent information
- the time-sensitive needs of the development community (construction-specific variances)
- City Staff capacity and resources

Considerations from Commissioner Fritz:

- Focus discussion on high-impact variances -- and define criteria that define and differentiate between high-impact and low-impact projects.
- Consider the possibility of submitting high-impact Noise Variance requests directly to the City’s Code Hearings Office
- Consider streamlining the variance process through partnership with other City bureaus responsible for permitting specific events (Parks, PBOT, ONI)
- Consider a cost recovery model to fund additional staff support (i.e. through increased variance fees in certain areas)

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

Date	Time	Location	Agenda
Thursday, October 8	3:30-5:30 p.m.	Pettygrove Room, City Hall	Continuation of Variance, Appeals, and Notification Equipment definitions (pile driving)
Wednesday, October 14	6-8 p.m.	Lovejoy Room, City Hall	Presentation of preliminary findings to Noise Review Board
Thursday, October 15	8-9:30 a.m.	Bureau of Development Services, Conference Room 2500 A	Presentation of preliminary findings to Development Review Advisory Committee (DRAC)
Thursday, October 22	3:30-5:30 p.m.	Pettygrove Room, City Hall	Develop final recommendations incorporating community and city input
Thursday, November 12	2:00 p.m. (Time Certain)	Council Chambers City Hall	Presentation of Task Force recommendations to City Hall.

The City of Portland will make reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities. Please notify us no fewer than five (5) business days prior to the event by phone at 503-823-3589, by the City's TTY at 503-823-6868, or by the Oregon Relay Service at 1-800-735-2900.