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Noise Review Board

June 11, 2020

Minutes

Present: Kerrie Standlee, Michael Wallace, Destiny Wright, Ernest Harris, Mary Sipe, and Paul van Orden

Minutes: Katherine Couch, with Paul van Orden providing conditions on the variance

Call to order: 6:09 pm by Kerrie Standlee

Public comment

Heather Mather, Business Agent for Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters

They joined the meeting to introduce themselves and had no other items

Richard Potesio, resident of Washington Park Condos

They came to inform the Noise Review Board of the ongoing HVAC issue on a nearby residential building. They have been trying to get a solution for three years and have reached out and had contact with the Noise Office and the Noise Control Officer. They are one of thirty-eight households living in the condos, and with no AC in their building, it is uncomfortable to keep the windows closed. They want the issue addressed in full and as quickly as possible.

Minutes

Michael Wallace makes a **motion to approve the April minutes as written**. Destiny Wright seconds the motion. Destiny Wright, Michael Wallace, Ernest Harris, and Kerrie Standlee **all vote "aye."** Mary Sipe abstained due to not being in attendance at the April Meeting. **Motion passes 4-0**

The board approved **May minutes with changes** as listed – **removal comments in parenthesis Change the font of written testimony so fonts match throughout document.** Michael Wallace moved to approve the changes listed above. Ernest Harris seconded the motion. Destiny Wright, Mary Sipe, Ernest Harris, Michael Wallace, and Kerrie Standlee **all vote “aye.” Motion passes 5 – 0**

Noise Variance Request

Oregon Department of Transportation Lombard Multimodal Safety Project

The request is for up to fifty nights of roadway work between 2/1/21 and 8/31/22 on N Lombard between N Fiske and N Omaha. Jen Bachman, Project Manager, and Gwen Montgomery from Murraysmith gave an overview of the project. N Lombard is one of the least-safe streets in the city of Portland, with a crash occurring every nine days on average. Over half of the collisions result in injuries. ODOT would like to make improvements that would affect all modes of travel. Improvements include lane reconfiguration to change to one lane of traffic each way, with a center lane to make left turns from, as opposed to turning while traffic is moving. Other components of the project are paving, construction of new traffic signals, and ADA ramps.

Acoustic Consultant Michael Minor shared the specific decibel levels expected and reported on the sound study done in preparation for the NRB hearing. dBA levels taken during the sound study were pre-pandemic, so they were louder than they are now. It’s difficult to predict what limitations will still be in place by the time the varianced work begins.

April Hasson then spoke about the public outreach for this project. There is a webpage specific to the Lombard project, as well as fact sheets, face-to-face meetings, open houses, and an email list of 725 people. Closer to construction, there will be another open house. Additionally, ODOT sent out 1077 postcards to inform neighbors of this hearing. Finally, there are signs on the street-facing sides of the project.

Public comment

There was no public comment.

Destiny Wright **moved to approve** the ODOT Lombard Multimodal Safety Project, with the mitigation suggestions listed in the variance request. Mary Sipe **seconded**. Ernest Harris made a **friendly amendment** to add the condition to notify the noise office should any complaints arise. Destiny Wright agreed to the friendly amendment. The final motion:

Approve the ODOT Lombard Multimodal Project with ODOT’s mitigation efforts, adding the condition that the noise office must be informed about any complaints within twenty-four hours of getting them.

Kerrie Standlee called the vote, with Destiny Wright, Ernest Harris, Michael Wallace, Mary Sipe, and Kerrie Standlee **voting “aye.” The motion passed 5 – 0.**

Board discussion

Public comments: Paul van Orden shared what he knew about the HVAC from the public testimony of Richard Potesio. The location is very close to PGE Park, and it was a challenge to get accurate readings. The case was closed. The noise office opened another case, and this time a violation letter was sent, with the stipulation the operators fix the problem. The operators implemented steps that improved the sound level. The mitigation narrowly brought the HVAC into compliance by the end of last summer. Since the location of the unit is a historical building, the Historical Design Commission needed to approve any changes. This additional step led to BDS taking longer than is typical to issue permits. Paul van Orden put the building on notice that the process was taking too long. It needs an inspection, but the Noise Control Officer stated that management would not let noise inspections occur during the pandemic. After a short discussion with the board, Mary Sipe suggested that the Chair **send an email to management** within the next five days. When board members asked what the needs would be, Paul van Orden listed two:

- City vehicle to keep at home to avoid possible contagion in the parking garage
- Bring the City noise meter home

Mary Sipe made a **motion for the Chair to send an email to management**, Ernest Harris **seconded** the motion. Michael Wallace, Kerrie Standlee, Mary Sipe, Ernest Harris, and Destiny Wright all vote “aye.” **The motion passed 5-0.**

Board Chair Report

Kerrie Standlee tried to connect with the Portland Police a week before the ongoing racial justice protests. The police representative spoken with did not seem very positive about working with the Noise Review Board. Kerrie Standlee will try to connect with the current Police Chief.

Bylaws

Kerrie Standlee and Michael Wallace would like the board to approve forming a subcommittee to update the bylaws recently passed. Kerrie Standlee requested a website announcement for public meetings via Zoom. Destiny Wright **moved to approve the formation of a subcommittee to update the bylaws**. Mary Sipe **seconded** the motion. Ernest Harris, Mary Sipe, Michael Wallace, Destiny Wright, and Kerrie Standlee all vote “aye.” **The motion passed 5-0.**

2019 Data

Kerrie Standlee and the rest of the board had questions about the data on complaints sent to them by the noise office. Kerrie Standlee would like board members to submit their questions to the Chair, who will compile them and send them to Kenya Williams, along with an invitation to come to the meeting in July. The board felt that the data collected and sent was challenging to read and confusing.

Field Inspector

Mary Sipe asked why the Field Inspector position has been vacant for a long time. Paul van Orden suggested that the board ask the noise office for clarification. Kerrie Standlee will investigate.

Leaf Blowers

Asena Lawrence indicated that Multnomah County would like to be part of the discussion on leaf blowers. Kerrie Standlee will issue an invitation to the board meeting for either July, August, or September.

Kerrie Standlee called for an adjournment. Michael Wallace made the **motion** to adjourn, and Mary Sipe **seconded** it. **The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 pm.**