



City of Portland, Oregon  
Sonji Young, Chair  
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## Meeting Minutes

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**Date:** March 5, 2014 **Time:** 4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

**Location:** Ron Russell Middle School, 3955 SE 112<sup>th</sup> Ave, Portland, OR 97266

**Commission Attendees:** Allan Lazo, Damon Isiah Turner, Aimee Samara, Mayra Arreola, Moloy Good, Linda McKim-Bell, Abdul Majidi, Emanuel Price, Ashley Horne, Kate Lore

**Commissioners Absent:** Kyle Busse, Deyalo Bennette, Sonji Young, Sam Sachs

**Staff Attendee:** Jeff Selby

**Note taker:** Sarah Milliron

### Approval of Minutes and Agenda / Welcome and Gathering

- Vice Chair Linda McKim-Bell called the meeting to order at 4:15.
- MOTION BY MAYRA ARREOLA: Approve meeting minutes.  
SECOND: LINDA MCKIM-BELL  
ABSTAINED: ABDUL MAJIDI, ASHLEY HORNE, MOLOY GOOD  
MOTION PASSED
- MOTION BY ABDUL MAJIDI: Approve meeting agenda.  
SECOND: ASHLEY HORNE  
ABSTAINED: MOLOY GOOD  
MOTION PASSED

### Welcome and introductions

- Linda McKim-Bell read the mission statement and asked for community and commissioner introductions.
  - Representatives included DHS, EPAP, E. Prec., OPAL, Multnomah County Health Department, Albina Ministerial Alliance, Human Solutions, ODOT, Mid County Memo, the Mayor's Office, I Have a Dream, Home Forward, PHB, the Office of Steve Novick and the Office of Dan Saltzman.

### Housing Choice & Conversation with Community/Public Involvement

- Frida Christopher from East Portland Action Plan gave an introduction to the demographics of East Portland. She explained East Portland represents 25% of the population and it has the highest percentage of New Portlanders. There has been a population increase without increase in city funding. She noted that over concentration leads to lack of livability.
- Allan Lazo introduced the Housing Rights Task Force discussing the strong movement surrounding East Portland. Housing is about access to opportunity and is concerned with the lack of choice. Current housing stock is also a concern as it has become affordable by accident rather than choice.
- Aimee Samara led the community conversation with three topics: experiences with displacement in Portland, prevention of displacement, and support for those displaced.

- Andrea Valderrama from Commissioner Steve Novick's office said they are working on inclusionary zoning as a tool not a solution.
- Amy Trieu from Commissioner Dan Saltzman's office said they are working with the Central and East Precincts to identify and find housing for homeless. The report will be out in April.
- Diana Nuñez from Mayor Hales' office said he is committed to conditions surrounding East Portland
- Jeff Selby suggested partnering with other organizations tackling housing issues as to not overlap ideas and to then follow up.

## **Public Comment**

### **What are your experiences with displacement in Portland?**

- "We live where you let us live."
- Damon asked if people were leaving E. Portland or staying. Frida answered that people are leaving when their children grow up.
- Concern with housing stability and retention.
- Employment has to be linked with housing and displacement and livability. A decline in livability leads to a decline in hope.
- Have to match jobs with skill sets of people living there.
- PPD discussed foreclosed properties turning into squats.
- Clear distinction made between homelessness and criminality.

### **What do you feel should be done to prevent displacement in Portland? Next Steps?**

- Lack of housing stock, 3% vacancy rate.
- Lack of housing stock that accept vouchers.
- Look at other cities such as Cleveland and Detroit.
- Encourage City bureaus to invest equitably in services.
- Encourage home ownership
- Portland Housing Bureau has earmarked \$500,000 for first time homeowners in Gateway.
- Improve housing stock by creating incentives for rehabilitation
- Identify state laws regarding foreclosure.
- Add a funded compliance inspection staff.
- Look into enterprise zoning.
- Banks need to take some responsibility regarding foreclosures.
- Find ways to increase income through economic development.
- Creation of displacement prevention toolkit.
- Need a whole systems approach as to avoid siloization.

### **What do you feel should be done to support those displaced?**

- Economic development, skills training, match industry with skills.
- Give incentives to developers for hiring local workers, such as enterprise zoning.
- Transit oriented planning—people can't get to their jobs easily via public transit due to limited routes in East Portland and many can't afford to. Suggestion to use Oregon Trail cards as bus passes. The Tri-met culture is not customer service oriented e.g. lack of bus shelters. (OPAL)
- Increase residential zoning.
- Improve sidewalks in order to increase livability.

**Commission business**

- MOTION BY LINDA MCKIM-BELL: HRC to give approval to RAP to distribute Op-ed Draft to other cities.  
SECOND: AIMEE SAMARA  
MOTION PASSED
- MOTION BY DAMON ISIAH TURNER: Request letter from HRC sent to the Mayor and Commissioners regarding the creation of Equity and Diversity Program Manager within the PPB.  
SECOND: (not recorded by note taker)  
Opposition included lack of clarity around its role in working with the COCL under the DOJ Agreement and concerns that we did not have comprehensive feedback from community orgs available to the HRC.  
MOTION PASSED