

The Oregonian

Mayor Charlie Hales, Commissioner Nick Fish name 'Blue Ribbon Commission' members, tab Dwight Holton chair

*By Andrew Theen
June 26, 2014*

Portland Mayor Charlie Hales and Commissioner Nick Fish revealed the 12 members of their newly formed hand-picked Blue Ribbon Commission on Thursday.

Dwight Holton, the former U.S. attorney for Oregon and candidate for State Attorney General, will chair the commission.

The volunteer commission is tasked with analyzing spending and rate setting at the water and sewer bureaus. They will report back to the City Council with findings and recommendations in November.

The announcement comes a little more than a month after Portland voters overwhelmingly turned down a ballot measure that aimed to remove City Council control over the water and sewer bureau by creating a separately elected political body.

"The Commission will focus on streamlining communications and transparency in the rate-making process," according to a press release issued Thursday.

Hales and Fish pledged to take a serious look at reforms at the two bureaus.

The meetings will be open to the public, according to the release.

Members of the public may testify at two of the meetings, which will take place twice a month, according to Fish's policy director Jim Blackwood. The first meeting is scheduled for July 15 in the Lovejoy Room at City Hall from 4 – 6 p.m.

"I am gratified that such a distinguished panel of experts has volunteered to dig deep into how the City does oversight and rate-making," said Fish in the release. Fish oversees both the water and sewer bureaus.

In the release, Hales said the city doesn't want to pretend it has all the answers. "Often, third-parties see these issues better than we do. We look forward to their recommendations," said Mayor Hales.

The commission includes utility experts, the Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon's Janice Thompson, and environmental science and engineering experts.

Portland street fee: Mayor Charlie Hales decides to put street fee charter amendment 'on the shelf'

*By Andrew Theen
June 26, 2014*

UPDATE: This post was updated with additional reaction from Hales and Fish.

After several weeks of postponing a vote on a charter amendment measure related to a controversial and yet-to-be adopted street fee Portland Mayor Charlie Hales decided to put his idea "on the shelf" indefinitely.

In an interview with The Oregonian, Hales acknowledged the charter amendment was confusing to residents and business owners considering a street fee hadn't been enacted. "There's more confusion than reassurance," Hales said of the charter amendment, which would've mandated a majority of street fee funds be spent on safety and maintenance work.

Hales and Commissioner Steve Novick first floated the charter amendment proposal in late May, and the ballot measure was first scheduled for a City Council vote on June 4 along with their proposed street fee on residents and businesses. Only voters can amend the city's charter.

The proposed ballot language was tweaked between the first delay on June 4 and the proposal that Hales removed from the City Council agenda on Thursday. Weeks ago, Commissioner Amanda Fritz proposed making the language stronger and requiring 8/10 of revenue go to maintenance and safety. But Hales' staffers said the language in Fritz's proposal was too precise for a charter amendment.

In a press release, Hales said the confusion was "muddying the real message" of addressing the city's crumbling roads.

Thursday's announcement has no bearing on the street fee timeline. Advisory groups will be formed and meet in the coming months to discuss ways to improve the fee, or another funding tool, that would raise up to \$50 million annually. City Council is expected to vote on a new plan in November.

In an interview, Commissioner Nick Fish applauded Hales' decision. "I'm pleased the mayor withdrew the charter amendment," he said. "I agree with him that it was confusing. I was planning to vote no because I thought we were putting the cart before the horse."

Hales said Thursday that the city faced a July 2 deadline to pass the charter amendment language and put it before voters in November.

He said the November election was the target, but he admitted to assuming the city would want the charter amendment in place because a street fee would've been adopted by council in June.

But a nearly six hour public hearing on the street fee and hundreds of emails filling City Hall inboxes in late May, Hales and Novick decided to pull the street fee vote itself ahead of a June 4 vote.

When asked if he regretted the handling of the charter amendment process, Hales said he was sorry people were confused. "The only thing I'm sorry about is that people keep looking for my ulterior motives in proposing the charter amendment," he added.

The mayor said the charter amendment was a response, in part, to a city poll conducted earlier this year. In the street maintenance poll, released in April, respondents were more likely to support a street fee if they had assurances the City Council's spending would be restricted.

The document pulled on Thursday provided new definitions for safety and maintenance projects. The new language included crosswalks, safety beacons bicycle lanes, but also projects such as "removing vegetation to improve visibility, enforcement mechanisms such as speed enforcement equipment and driver education."

Now the charter amendment will be tabled until at least November, when the City Council is expected to vote on a street fee or other funding mechanism to pay for road safety and maintenance work. Hales and his staff will continue to refine the language and return in November after a street fee -- or other funding plan -- is approved. "I still believe that people will want that reassurance," Hales said.

He said voters may trust this version of the City Council to spend money from the street fee or another funding mechanism on road work, but other future councils may be a different story. Hales believes once a fee is approved, voters will want assurances written into the city charter. "That demand will erupt when the fee is real rather than something that we're discussing and arguing about," he added.

Spring Garden Park in Southwest Portland chosen for \$1.5 million upgrade

*By Melissa Binder
June 26, 2014*

Spring Garden Park in Southwest Portland is in for a serious makeover.

The Portland parks bureau announced Thursday \$1.5 million in development revenue has been designated for construction at the Multnomah neighborhood park. According to a release from the bureau, the five-acre park serves 1,359 households.

The design process is set to begin in 2015, with construction expected 2016.

The new design will preserve the storm water basin, wildlife habitat and above-ground creek built by the environmental services bureau last year. It's possible climbing boulders or other parts of the park's natural playground, installed in November 2011, will be incorporated into the new playground.

Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc., ranked the development of Spring Garden Park as the top priority when revenue became available.

"I am thrilled that the Friends of Spring Garden Park - and their many community partners - will finally see their vision of connecting children to nature realized," Sylvia Bogert, SWNI's executive director, said in the release. "It is heartwarming to know future generations will be able to enjoy this special park.

State law requires development revenue, called System Development Charges, be used for growth projects, not maintenance on existing parks.

The park's master plan calls for a number of upgrades:

- A picnic area and lawn
- A new playground and places to sit
- Park paths for walking
- A grassy meadow with native grasses for picnics and free play
- New trees
- Park entry points with signs

A parks project manager will be in touch with the neighborhood this fall to discuss the timeline and project specifics, according to the release.

Excited? Friends of Spring Garden Park is throwing an ice cream party 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday at the park, located at 3332 S.W. Spring Garden St.

Portland parks bond: City officials showcase rusty pipes, remnant playground in \$68 million pitch

*By Brad Schmidt
June 26, 2014*

While beginning the sales pitch for up to \$68 million worth of park repairs, Mike Abbaté, the director of Portland Parks & Recreation, compared the city's system to, of all things, a used car.

Sure, it looks great on the outside.

But it's what you don't see that could get you in trouble.

On Thursday, Abbaté and city Commissioner Amanda Fritz, who oversees the parks bureau, launched a campaign to refer a \$56 million to \$68 million bond measure to voters Nov. 4.

Early polling suggests voters may be willing to pay for the improvements. But that's where the used-car analogy comes in: just because Portlanders think highly of their parks system doesn't mean it's actually in great shape.

Amanda Fritz explains the 2014 Portland parks bond measure Commissioner Amanda Fritz talks about spending up to \$68 million from a bond measure to help repair Portland parks.

Bond money would help pay for a fraction of repairs and major maintenance at parks facilities. Fritz said the city sets aside just \$1.25 million annually to pay for work estimated to cost \$365 million over a decade.

"It's definitely worth trying because the need is so enormous," she said of the bond measure, noting that it would cover about two years' worth of repairs and maintenance.

Parks officials recruited reporters Thursday to showcase two properties with needs: the playground at Kenton Park in North Portland and the Grant Park swimming pool in Northeast Portland.

Kenton's play structure and nearby bathroom are sagging in spots, the result of building atop unstable soil. One-third of the playground has already been removed. And at Grant, officials highlighted the rusty pipes and outdated filtration system, installed when America was fighting Germany and Japan in World War II.

"When these fail, and we don't have money to replace them, they go away," said Don Athey, senior facilities maintenance supervisor for the bureau.

While both facilities have issues, officials were non-committal about whether they'd receive money from the bond measure.

Parks officials declined Thursday to provide details of potential projects or spending categories. Mark Ross, a bureau spokesman, said some information will be presented at a June 30 town hall, running from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Cleveland High School.

Fritz said the City Council will vote July 24 at 2 p.m. to send the proposal to voters.

If approved, the bond measure would prolong property taxes for parks first approved by Portland voters in 1994.

Parks officials say the bond would extend the existing tax rate, set to expire in 2015, of almost 9 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value. That would run homeowners about \$17.50 a year for a home assessed at \$200,000.

Dick Vander Schaaf, a swimmer of 20 years at the Grant Park pool, figures that's money well spent.

"I would love to see these pools better than they are now," he said.

Rounding out the used-car analogy, parks officials have even carved out a nice little pitch: address the city's "critical parks needs" today, all "without raising tax rates."

The Portland Tribune

Water and sewer oversight commission named

*By Jim Redden
June 26, 2014*

Mayor Charlie Hales and Commissioner Nick Fish announced the formation of a 12-member commission to review the oversight of the Water Bureau and Bureau of Environmental Services on Thursday.

The Utility Oversight Blue Ribbon Commission is charged with recommending changes to increase oversight of the two bureaus, if they consider any to be warranted.

Appointment of the commission fulfills promises made by Hales and Fish during the fight over the proposed Portland Public Water District, which appeared on the May 20 primary Election ballot. Hales and Fish opposed the measure, and promised to appoint the commission if it was defeated. The measure failed overwhelmingly.

According to Hales and Fish, commission members represent a variety of technical and management disciplines including public and private utilities, engineering, communications, environmental science, and organizational development. The panel includes a current wholesale water customer, and a representative of the independent Citizens' Utility Board.

“Mayor Hales and I pledged to appoint a Blue Ribbon Commission to consider a number of reforms to the oversight of our public utilities, provided voters rejected the proposed Water District,” says Fish, who is in charge of both bureaus. “I am gratified that such a distinguished panel of experts has volunteered to dig deep into how the City does oversight and rate-making.”

“Reaching out to this committee and seeking their advice makes sense. We don’t want to pretend that we have all the answers. Often, third-parties see these issues better than we do. We look forward to their recommendations,” says Hales.

The commission will convene in July and will present recommendations to the Portland City Council in a Work Session to be held in November. All meetings will be open to the public. The public will be invited to testify at two Commission meetings.

The city has contracted with community engagement and planning firm, Cogan Owens Cogan, to facilitate the meetings and assist the Commission in writing its final report.

The 12 commission members are:

- Chair, Dwight Holton, CEO of Lines for Life, the state’s leading nonprofit working to prevent substance abuse and suicide. Holton previously served as United States Attorney for Oregon in 2010-2012, where he launched a civil rights initiative and led community initiatives to combat mortgage fraud, domestic violence, human trafficking and prescription drug overdose deaths. Holton lives with his wife Mary Ellen Glynn and two children in Southeast Portland.
- Vice-Chair, Isaac Dixon, Associate Vice President for Human Resources at Lewis & Clark College. Prior to moving into the world of higher education Isaac worked for companies such as Providence Health and Services, GE Capital, Pitney Bowes Financial Services and NIKE. He also served in human resources roles in federal, state and local government agencies. Dixon is a long time resident of Portland and has served on numerous committees, boards and commissions.
- Barbara Byrd, Secretary-Treasurer of the Oregon AFL-CIO. Byrd oversees economic development, workforce training and climate policy issues for the state federation. On behalf of the federation, she sits on the Oregon Workforce Investment Board and on the Advisory Council of the Oregon Employment Department. She also coordinates the Oregon BlueGreen Apollo Alliance, a labor-business-environmental coalition that promotes clean energy and good jobs. Since 1995, she is has been on the faculty at the University of Oregon’s Labor Education and Research Center.
- Christine Chin Ryan, founder and President of Synergy Consulting, Inc., which provides comprehensive IT software solutions to federal, commercial, and not for profit enterprises with emphasis on Customized Software Development and Staff Augmentation. Ryan is a passionate advocate for small businesses. She serves as Chair of the Oregon Small Business for Responsible Leadership, and as a member of the Small Business Majority Network Council. She previously served as Chair of the Governor’s Small Business Council and as a member of the Oregon Business Plan Steering Committee and Congressman Kurt Schrader’s Small Business Advisory Board, and served as Chair of the Oregon Small Business Healthcare Initiative.
- Rob Doneker, a registered Professional Engineer (PE) in the State of Oregon and has a Ph.D. degree in Environmental Engineering from the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Cornell University. Doneker consults on water management issues for USEPA, US ARMY COE, ODEQ, and other governments, universities, and businesses worldwide.
- Bill Gaffi, General Manager of Clean Water Services, the wastewater and surface water management utility which serves over 550,000 customers in Washington and parts of Clackamas and Multnomah counties. Clean Water Services is a leader in watershed management and has also been recognized as one of America’s most effective and innovative small businesses.
- Marion Haynes, Vice President of Government Relations and Economic Development for the Portland Business Alliance. The Alliance represents over 1,700 small, medium and large employers. Haynes served on the Portland Charter Review Commission, which investigated changes to the structure of the City’s water and sewer bureaus. Prior to joining the Alliance, Marion worked at Portland General Electric in state government affairs.
- Chris Liddle, Manager in Regulatory Affairs for Portland General Electric. Liddle recently chaired the City Club of Portland’s research committee on Water and Sewer Rates and Governance. He has a BA in Finance from the University of Oregon, and an MBA from Portland State University.
- Kendra Smith, a restoration ecologist with 21 years of experience working in streams, rivers, and storm water management throughout the Willamette Basin. She currently serves on Metro’s Natural Areas Oversight Committee, and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board’s regional

grant review team. Smith has been a consultant, public employee for Clean Water Services a sanitary and storm/surface water utility, and currently works for the Bonneville Environmental Foundation.

- Brian Stahl, Water Division Manager for the City of Gresham. Stahl has more than 30 years of experience in municipal enterprise fund budgeting, serving on numerous regional and state committees addressing water management issues. He is the current Chair of the Oregon Health Authority Drinking Water Advisory Committee.
- Janice Thompson, Consumer Advocate with the Citizens' Utility Board focused on Water and Sewer issues. Thompson comes to the CUB Board after over 15 years working on democracy reform issues where she fought special interests, demanding government and corporate accountability. She began her career at the Minnesota Energy Agency with a focus on community based energy programs. A stint teaching middle school science with an emphasis on stream and watershed studies provided many opportunities to communicate complex topics in readily understandable ways. Janice has degrees in Biology and Education from Carleton College and the University of Minnesota.
- Lawrence Wallack, who has more than 40 years of experience in various aspects of public health. Wallack previously served for nine years as Dean of the College of Urban and Public Affairs at Portland State University. He has substantial background in social advocacy, communication, and translation of research.

Updates on the commission's activities and schedule will be available on Fish's website at: www.portlandonline.com/fish/index.cfm?c=65200

Street fee ballot measure delayed for months

*By Jim Redden
June 26, 2014*

Mayor Charlie Hales and Commissioner Steve Novick pulled a proposed ballot measure related to their street fee off the City Council agenda at the last minute Thursday.

The measure, aimed at the Nov. 4 General Election ballot, would have restricted funds raised by the fee to transportation projects. The council is not scheduled to consider the final version of the fee, intended to raise about \$50 a year, until Nov. 12, however.

Hales' office issued the following statement after the Thursday hearing has already begun:

A proposed change to the city charter from Portland Mayor Charlie Hales and Commissioner Steve Novick, designed to lock in the use of the proposed street fee for maintenance and safety, will be pulled off the table.

"The issue was confusing to people," Hales said. "We listened to hours of testimony. We've received hundreds of emails and calls. Local media claim it confuses them. We're listening. If the charter change is muddying the real message – that we must take care of our streets – then we'll take it off the table."

Hales and Novick have held 10 town hall meetings and have discussed a street fee at many City Council meetings this spring and summer. In 2012, Hales ran on making street maintenance a priority. And he's talked about it since arriving in office 18 months ago.

"The independent auditor tells us we need more than \$75 million per year to take care of the largest thing we own: our streets. We haven't even gotten close to that. Our streets are in disrepair. The state and federal governments are not going to swoop in with a more robust gas tax to save us. It's up to us."

Hales and Novick are committed to ensuring that revenue from any new funding mechanism would be dedicated to improving the maintenance and safety of our city's transportation network, including paving and sidewalks. The charter amendment that would have gone to voters in November would have codified that commitment.

But residents who attended town halls, or who contacted the mayor's office, have said the proposal is confusing.

"We don't want any confusion on this: We have not taken care of our streets; we have to turn that around; we don't have the millions-per-year necessary now to do it; no one else is going to do this except us; we need a street fee," Hales said. "None of that has changed. We're told that the charter amendment was adding confusion. So we'll take that off the table for now, until we've reached a consensus on a funding proposal."

Work groups will be created this summer to examine the best way to enact a residential fee and a non-residential fee. All meetings will be open to the public.

Hales and Novick expect a council vote on the transportation fee by this fall. It is expected to be enacted by July 2015.

Willamette Week

Dwight Holton Will Chair Utility Reform Commission

*By Aaron Mesh
June 26, 2014*

Portland Mayor Charlie Hales and City Commissioner Nick Fish promised that if voters rejected a ballot measure removing the water and environmental services bureaus from City Hall control, they would appoint a "blue-ribbon commission" to make reforms.

Today, Hales and Fish kept that promise, and named former U.S. Attorney for Oregon Dwight Holton as chair of the commission.

"As a former U.S. attorney, he's someone that has earned a lot of confidence in our community," Fish tells WW. "He got high marks for how he engaged the public. That's one of the reasons I thought he was ideal for this assignment."

The commission has been told to look for reforms in setting water and sewer rates—especially ways to make the process more open to the public. It has until November to suggest changes to City Council.

Fish says Holton was the top choice to oversee reform of city utilities—wrecked by spending overruns on capital projects like an office building for sewer workers—because he's not part of the culture at the Water Bureau and Bureau of Environmental Services.

"As far as I can tell, he's a virtual stranger to the subject of utilities," Fish says. "We wanted someone who could put a fresh set of eyes on the subject."

Portland's Mean Streets Are Getting Dirtier: The City Is Cutting Back On Street Sweeping

The cuts come as Mayor Charlie Hales asks for more transportation money through a street fee

*By Erin Carey
June 25, 2014*

Mayor Charlie Hales wasn't messing around when he said that Portland city streets are a "crisis." Now, they'll be a bit dirtier as well.

KATU reports the city of Portland is cutting back the number of times it will clean Portland streets each year. Starting July 1, the city will reduce the number of cleanings of neighborhood and side streets—down to one or two times, compared to two to three times currently.

Most of the money comes out of the Bureau of Transportation's budget, but the Bureau of Environmental Services, which also pays for the cleaning, is cutting its spending on the program by half. KATU reports BES had to cut its overall budget by 2.5 percent, and that "street sweeping doesn't do enough for water quality, one of the agency's main priorities."

Hales and Commissioner Steve Novick are pushing a street fee that would raise as much as \$50 million a year from property owners and businesses to pay for road maintenance. Hales and Novick say the city no longer has enough money to keep up its maintenance backlog. Check out WW's latest analysis of their financial claims.

The Mercury

You Were Promised a Blue Ribbon Commission on Water/Sewer Rates. Here You Go.

*By Dirk VanderHart
June 26, 2014*

Back when it seemed like angry industrialists could maybe, possibly stage a viable push to snatch Portland's water and sewer service away from City Hall, sweating city officials made a promise. Let us keep the Portland Water Bureau and Bureau of Environmental Services, said Mayor Charlie Hales and Commissioner Nick Fish, and we'll look into ways to run them better.

At the time, a campaign to establish an independent water district was drawing all sorts of attention to the city's steep utility rates, and using every opportunity to point out fairly egregious (but relatively benign where rates are concerned) expenditures of utility money.

Who knows what effect the pledge had on voters, who roundly rejected the proposed Portland Public Water District last month? The PPWD had enough problems that it didn't exactly need Fish and Hales' assurances to sink its hopes.

But Fish and Hales today announced the roster of the "Utility Oversight Blue Ribbon Commission" that is the outcome of that late-campaign promise. It's stocked with the organizations you might anticipate—City Club of Portland, the Portland Business Alliance—and familiar faces, along with people who've taken their own prior deep dives into how the city's public utilities are run (and found ample room for improvement). And then it includes what Fish's policy director, Jim Blackwood, calls "bright, clean eyes" who don't have much technical expertise in utility oversight.

In the "familiar faces" and "bright, clean eyes" camp: Dwight Holton, the former US Attorney for Oregon and current executive director of Lines for Life. Holton is chairing the 12-person committee.

Also on board, Chris Liddle, a Portland General Electric manager who chaired a recent City Club committee that critiqued the city's water/sewer oversight. The PBA, which aired its own qualms about utility management, is being represented by Marian Haynes. And the Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon will have a seat at the table. The organization is already studying the city's rate structure.

"We were looking for areas of expertise" says Blackwood.

The city is also working out a contract with a local "community engagement and planning firm," Cogan Owens Cogan, to facilitate the group's discussions and create a report later this year. An agreement hasn't been hammered out, Blackwood says, but the services could cost as much as \$30,000 (a total of \$50,000 in contingency money has been carved out for the committee).

The committee's first meeting is on July 15. Blackwood says he hopes a report will be ready for Portland City Council consideration by November. Hit the jump for the full roster.

Commission Charge

The Portland City Council directs that an independent Commission convene from July to November 2014, to analyze potential reforms of the oversight and accountability of the Portland Water Bureau and Bureau

of Environmental Services, and then report to the City Council. The Commission will focus on streamlining communications and transparency in the rate-making process.

Utility Oversight Blue Ribbon Commission Members

Chair – Dwight Holton

Dwight Holton is the CEO of Lines for Life, the state's leading nonprofit working to prevent substance abuse and suicide. He previously served as United States Attorney for Oregon in 2010-2012, where he launched a civil rights initiative and led community initiatives to combat mortgage fraud, domestic violence, human trafficking and prescription drug overdose deaths. Dwight lives with his wife Mary Ellen Glynn and two children in Southeast Portland.

Vice-Chair – Isaac Dixon

Isaac Dixon is the Associate Vice President for Human Resources at Lewis & Clark College. Prior to moving into the world of higher education Isaac worked for companies such as Providence Health and Services, GE Capital, Pitney Bowes Financial Services and NIKE. He also served in human resources roles in federal, state and local government agencies. He is a long time resident of Portland and has served on numerous committees, boards and commissions.

Barbara Byrd

Barbara Byrd is the Secretary-Treasurer of the Oregon AFL-CIO. She oversees economic development, workforce training and climate policy issues for the state federation. On behalf of the federation, she sits on the Oregon Workforce Investment Board and on the Advisory Council of the Oregon Employment Department. She also coordinates the Oregon BlueGreen Apollo Alliance, a labor-business-environmental coalition that promotes clean energy and good jobs. Since 1995, she has been on the faculty at the University of Oregon's Labor Education and Research Center (LERC).

Christine Chin Ryan

Christine Chin Ryan is the Founder and President of Synergy Consulting, Inc., which provides comprehensive IT software solutions to Federal, commercial, and not for profit enterprises with emphasis on Customized Software Development and Staff Augmentation. Christine is a passionate advocate for small businesses. She serves as Chair of the Oregon Small Business for Responsible Leadership, and as a member of the Small Business Majority Network Council. She previously served as Chair of the Governor's Small Business Council and as a member of the Oregon Business Plan Steering Committee and Congressman Kurt Schrader's Small Business Advisory Board, and served as Chair of the Oregon Small Business Healthcare Initiative.

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Marian Haynes

Marian Haynes is the Vice President of Government Relations and Economic Development for the Portland Business Alliance. The Alliance represents over 1,700 small, medium and large employers. Marion served on the Portland Charter Review Commission, which investigated changes to the structure of the City's water and sewer bureaus. Prior to joining the Alliance, Marion worked at Portland General Electric in state government affairs.

Chris Liddle

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Kendra Smith

Kendra Smith is a restoration ecologist with 21 years of experience working in streams, rivers, and storm water management throughout the Willamette Basin. She currently serves on Metro's Natural Areas Oversight Committee, and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's regional grant review team. She has been a consultant, public employee for Clean Water Services a sanitary and storm/surface water utility, and currently works for the Bonneville Environmental Foundation.

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Brian R. Stahl is the Water Division Manager for the City of Gresham. He has more than 30 years of experience in municipal enterprise fund budgeting, serving on numerous regional and state committees addressing water management issues. He is the current Chair of the Oregon Health Authority Drinking Water Advisory Committee.

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Janice Thompson is a Consumer Advocate with the Citizens' Utility Board (CUB) focused on Water and Sewer issues. She comes to the CUB Board after over 15 years working on democracy reform issues where she fought special interests, demanding government and corporate accountability. Janice began her career at the Minnesota Energy Agency with a focus on community based energy programs. A stint teaching middle school science with an emphasis on stream and watershed studies provided many opportunities to communicate complex topics in readily understandable ways. Janice has degrees in Biology and Education from Carleton College and the University of Minnesota.

Lawrence Wallack

Lawrence Wallack has more than 40 years of experience in various aspects of public health. He previously served for nine years as Dean of the College of Urban and Public Affairs at Portland State University. He has substantial background in social advocacy, communication, and translation of research.

The Portland Business Journal

Portland's street fee charter amendment taken off the table

*By Andy Giegerich
June 27, 2014*

Portland officials have scrapped plans related to efforts to add new street fees.

The City Council had planned to vote on a proposed city charter change that would have ensured the new street fees were locked in for transportation uses.

The fee proposal itself was shelved until the fall.

"The issue was confusing to people," said Portland Mayor Charlie Hales in a release. "We listened to hours of testimony. We've received hundreds of emails and calls. Local media claim it confuses them. We're listening. If the charter change is muddying the real message — that we must take care of our streets — then we'll take it off the table."

The fee would cost households about \$10 a month and, for 60 percent of businesses, \$76 a month.

The charter amendment would have gone to voters in November and perhaps "codified" how the money would be spent.

"We don't want any confusion on this: We have not taken care of our streets; we have to turn that around; we don't have the millions-per-year necessary now to do it; no one else is going to do this except us; we need a street fee," Hales said.

"None of that has changed. We're told that the charter amendment was adding confusion. So we'll take that off the table for now, until we've reached a consensus on a funding proposal."

Meet the 12 Portlanders who'll shape the city's water and environmental reforms

*By Andy Giegerich
June 27, 2014*

Portland has named 12 members to a much-anticipated new panel.

The "Utility Oversight Blue Ribbon Commission" will review oversight of the Portland Water Bureau and Bureau of Environmental Services. It will begin meeting in July and make recommendations to Portland's City Council.

It will review potential reforms for both bureaus.

The panel includes:

- Dwight Holton, the group's chair and CEO of Lines for Life.
- Isaac Dixon, the associate vice president for human resources at Lewis & Clark College.
- Barbara Byrd, secretary-treasurer of the Oregon AFL-CIO.
- Christine Chin Ryan, founder and president of Synergy Consulting Inc.
- Robert Doneker, an engineer.
- Bill Gaffi, general manager of Clean Water Services.
- Marion Haynes, vice president of government relations and economic development for the Portland Business Alliance.
- Chris Liddle, a regulatory affairs manager for Portland General Electric.
- Kendra Smith, a restoration ecologist.
- Brian Stahl, water division manager for the city of Gresham.
- Janice Thompson, a consumer advocate with the Citizens' Utility Board and a noted policy researcher.
- Lawrence Wallack, a past dean of the College of Urban and Public Affairs at Portland State University.