

The Portland Tribune

Council speeds up residential deconstruction pilot program

*By Jim Redden
June 4, 2015*

The City Council unanimously approved a pilot program to encourage the deconstruction of houses targeted for redevelopment Wednesday.

Mayor Charlie Hales and the other council members indicated they want to make deconstruction mandatory and prohibit mechanical demolition once the marketplace can support the influx of salvaged materials.

"The community has shown a strong shared interest in moving in this direction, and the council share that urgency," Hales said before voting in support of the resolution he introduced.

The resolution directs the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability to create a program to train and encourage developers to deconstruct homes targeted for redevelopment, a process that allows more materials to be salvage for reuse than demolition by heavy equipment. The council amended the resolution to require BPS to report on the progress of the program in January 2016 instead of September 2016, as originally proposed.

"There's a strong commitment on the part of the council to move faster," Hales said.

The resolution was supported by the Home Builders Association of Metro Portland. Activists with the grassroots United Neighborhoods for Reform urged the council to make deconstruction mandatory now.

Experts say that when a house is deconstructed by hand, 50 to 75 percent of it can be recovered. Much of that material can be reused, include lumber for building more houses. In comparison, only 30 to 50 percent of a house can be recovered when it is demolished. And much of that lumber can only be burned for fuel because it is so damaged.

In addition, deconstructing a house reduces the amount of hazardous material released into the air, such as asbestos and lead-based paint chips.

But deconstruction can cost \$5,000 to \$7,000 more than demolition. And it can take more than a week instead of just one or two days.

The pilot program is expected to start with deconstruction training classes this fall. It will also include grants funded by \$50,000 from the Solid Waste Management Fund Reserves maintained by BPS.

The Portland Mercury

Hall Monitor

Vacant No Longer

*By Dirk VanderHart
June 3, 2015*

THE WORD went out in late May, as police began a weeks-long mission to kick "entrenched" homeless people out of Portland's Central Eastside.

The sweeps were coming, a rumor said, but there was a place nearby where the cops wouldn't bug you: The same place where the city plans to house campers later this year.

So a once-vacant lot began to fill. The property where Portland Mayor Charlie Hales and Commissioner Amanda Fritz are planning to put homeless rest area Right 2 Dream Too (R2DToo) was bursting with tents by the evening of Monday, June 1.

The change was staggering. In late April when I first visited the lot—an Oregon Department of Transportation-owned parcel on SE 3rd, just east of OMSI and the new Tilikum Crossing bridge—news of

the city's plans hadn't yet seeped out ["The Search Is Off!" Hall Monitor, April 29]. There was one tent on the site, and a couple living in an old RV said they'd been staying there for months with no issues.

Now, less than a week after police began their most pronounced enforcement in years, it was the densest encampment on the Central Eastside.

"I just heard through word of mouth," said 21-year-old Hailey Parrish, as she worked on a bicycle inside the property on Monday, June 1. "People said to come here."

Parrish was just visiting, she said, but the dozens of people who followed that advice were in for disappointment. The city wants homeless camping at the site—just not this homeless camping. Police had posted notice that campers would need to be out soon.

It's just part of the fight blossoming around the land.

Central Eastside businesses hoping to keep R2DToo off the site are now arguing pop-up encampments like this will become the norm if Hales and Fritz get their way. The influential Central Eastside Industrial Council sent Hales a 10-page letter last month dripping with disdain for the proposal, saying Hales and Fritz are flouting city planning precedent and violating zoning laws with "contrived" arguments.

Business owners are also warning that legal encampments are going to spring up all over the city if the move occurs as planned. They argue it would create a precedent that, in some cases, renders Portland's anti-camping laws moot.

The dust-up revolves around the complexities of city land-use rules, but it's got real implications for people like Parrish. She'd been considering sleeping at the proposed R2DToo site, but didn't see the point if cleanup crews would be coming by in a few days. She'd already lost blankets and a bike frame in the sweeps, she said.

Then I talked to 43-year-old Mike Futch, who's been staying in that old RV for the past six months. Things had been peaceful all that time, he said, but now the lot had drawn heat and he was faced with the prospect of being pushed out with nowhere to go.

He blames R2DToo.

"They shouldn't have to throw us out to bring them here," he said. "We don't think it's a good idea."

In Other News

*By Mercury Staff
June 3, 2015*

THERE MAY be life yet in a \$500 million propane export facility proposed for North Portland.

Mayor Charlie Hales ruffled feathers and garnered cheers in May when he publicly came out against Pembina Pipeline's proposal, saying he wouldn't even put a crucial zoning question before Portland City Council.

But Commissioner Nick Fish says he's not sure that's allowed. Fish has asked the Portland City Attorney's Office for an opinion as to whether city council must take up the zoning change, which was recommended by the Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission.

While he waits for an answer, Fish accompanied Commissioner Steve Novick on a tour of the proposed terminal site on May 29. Fish's office says the visit was scheduled weeks prior, and is unrelated to his inquiry to the city attorney. DIRK VANDERHART

POLICE REFORM in the city has a new face.

A group of researchers helping oversee Portland's settlement with the US Department of Justice over police abuses announced May 28 that it's selected Kathleen Saadat as its local representative. The compliance officer/community liaison (COCL) team picked Saadat, a longtime civil rights, women's rights, and LGBT rights advocate, at the recommendation of Mayor Charlie Hales' office.

The selection fills a crucial hole in Portland's reform effort. The COCL team—largely made up of Chicago academics—initially selected former Oregon Supreme Court Justice Paul De Muniz to be its local representative. But de Muniz resigned from the team in early April, citing health issues.

"We were looking for someone who can connect with all marginalized communities in Portland, who values a diversity of viewpoints and is widely respected in Portland and throughout the state of Oregon," said COCL team leader Dr. Dennis Rosenbaum. "We have found that person in Kathleen Saadat." DVH

MAYOR CHARLIE HALES has reined in NE Alberta's Last Thursday street fair for years because of complaints over mayhem—even refusing to close the street for May's event.

It didn't work.

At around 7 pm on May 28, police say a 16-year-old Vancouver, Washington, resident opened fire into a crowd of people gathered for the event. The suspect, Turon Lamont Walker Jr., injured three people in the shooting—two 15-year-old boys and a 25-year-old woman. None of them had life-threatening injuries.

Why did Walker do this? According to police, because someone in the crowd had been "eying" him.

The shooting prompted lengthy closures on NE Alberta, which in turn prompted complaints by dozens of people who couldn't buy Salt & Straw ice cream. DVH