

## The Portland Tribune

### Business, labor leaders call for propane terminal hearing

*By Jim Redden*

*June 9, 2015*

A coalition of 32 business and labor leaders sent a letter to the City Council on Monday asking for a hearing on Pembina's proposed propane terminal.

The letter criticized Mayor Charlie Hales for canceling a scheduled June 10 hearing on the \$500 million project after withdrawing his support for environmental reasons.

"Making land-use decisions based on unwritten and unspoken 'environmental standards' causes us fundamental concern. How could any business deciding to locate in Portland even know what the standards are when new, unwritten and unspoken standards are brought up late in the process?" says the letter, signed by leaders ranging from PGE President & CEO Jim Piro to John Mohlis, executive secretary of the Oregon State Building and Construction Trade Council.

The leaders say the Pembina Pipeline Co. is a reputable employer and the project will create good-paying jobs, both during and after the construction phase.

"Pembina is a solid, sustainable employer, one who we should openly welcome to Portland. The project would not only be the largest private investment in the history of the city, but it would also generate solid middle-wage jobs (including 800 union construction jobs and then some 40 permanent skilled-trades jobs) at a time when Portland is seeing middle-wage jobs decline as a percentage of our overall workforce," reads the letter.

The leaders also say the project will boost local tax revenues at a time when Public Employee Retirement System costs are expected to increase.

"Finally, the Pembina project is expected to generate some \$12 million annually in local tax revenue, providing funds for teachers, police officers, firefighters and homeless shelters. How can the city say no to this new revenue when you know the recent PERS Supreme Court decision will put financial pressure on local governments, including Portland Public Schools' ability to keep teachers in classrooms?" the letter reads.

The letter can be read [here](#).

Pembina needs a land use change to build the terminal at the Port of Portland. The Planning and Sustainability Commission (PSC) has recommended the change be granted with conditions. Hales is in charge of the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, which is overseen by the PSC. The change must be approved by the council.

The letter follows the release of an opinion by the City Attorney's Office last week that no council hearing is required. Commissioner Nick Fish sought the opinion because Title 33 of the zoning code says the City Auditor must schedule hearings on requested land use changes referred from the PSC.

"In this instance, after the report and recommendation was forwarded by the PSC, a hearing was scheduled but the commissioner-in-charge (the mayor) elected not to place the matter on the council agenda. We are not aware of any previous situation where the commissioner-in-charge elected not to place a report and recommendation of the PSC on the council agenda, nor are we aware of any previous city interpretation of Title 33 on this question," the memo says.

Hales and Fish declined to comment on the opinion. It can be read [here](#).

Portland Business Alliance President and CEO Sandra McDonough says her organization is baffled by the opinion, which she calls, "legal hair-splitting at its best."

McDonough says not holding a hearing on the proposal sends a bad message to other companies interested in doing business in Portland.

"What it says is, you can follow all the rules and still get shut down," says McDonough, who signed the letter along with PBA Chair Debbie Kitchin.

Pembina proposed the terminal to ship propane to Asian countries. It would create hundreds of temporary construction jobs and up to 40 permanent jobs, in addition to generating millions of dollars a year in property taxes.

The project is opposed by environmentalists because of the greenhouse gas emissions that would be released by burning the propane and by some area residents for safety reasons. The PSC recommended approval of the change, on the condition Pembina pay a carbon fee of \$6.2 million a year to the city. The Monday letter argues the propane shipped through the terminal will reduce greenhouse gases by replacing dirtier fossil fuels, however.

Pembina still hopes the council will hold a hearing on its proposal.

"Pembina's investment in Portland was made in good faith with the mayor's support. We were asked to be patient with the city's process and have participated fully with the mayor's Planning and Sustainability Commission in receiving a positive vote to move the proposed text amendment to City Council," says company spokesman Jason Fydirchuk.

Port of Portland Executive Director Bill Wyatt was disappointed with the opinion.

"It's disappointing news, because the loss of an investment of this magnitude would mean forfeited tax revenue, lost jobs and business opportunity, and negative implications for land use, trade policy and business recruitment efforts," Wyatt says.

## **The Portland Mercury**

### **Westward Ho! Now Portland's Police Reform Oversight Team is Setting Up Shop Downtown**

*By Dirk VanderHart  
June 10, 2015*

The team of experts and advocates responsible for keeping an eye on Portland's federally-mandated police reforms keeps moving westward.

First, the excessively titled Compliance Officer/Community Liaison (COCL) team planned to set up offices at the Rosewood Initiative, a community center at SE 160th and Stark. The thinking was that the center is situated among marginalized communities, in a setting where citizens wouldn't be intimidated. But it didn't work. The Chicago-based team's "ears on the ground," former Oregon Supreme Court Justice Paul De Muniz, said he wasn't even able to set up a computer in the space.

So De Muniz headed down the road, to a city-owned office space adjacent to the Portland Police Bureau's Traffic Division headquarters. That raised concerns. The COCL team is supposed to be wholly independent of the police, and some members of a citizen board working with the COCL were incensed. The judge said it was the city's responsibility to find him a better place, and Mayor Charlie Hales' office stressed the situation was only temporary.

De Muniz left the COCL team in April, citing health reasons. Now longtime Portland advocate and activist Kathleen Saadat has taken his place, and the COCL headquarters are moving again.

Saadat tells the Mercury she'll be moving offices into the Commonwealth Building near SW 6th and Stark. It's the same building that houses Portland's Housing Bureau and Office of Equity and Human Rights. It's also a long way down Stark from the Rosewood Initiative, and even farther apart in terms of neighborhood dynamic. A glass-walled high rise might not be as welcoming as a community center, should people want to meet with the COCL team.

Saadat says she needed to get down to business.

"I decided we couldn't waste any more time looking for a place," Saadat said. "We have deadlines to meet."

We've asked the mayor's office about details of the lease, but haven't heard back.

## Daily Journal of Commerce

### North Portland parcel to become park

*By Inka Bajandas*

*June 10, 2015*

Portland Parks & Recreation has purchased a nearly three-acre parcel in North Portland for a new city park.

The sale of vacant grassland by Open Meadow, a private high school, was approved by the Portland City Council and finalized late last month. Parks system development charges will cover the \$880,000 sale price for the parcel, which is near the intersection of North Crawford Street and Polk Avenue.

The site, which overlooks the Willamette River, is now open for public use; however, plans to formally develop the meadow with oak trees into the park and add amenities are still in the works, Portland Parks & Recreation spokesman Mark Ross said.

“What it might look like is yet to be determined,” he said.

Potential amenities and other improvements will be outlined in a future master plan for the new park, Ross said. For now, city crews will maintain the site – mowing, pruning and picking up trash – until funding is secured for the master plan, he said.

Open Meadow put the parcel on the market after it moved out of a nearby building late last year.