

Willamette Week

Opposing Groups Plan to Disrupt Portland City Council Meeting With Demands About Police Response to the ICE Occupation

By Elise Herron

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Portland socialists' demands include ceasing cooperation with ICE, while Patriot Prayer wants to "take a stand against police inaction in Portland Oregon."

Opposing groups—the Portland chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America and the far-right group Patriot Prayer—are planning to disrupt Wednesday's City Council meeting with demands about how the city should approach the occupation at the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement building.

The Portland ICE occupation, which began June 17 in protest of Trump administration policy that has separated over 2,000 children from their parents at the border, has quickly grown and effectively shut down the facility. Despite being issued an eviction notice on June 25, the group shows no signs of packing up camp any time soon.

Among the list of demands Portland DSA plans to present city council is that "Portland Police allocate zero resources for the eviction of Occupy ICE PDX."

The group also says that in order to be an authentic sanctuary city, Portland should also establish an Office of Immigrant Rights, withdraw from the Joint Terrorism Task Force and "cease all cooperation with the Department of Homeland Security in surveilling and arresting activists protesting ICE's presence in Portland."

DSA co-chair Olivia Katbi Smith says that the group has requested time on the meeting's agenda to "discuss the crisis of ICE in our community." But, she adds, DSA members will make their demands known "regardless of whether or not [commissioners] acknowledge our request and make space on the agenda."

Portland DSA will be met at the meeting by Patriot Prayer—a far-right group notorious for bringing bloody political brawls to Portland. Earlier this month, Patriot Prayer and antifascists exchanged violent blows at the waterfront Rose Festival.

According to the group's Facebook event, "Stand Up Against Standing Down," members are planning to protest on the steps of city hall to "take a stand against police inaction in Portland."

"For more than a year now, Patriots have been coming into Portland to celebrate their first amendment right of free speech," the post reads. "Far too often these events have been attended by violence from the left-wing terrorist organization antifa [...] It is time to say, 'No More!'"

A little over 80 people have responded to the Facebook event. It is unclear if the group's leader, Joey Gibson, who is running for U.S. Senate in Washington, will also be in attendance.

The Portland Business Journal

Why the Deal to Develop South Waterfront Collapsed

By Jon Bell

June 26, 2018

At the end of the day, what caused the collapse of a plan to develop one of the city's most promising sites with millions of new square feet of commercial and residential space, parks and a riverfront greenway was pretty familiar and pretty simple: money — about \$37 million to be exact.

That's the amount of funding that ZRZ Realty — the real estate arm of the Zidell family business — would have needed to come up with to cover the remaining infrastructure costs not funded by public agencies. According to Prosper Portland, the estimated infrastructure costs for the Zidell's ambitious South Waterfront plans would have hit \$84 million. The city, through various funding mechanisms, agreed to commit about \$47 million toward those costs, which would have gone toward extending Southwest Bond Avenue, parks and the greenway. The Zidells would have had to come up with the balance.

“The city's position has been that they will fund a certain amount of infrastructure, but it leaves a sizable amount of investment for parks, trails and infrastructure for the family to have to pay,” said Jay Zidell, president of ZRZ Realty. “When we add that cost into the rest of the vertical development cost, it simply doesn't make sense and we can't attract outside capital.”

That reality led the city and ZRZ Realty to terminate a development agreement that had been executed back in 2015, despite more than a year's worth of negotiations to amend it. Under the terms of that agreement, the city would have contributed about \$30 million, and the Zidells' plan called for about a million square feet of new development.

But Zidell said that since then, the company has come up with a new master plan that calls for between 4.5 million and 5 million square feet of development, including 1.5 million square feet of Class A office space, 2,200 residential units, 200,000 square feet of retail space, 200 hotel rooms and 10 acres of public parks, plazas and green space.

“The whole scope of what our vision is has changed radically since we executed the development agreement in 2015,” Zidell said.

Lisa Abuaf, development manager with Prosper Portland, said public resources are finite and that the city is “not prepared for investments” beyond the \$47 million.

That funding would have come from about \$23 million worth of tax increment financing and \$12 million each from systems development charges from the Portland Bureau of Transportation and Portland Parks & Recreation. The Portland Housing Bureau also would have contributed an additional \$6 million for affordable housing.

Zidell said that ZRZ's financial projections show that the city would have enjoyed “an outstanding return on its investment” in the South Waterfront development.

Abuaf noted that the public priorities for the neighborhood remain unchanged, and the city still plans to move forward on some of the projects that have been identified as key to the area's growth and vitality. Those include the eventual extension of Southwest Bond, the greenway and some “pinch points” that make traveling into and out of South Waterfront challenging. When those will happen, however, remains to be seen.

Unable to come to terms, Portland and the Zidells bail on South

Despite ambitious renderings and a multiyear effort, ZRZ Realty does not plan to move forward with its development plans after failing to reach an agreement with the city of Portland and its economic development agency, Prosper Portland.

As for ZRZ, Zidell said the company has no plan B. The negotiations over the development agreement may have come up short, but he said he's hopeful that the Zidells' vision will become a reality someday.

"At the present time, we have no other plans," he said. "I would love nothing better than to sit down with the mayor or anyone else he sees fit to try and get this back on track. We are ready and chomping at the bit to be able to do something."

Abuaf echoed that sentiment.

"We were and are very, very enthusiastic about the master plan they completed," she said. "I absolutely am hopeful that we will keep the lines open with them. There is strong support from the city for the plan and their plan to make a legacy for that neighborhood."

The Skanner

Cully Park Grand Opening is Saturday, June 30

June 26, 2018

Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) and Verde announce the grand opening of the new 25-acre Cully Park from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Northeast 72nd Avenue, just north of Killingsworth.

The new city park is the result of years of community efforts, fundraising and advocacy in tandem with Portland Parks & Recreation funding in the diverse, park-deficient Cully neighborhood.

The Cully and PP&R communities, including Parks Commissioner Amanda Fritz and Interim Director Kia Selley, Oregon Governor Kate Brown, Oregon Senator Ron Wyden, and other elected officials and special guests will be there. The event will include live music from Dina y Los Rumberos, plus Native American drumming and storytelling, a scavenger hunt, a youth soccer clinic and more. The event is free, family-friendly and open to all.

Please visit the Cully Park grand opening Facebook page facebook.com/events/388102114998905/ for details on parking and other event information.

The community, led by the non-profit Verde, spearheaded the park's development through the Let Us Build Cully Park! coalition; and Portland Parks & Recreation supplemented funding to make the park a reality after years of fundraising, planning, and anticipation. The project has transformed a former landfill (and before that, a sand and gravel mine) into a developed, 25-acre city park in Portland's Cully neighborhood, one of the most diverse in the entire state of Oregon.

All park features have been designed and built through a deep commitment to community engagement and economic opportunity. Cully Park includes:

- Native Gathering Garden -- this unique feature will offer opportunities for honoring and educating about indigenous cultural values and ethics through holistic, culturally-significant garden design and maintenance. The site is intended as a catalyst for strengthening and healing relationships (between people, nature, and place) throughout

our city. This work is centered on honoring, respecting, and educating through Indigenous cultural values.

- A playground combining traditional play, nature play and inclusive elements.
- The playground includes sand and a water play area
- A dog off-leash area (nearly half an acre in size)
- Restrooms
- Walking paths
- An overlook, picnic areas, and habitat restoration
- A parking lot with 50 spaces
- A Portland Community Garden (completed previously)
- A youth soccer field
- A Portland Community Garden (established and used since 2012)
- Covered shelters
- Space for two future baseball fields, full-size soccer field, and other park features when funding for the next phase of the park is determined

The park's main entrance, with a 50-space parking lot, is off NE 72nd Avenue, north of Killingsworth Street. Verde has redeveloped this entry point, transforming it into the "NE 72nd Greenstreet" - combining needed transportation improvements with innovative environmental elements. Note: for the grand opening, the parking lot at NE 72nd Avenue will be reserved primarily for guests with mobility concerns and elderly visitors and is expected to be full. The nearby Sheraton Hotel will provide shuttle buses from the Living Cully Plaza at 6723 NE Killingsworth Street to the park entrance.

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Cully Park's completion means that 517 Portland families who did not previously have any park or natural area within a half-mile now do. The Cully area is one of the most diverse and park-deficient neighborhoods in the state. This area, and parts of east Portland, do not yet enjoy the same access to parks and green spaces as the rest of the city. Fifty-three percent of residents in Cully Park's service area are people of color (city average is 28 percent), and 27 percent are households below poverty status (city average is 15%).

The funding for Cully Park's unique public/private partnership comes from Parks System Development Charges and private donations. Verde, which spearheads the Let Us Build Cully Park! Coalition (a non-profit coalition of more than 15 community-based organizations), raised an eye-popping \$7 million in donations from more than 50 partners and sources, including grants. Verde and the coalition worked tirelessly for years to cultivate financial support for the park. Portland Parks Commissioner Amanda Fritz dedicated just over \$6 million (\$6.02M) in System Development Charge (SDC) revenue towards the park's construction. SDCs are one-time fees assessed on new development to cover a portion of the cost of increased infrastructure demands.

Later this summer Cully Park will host Festival Latino, at Cully Park on Aug. 11 from 4 p.m. until after sunset. This multicultural annual festival includes a soccer tournament, Zumba and Pound fitness activities with live music, and a showing of the popular movie *Coco* en español.