

**CITY OF PORTLAND – OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD INVOLVEMENT
BUREAU ADVISORY COMMITTEE - BUDGET WORK GROUP
November 10, 2008**

Attendees Ann Balzell, William Barnes, Richard Bixby, Jan Campbell, Ronault “Polo” Catalani, Paige Coleman, Trudy Cooper, Anne Dufay, Amanda Fritz, Courtney Gomez, Vicki Hersen, Fritz Hirsch, Kayse Jama, Margot Kniffin, Ron Laster, Sandra Lefrancois, Sandra McDaniel, Shirley Nacoste, Linda Nettekoven, Jerry Powell, Midge Purcell, Tom Schaper, Doretta Schrock, Mark Sieber, Stephanie Stephens, Alison Stoll, Frank Walsh, Michael Zokoych.

ONI Staff Amalia Alarcon de Morris, Afifa Ahmed-Shafi, Katherine Anderson, Amy Archer, Kelly Ball, Michael Boyer, Celeste Carey, John Dutt, Michael Kersting, Dennis LoGiudice, Judith Mowry, Stephanie Reynolds, Jonah Wilbach, Jeri Williams.

Facilitator Joe Hertzberg.

Background

The steering committee will oversee the process, including the agenda for each meeting. They are likely to meet at least once between BAC meetings. Anne Dufay and Ronault Catalani are co-chairs. Others on the steering committee currently include Amalia Alarcon de Morris, Amy Archer, Paige Coleman, Brad Dennis, Kayse Jama, Judith Mowry, and Doretta Schrock. Anyone else is welcome to join them.

Amalia Alarcon de Morris, Anne Dufay, Judith Mowry, and Doretta Schrock presented a brief history of ONI’s budget process over the past several years.

Under its previous director, ONI prepared its proposed budget for FY2005-06 without input or support from its community partners. The Coalition directors developed an alternate budget proposal. This split did not set well with Council, which took the directors’ recommendations for internal ONI cuts, but diverted the funds to the vision project rather than reallocate them to the community.

The next year’s process was transparent and collaborative. The charge was to cut the budget, but the process encouraged everyone to think in terms of “the best budget for ONI.” Joe Hertzberg facilitated, and Amalia Alarcon de Morris became interim director early in the process. The BAC achieved consensus on a reduced budget, with core ONI programs stepping up to take most of the cuts. They clearly demonstrated that they were willing to absorb internal cuts to safeguard funds for the community. Working relationships of trust and respect were reinforced in a spirit of “united we stand, divided we fall.” In the end, we were able to secure a budget increase from Council.

The process for FY 2007-08 was simpler since there were no funding cuts required and there was an opportunity for add packages. The major changes were to add one-time funding for Diversity and Civic Leadership programs and for Coalition staff for outreach to underrepresented communities.

Last year (planning for FY 2008-09), the BAC was strongly told that ongoing funding was extremely limited, and we were likely to be successful only if we recommended ongoing

funding either for Coalitions or Diversity and Civic Leadership programs, but not both. Since both clearly needed and deserved ongoing funding, this had the potential to divide the group. We hung together and agreed by consensus to request ongoing funding for the Diversity and Civic Leadership program. In the end, Council gave both programs only one-time funding, but we still achieved unity and increased support for one another.

BAC Process for FY2009-10

Amalia described the current budget challenge. Proposed bureau budgets are due the first week in February. All bureaus have been directed to submit reductions of 2.5 and 5.0 percent. While final projections will not come until early in December, it is likely that cuts will be closer to 5%. This does not include one-time funds, so the worst case could be as much as 25%.

Budget advisory committees have been asked to rank all programs and activities in terms of their alignment with the bureau's mission and community priorities. Mayor-elect Adams has emphasized the balance among economic, environmental, and social equity and the importance of involving community stakeholders and organized labor representatives in the budget advisory committees. Stephanie Stephens suggested that the BAC also use the seven values adopted in the City's visioning process.

Our task is especially difficult because everyone is working with such lean budgets. There is no excess to cut. Everyone's piece of the pie is already small, and cuts will make them smaller. Jobs are likely to be lost and people will be directly impacted.

Once again, our challenge will be to stick together and avoid infighting. This is a test of our expanded partnership. We must trust that we are working toward a common goal and that we all have each other's best interests at heart. We need to be sensitive to one another. This cannot be personal. We must also be creative, recognizing that we may need to take risks to achieve rewards.

Individual Introductions

Joe Hertzberg pointed out that we will be working together on a challenging task. To succeed, we will have to be open and exploratory, considering a range of information and ideas. This will require trust, and trust has to be built. It will help if we know a little bit about one another.

He asked each person for a "three word introduction:" three words that describe the three most important things we should know about who you really are. Following are the three words for each person. Most people said quite a bit more.

- Polo Catalani: son, father, husband, justice and peacemaker.
- Judith Mowry: community builder, mother, believer.
- Doretta Schrock: mother, nerd, Oregonian.
- Paige Coleman: change agent, listener, sister.
- Linda Nettekoven: optimist, seeker, connector.
- Anne Dufay - fierce mother, Amish farmer, nurturer.
- Michael Boyer: father, community member, outdoor enthusiast.
- Courtney Gomez: Latino network, writer, fighter, friend.
- Tom Schaper: native Oregonian and lifelong resident of Portland, grandparent, looking toward the future, wants to be involved.
- Ron Laster: intent, purposeful, honest.

- William Barnes: faith, honesty, equity.
- Jerry Powell: do justice, love mercy, walk with humility, urbanist.
- Shirley Nacoste: mother and grandmother, social justice, visionary, work hard to leave this world a better place.
- Jan Campbell: woman, passionate advocate for civil rights, grass roots.
- Frank Walsh: committed, optimistic, Portlander.
- Amanda Fritz: faithful, female, friend.
- Ann Balzell: parent, advocate, strong.
- Fritz Hirsch: honesty, willingness to fail, respect for the immigrant and refugee.
- Kayse Jama: community organizer, activist, husband.
- Stephanie Stephens: supporter of ONI, ally, determined, visionary.
- Alison Stoll: family, faith, coach.
- Michael Kersting: family, fun, friends.
- Sandra Lefrancois: enthusiastic, introspective, free yoga instructor.
- Midge Purcell: community, justice, enabler, sister.
- Jeri Williams: hypersensitive, activist for peace, grandmother.
- Amy Archer: family, caring and nurturing, introverted.
- Celeste Carey: persevering, merciful, quantum connector.
- Vicki Hersen: patient, common sense, optimism.
- Joe Hertzberg: dad, facilitator, Jewish.
- Amalia Alarcon de Morris: spouse, mother, Latina.
- Mark Sieber: advocate for democracy, caring, student.
- Stephanie Reynolds: lover of harmony, seeker of solutions, New Mexican, public servant, introvert.
- John Dutt: God-fearing, servant leader, appreciative.
- Jonah Wilbach: social justice, openness, music.
- Katherine Anderson: ohana (Hawaiian for family) organizer, educator, achymia (knowledge based on common sense and experience)
- Dennis LoGiudice: peacemaker, son, caregiver.
- Afifa Ahmed-Shafi: voice, impact, equity.
- Margo Kniffin: community organizer, thoughtful, observant
- Sandra McDaniel: inclusive visionary
- Kelly Ball: inquisitive, humor, friends, family.
- Trudy Cooper: family, community justice & equality, dancer.
- Richard Bixby: egalitarian, rural, patience, virtue and vice.
- Michael Zokoych: businessman, employer, representative, self-sacrificing.

Working Agreements

Joe reminded the group once again that we have a history of making difficult decisions by consensus. This has been because people have spoken honestly and directly, listened boldly, and searched for win-win solutions wherever possible.

The foundation has been mutual trust, built through respectful process. Everyone is invited to participate as fully as they can. Every issue is discussed as fully as it deserves. Every decision is made thoughtfully. Just as important is our commitment to follow through as advocates once decisions are made.

Three years ago, we first set standards for a successful process and a good ONI budget. We have updated these standards each year since. Attached is a revised draft based on the BAC discussion.

ONI Mission and Goals

A draft statement of Mission and Goals has been reviewed and discussed extensively. It is not quite ready for final adoption. The BAC agreed to use it as the working draft of the ONI Mission and the basis for our decision-making.

What Information Will We Need to Make Good Decisions?

We mostly need information about current programs:

- ◆ ONI
- ◆ Coalitions
- ◆ Diversity and Civic Leadership
- ◆ Other Grantees: Resolutions Northwest and Elders in Action
- ◆ Portland Citizen's Disability Advisory Committee (PCDAC)

We want them to give us a basic knowledge of who they serve, what they do, and how they use their budgets. The steering committee will provide a template for them to complete.

- ◆ Whenever possible, we want written information, in electronic form, in advance.
- ◆ We want brief presentations. We will give the Coalitions and Diversity and Civic Leadership programs a time frame and ask them to allocate it among the full group and individual programs.
- ◆ We will also set up display tables in the hallway for groups that want to use them.

We have two other information sources to consider:

- ◆ City vision and values
- ◆ Performance measurement

Most importantly, our goal is to learn enough about each other so that we can (1) make good decisions and (2) speak knowledgeably in support of all programs, not just your own.

Mentors

Some people have been through the BAC budget process several times, others are new this year. Several "veterans" indicated that they are available to help the "newbies" come up to speed in whatever ways are helpful: Amalia Alarcon De Morris, Anne Dufay, Mike Kersting, Judith Mowry, Linda Nettekoven, Tom Schaper, Doretta Schrock, Mark Sieber, and Alison Stoll. Their contact information is available from Amalia or Amy at the ONI office.

**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 5:30-8:30PM
PORTLAND BUILDING – 1120 SW 5TH AVE, 2ND FLOOR ROOM B.**