

City of Portland - Office of Neighborhood Involvement
Bureau Advisory Committee Summary Notes
March 9, 2009

In Attendance: Christina Albo (RNW), Sylvia Bogert (SWNI), Andrea Cano (Latino Network), Betsy Coddington (RNW), Polo Catalani (OHR, BAC Co-chair), Anne Dufay (W/NW, BAC Co-Chair), Richard Bixby (EPNO), Vicki Hersen (Elders in Action), Sandra Lefrancois (CNN), Linda Nettekoven (SEUL), Jerry Powell (W/NW), Tom Schaper (SWNI), Mark Sieber (W/NW), Frank Walsh (CNN)

ONI Staff: Amalia Alarcón de Morris, Amy Archer, Kelly Ball, Brian Hoop, Michael Kersting, Stephanie Reynolds.

General Announcements

- Elders In Action passed out a handout about their photo contest “Lifetime Reflections- Our Premier Photo Competition” to show different perspectives on aging. Submissions are due by April 10, 2009.
- Neighbors West/Northwest announced their upcoming event “Community Advocacy in Action” on March 31, 2009. The event will include discussion about diverse organizing efforts in housing rights, homelessness and local livability issues.

Update on ONI/BAC meetings with Commissioners

Amalia stated that ONI and community partners have had the opportunity to meet with Commissioner Saltzman, Commission Leonard, and Mayor Adams. Commissioner Fish did not schedule a meeting. The feedback has been positive regarding the general approach of the “Right Budget” but that there are no promises or commitments since it is such a difficult budget year. Commr Leonard encouraged exploring opportunities for partnerships with any of the bureaus in his portfolio. Mayor Adams indicated appreciation for reducing our current one-time budget of \$1 Million down to an ask of \$300,000. He also encouraged considering the overhead model for funding some of ONI’s programs and the possibility of pursuing stimulus funding for some of ONI’s partners such as if there are components of community involvement and outreach. Commissioner Fritz has continued to encourage ONI to focus on and advocate for the “Right Budget for ONI”.

Budget Presentation to Council

ONI’s budget presentation is scheduled for March 10, 2009 at 11:00am. This is the last major opportunity to provide input to Council before the Mayor’s Proposed Budget is released in April. Public will not be able to testify, but can send in emails, calls, letters this week and could attend to show support.

The BAC requested a draft of the language to include in letters/emails to help focus the message (Amy will send one out to BAC members immediately). The key focus of our message is that we know it is a difficult budget year and the choices are hard but that the community engagement work is just as critical to support as brick and mortar infrastructure. The focus is on the “Right Budget for ONI” and support should include some personal information about why the programs are important.

The group discussed the intended presentation to include:

- Commissioner Fritz Introduction
- Amalia bureau presentation
- Community partners presenting brief personal experience

A group member asked how OMF’s recommendation is viewed. Amalia explained that it changes each year – some years it has been followed and others it has not. The group suggested that supporters enter the room together right before the ONI presentation to minimize disruptions and have a visual presence of support.

The Office of Human Relations presentation is immediately following ONI’s and they too are facing substantial loss of one-time funds and resulting cuts. Supporters are asked to remain and show support for their budget request as well.

Community Budget Forums

Some BAC members inquired about the community budget forums and shared concerns regarding the format. Amalia stated that Commissioner Fritz indicated interest in getting a group together in July (after the budget process is complete) to discuss the community budget forums and how they could be improved. The Office of Management and Finance plans those forums, and during the current budget year Mayor Adams received some input from the Public Involvement Advisory Council on potential improvements. The following BAC members indicated interest in participating on a subcommittee to discuss the forums: Linda Nettekoven, Christina Albo, Betsy Coddington, Jerry Powell, Polo Catalani, Mark Sieber, Andrea Cano, Sylvia Bogert, Anne Dufay. If others are interested, please let Amy Archer know (Amy.Archer@ci.portland.or.us)

Future Meeting Topics:

Partnerships

Mission/Goals/Values and public input process

Graffiti Abatement ideas – dealing with significant program cut

Next Meeting: Monday, April 13th, 5:30pm