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*enhancing the quality
of neighborhoods
through
community participation*

**City of Portland, Office of Neighborhood of Involvement
Great – Guidelines Review Committee Meeting**

Tuesday, September 10, 2002

8:30 AM to 10:00 AM, Lovejoy Room, Portland City Hall

MINUTES AND SUMMARY NOTES

Members Present:

Patricia Gardner, Co-Chair	Pearl District Neighborhood Association
Moshe Lenske, Co-Chair	Woodstock Neighborhood Association
Kathy Bambeck	Bridlemile Neighborhood Association
Nancy Chapin	Alliance of PDX Neighborhood Bus. Assocs.
Cathy Crawford	University Park Neighborhood Association
Leonard Gard	Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc.
Raymond Hites	Lents Neighborhood Association
Brian Hoop	Office of Neighborhood Involvement
David Lane	Office of Neighborhood Involvement
Michael O'Malley	Irvington Community Association
Jerry Powell	Goose Hollow Foothills League
Mark Sieber	Neighbors West/Northwest
Charles Shi	Communities Beyond Neighborhood Boundaries

Absent

Stanley Lewis	Downtown Community Association
Ruth Spetter	City Attorney's Office
William Warren	Central Northeast Neighbors

Visitors

Lee Perlman	Media
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Decisions by this group are subject to change at future meetings.

Opportunities for public input are at the end of meeting and future workshops.

These minutes and summary notes have not been approved yet by the committee.

Approval of Summary Notes

**Information & Referral
Center**
503-823-4000

**Crime Prevention
Center**
503-823-4519

**Neighborhood Mediation
Center**
503-823-3152

**Metropolitan Human
Rights Center**
503-823-5136

**Civic Involvement
Center**
503-823-4519

- Motion to accept minutes for August 13, 2002. Passed.

Approved Recommended Code or Standards Revisions

- No action taken on language at this meeting.

Summary Notes for Sept. 10

- Quick update that a Public meetings ad-hoc group is being organized by Joleen Jensen-Classen. Other committee members are Moshe Lenske, Leonard Gard, Ruth Spetter.
- Discussion today focused on how we organize process for Communities Beyond Neighborhood Boundaries review.
- The following agree to volunteer to identify a process for expanding this conversation with the broader community. Patricia Gardner, Kathy Bambeck, Brian Hoop, Charles Shi.

Communities Beyond Neighborhood Boundaries

Issues brought up:

- Overview of creation of this policy and why it's important for the City to address the issue of inclusion in civic involvement efforts. Community leaders of color and City Hall leaders raised the issue first in mid 90'S as part of the guideline review.
- Issue of representation brought up that communities of color are no different than neighborhood associations in that they have the right to select their own leaders and representatives who can never be assumed to speak for all people in that constituency.
- Community leaders of color have the ability to organize constituencies into hearings and other ways to make their needs and priorities heard just like neighborhood associations. There is the potential to partner with the Latino and Asian community organizations that are working closely with the county on education issues, for example.
- Neighborhood associations are looking for help on how to network with community leaders and organizations of color. There are existing networks of community leaders that exist in all neighborhoods and our role is to tap into the networks and build relationships.
- Continuing discussion about role of ONI, is it providing information and communication opportunities or is it trying to provide services.
- Translation services may be an example of a service ONI should provide citywide since a neighborhood coalition can not provide translation services for all languages.
- Frustration expressed that this is too much to ask for a volunteer organization. Others feel the goal is to prioritize several constituencies represented in a neighborhood. No one is expecting you to reach all people.
- Discussion about the role of outreach would in large part be strategies developed by coalition outreach staff who set work plans to target a specific population. The staff's role is to help connect neighborhood association volunteers with organizations of color.
- Often times the reason newcomers do not get involved are because they have no knowledge of the existence of neighborhood associations.
- The services we are providing are to help connect people with city bureaus and to help tie people into democratic participation. Second we are providing both services to individuals and services to organizations. Its not an either or choice.
- Some coalitions are having trouble identifying what issues they are supposed to work on and where are the resources coming from to help them.

- We need more direction from Council of what is the role of this group on the issue of diverse outreach. A concern is that council will reject any proposal from this group if there was not broad diverse dialogue to develop proposals and buy-in to this issue.
- This group needs to develop a game plan and what are the questions we are asking to help frame the issue for community leaders of color to respond to.
- Issue may come up if we are willing to address issues above and beyond ethnic organizations? Group should define if there are other categories to do diverse outreach to including the elderly and low-income renters.
- Criticism of neighborhood system for not having diverse representation should be leveled at other lobbying forces on city hall such as business associations.
- The neighborhood system should be about building civic capacity, or how you deal with the ability to address your own issues that affect you and your community. Bringing un-represented constituencies into neighborhood system is a great thing. The question is the process of educating neighborhood leaders on civic processes and getting city bureau staff out into the neighborhoods to build the relationships. We need to build leadership skills so that they are not always only reacting but building capacity to be proactive.
- Charles Shi described the original idea based on organizing block watches for ethnic minority groups in a neighborhood association. There are already existing mutual assistance organizations, which could be recognized.
- This is a good opportunity to change the dynamics of civic dialogue in Portland so we don't go down the path of division and conflict like in many other US cities.

Proposals:

- The following agree to volunteer to identify a process for expanding this conversation with the broader community. Patricia Gardner, Kathy Bambeck, Brian Hoop, Charles Shi.

Motions:

- No formal votes.

These minutes and summary notes have not been approved yet.

The information contained in this document is preliminary and informal in nature and does not necessarily reflect the views or adopted policies of the City of Portland or the final outcomes of this project; the reader should exercise caution in its interpretation.

NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday, October 8
 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM
 City Hall, Lovejoy Room, 1221 SW 4th Avenue

Tuesday, October 22
 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM
 City Hall, Lovejoy Room, 1221 SW 4th Avenue

Tuesday, November 12
 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM
 City Hall, Lovejoy Room, 1221 SW 4th Avenue

Prepared by: Brian Hoop, Office of Neighborhood Involvement