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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, November 19, 2002  
8:30 AM to 10:00 AM, Lovejoy Room, Portland City Hall

### **MINUTES AND SUMMARY NOTES**

Those Present:

Moshe Lenske, Co-Chair  
Patricia Gardner, Co-Chair  
Josh Alsberg  
Kathy Bambeck  
Heather Bissel  
Nancy Chapin  
Frank Dixon  
Leonard Gard  
Frank Gilmore  
Dean Grudzinski  
Tonya Haa  
Nancy Hand  
Lauren Hayes  
Raymond Hites  
Scott Hoffman  
Alan Holzapper  
Brian Hoop  
David Lane  
Stanley Lewis  
Don MacGillivray  
Pat Mobley  
Celeste McGillen  
Michael O'Malley  
Jerry Powell  
Janine Robben  
Elizabeth Scarpali  
Charles Shi  
Sumner Sharpe  
Mark Sieber  
Anna Simon  
Ruth Spetter  
Hank Stern  
Ken Tantare  
William Warren  
Emily Whiting

Woodstock Neighborhood Association  
Pearl District Neighborhood Association  
Concordia  
Bridlemile Neighborhood Association  
Brooklyn  
Alliance of PDX Neighborhood Bus. Assocs.  
NW District Association  
Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc.  
Alameda/Irvington  
Arnold Creek  
Southwest  
Arnold Creek  
Buckman  
Lents Neighborhood Association  
Piedmont  
Arbor Lodge  
Office of Neighborhood Involvement  
Office of Neighborhood Involvement  
Downtown Community Association  
Buckman Community Association  
Old Town/Chinatown  
Washington county  
Irvington Community Association  
At-Large  
Portland Tribune  
  
Communities Beyond Neighborhood Boundaries  
  
Neighbors West/Northwest  
Portland Mercury  
City Attorney's Office  
Oregonian  
Garden Home  
Central Northeast Neighbors  
Woodstock/Old Town/Chinatown

**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

## **Notes from special evening meeting public comment**

These notes are brief summaries of issues brought up. A video tape of the event will be available soon if you want specific comments.

- Annual workplan of neighborhood coalitions. Concern that they do not relate very much to needs of neighborhood associations.
- Workplans do not focus enough on needs of neighborhood associations, too focused on work of City bureaus, and staff driven work.
- Size of neighborhood coalitions are too big for staff to have the capacity to provide services and for volunteer activists to find common ground on issues.
- Infill issues and zoning. Residents not aware that some tax lots do not require public notice or allow comment when property owner wants to sub-divide or build higher density units. This is a big concern for low density single family residential neighborhoods who want to maintain character.
- Neighborhoods not getting enough information from ONI and the City about how to interact with the land use review and zoning process. Imbalance of power with the City bureaucracies.
- Increase from 45 days to 60 days for notification about land use review hearings and other City final decision making efforts. (reference to ONI Guidelines proposal to increase notification timelines from 30 days to 45 days.)
- Neighborhood associations need more assistance on land use review legal issues.
- Some neighborhoods are too big.
- Neighborhood associations should not be mandated to do outreach to diversity participation, as is inferred in Portland Tribune article. If it is required then there needs to be appropriate resources (cash) to fund that outreach.
- There needs to be a pool of translators organized by ONI for associations to use.
- Primary purpose of ONI and neighborhood coalitions needs to be to focus on effectiveness of neighborhood association system.
- Issue of zoning changes and condemnation procedure in North Portland brought up. Neighborhood associations struggle to build legitimacy and truly represent community.
- Neighborhood associations need to be the focal point of city public involvement efforts.
- City bureaus are allowed too much leeway to create alternative routes for public input which too often bypasses neighborhood association system.
- Public involvement follows the money. As financial resources for public involvement shifted to individual bureaus then the energies of citizen activists shifted away from neighborhood associations to build individual relationships with bureau projects.
- Ask bureau directors to talk to the ONI Guidelines committee about this issue.
- Not everyone is getting notices about planning issues.
- Elected officials are not beholden to neighborhood associations.
- District boards created to facilitate neighborhood association decision making. We are focusing too much power and authority on the coalition boards. Elected officials see coalitions as more important and powerful than associations.

- Commissioners are conveniently going to coalition meetings and claiming they are reaching out to the neighborhoods while disregarding going to individual neighborhood association meetings.
- ONI should be run by an autonomous board or council separate from anyone commissioner portfolio.
- Need to reign in City task forces. Council has too much power to pick neighborhood representatives that may have no affiliation to grassroots neighborhood organizations or associations.
- Representatives from neighborhoods on City task forces should be picked by neighborhood associations, not City Council.
- Neighborhood associations need help writing grants, i.e. for safe school access and crossing projects.
- Neighborhood associations need help with lobbying skills.
- Need to emphasize that minority viewpoints need to be represented in the minutes of neighborhood association meetings. This is an open meetings requirement.
- ONI and commissioners should be emphasizing to City bureau outreach teams, "Have you talked to the neighborhood associations first, before you go to Council."
- On issue of balance of power between coalitions and neighborhood associations concern raised that SEUL staff dominate creation of the workplan and that neighborhood associations have minimal input.
- Ruth Spetter, City Attorney, gave an update on the Open Meetings & Public Records sub-committee work to date.

**These issues there was not enough time for further discussion.**

- Role of business associations and relationship with neighborhood associations.
- Grievance process.
- Translators.
- Huge segment of population are renters and low-income who are not involved with neighborhood associations.
- Difficulty with communication outreach to residents. Not enough resources.
- Communities Beyond Neighborhood Boundaries.
- Hierarchy of relation between ONI, neighborhood associations, and district coalitions.