
City of Portland, Office of Neighborhood of Involvement
Great – Guidelines Review Public Hearing
Tuesday, March 26, 2002
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, Lovejoy Room, Portland City Hall

SUMMARY NOTES

Agenda

- Introductions
- Overview of Process
 - ⇒ Code
 - ⇒ Guidelines
- Questions/Discussion
- Adjourn

Comments/Issues/Ideas

1. Neighborhood associations/coalitions endorsing candidates?
2. Size of neighborhood associations
3. Size of district coalitions
4. List-serve: Formalized list-serve doing business by email?
5. City distributed newsletter
6. One person – one vote (2 people share a vote)
7. Community beyond neighborhood boundaries – go where the people are
8. Notification requirements too onerous – open meeting requirements

1. Neighborhood associations/coalitions endorsing candidates?

- Current guidelines – no printing with city money regarding candidates/measure. Newsletter policies.
- Non-Profit – allowed to lobby
 - ⇒ no more than 5% issue oriented
 - ⇒ not allowed candidates
 - ⇒ 501.4 may lobby more but cannot accept donations
 - ⇒ 501.3 can get donations but lobby less
- Neighborhood association answer:
 - ⇒ Candidates night
 - ⇒ Ballot measure night (both sides)

2. Size of neighborhood associations

- 2500 is the right size – 2000-6000 people would be ideal
- Practicality of organizing
 - ⇒ too big – bad outreach
 - ⇒ too small – no weight, ineffective
- “Neighborhood is what people think their neighborhood is.”
- Question of imposing 1 standard on different situations
- Organic versus non-organic
- Two concepts in existence:
 - ⇒ Grid system – tried in 1972 and did not work.
 - ⇒ Go ask people where they live – what neighborhood.
- One answer to big neighborhoods:
 - ⇒ Sub districts to neighborhoods
 - ⇒ Division of neighborhoods
- Budget broken up? Senate/House – If founding fathers couldn’t can we figure this out?

3. Size of district coalitions

- Should there be a prescribed size?
 - ⇒ Neighborhoods should decide
 - ⇒ How hard is it? How hard should it be to create a coalition?
- An issue is administration costs
 - ⇒ How big must a coalition be?
 - ⇒ Vagueness of leaving/creating coalitions.
- Money is not distributed per capita. Issue should leverage more funds from the city.

4. List-serve: Formalized list-serve doing business by email? And 8. Notification requirements too onerous – open meeting requirements

- Contracts decide it at coalition.
- Open meeting law is less onerous than portrayed.
- Agendas are not required according to ORS 192.
- Is there a disconnect with the Addendum?
- City Attorney does not count email but putting notice at the district coalition office is fine.
- Supreme court says neighborhood associations do not have to be bound by ORS 192 except in Portland according to council. (Can you say court case?)
- Developers use this issue
 - ⇒ OPDR tries to use it
 - ⇒ Issue is central to land use case
- Council tries to use this issue
 - ⇒ Question of non-representation
- If challenged do we run into “Clark”

5. City distributed newsletter

- Some coalitions do have a central newsletter
- Currently neighborhoods/coalitions decide
- What about Metro doing this?
- Central staff person to edit

- Calendar for all?! – Metro
- ONI does not tell neighborhoods what to do – frustrating and wonderful.
- Need a city magazine! “Portlandian”
- Web pages can do this!
- Local papers do this.
- Reliance on computers excludes a larger part of the population 0 this must be addressed! Get message out using many different methods.

7. Community beyond neighborhood boundaries – representative neighborhood outreach

- Affirmative action based neighborhood boards?
- Is it the neighborhood association to reach out? But there is a need to recognize the culture of the neighborhood.
- City-wide process versus neighborhood process?
- Pressure is about money and idea of parallel system. Is this okay?
- One idea is having a central pool of translators – more responsibility on the district coalition system.
- Difference between social services and community services – ONI is not social services!
- What do communities beyond neighborhoods want?
 - ⇒ Is there a replication? Geographic land use is the current system.
- “Immigrants do not know their neighbors – creates bad situations. Unsafe situations”
- Two types of neighborhoods
 - ⇒ Ethnic neighborhoods
 - ⇒ Geographic neighborhoods
 - ⇒ Need a way to connect the two
 - ⇒ Knitting point
- Concern about struggle for money between neighborhood associations and “ethnic neighborhood”
- There is already the existence of ethnic groups (such as Chinese association, NAACP) – ho do these dovetail? Should these groups get city funding?
- Ethical issue – parallel system does not address pluralism concept – the concept of neighborhoods developed around ethnic enclaves – they got people in to American society – we currently do not accommodate the new openness.
- Integration versus assimilation.