

CENTRAL EASTSIDE



Central Eastside Urban Renewal Advisory Committee (URAC)

Meeting Summary

February 9, 2009

Present: Susan Lindsay, Buckman Community Association; Peter Stark, Central Eastside Industrial Council; Michael Whitmore, Kerns Neighborhood Association; Jeff Reaves, At-Large; Susan Pearce, HAND; David Lorati, Central Eastside Industrial Council; and Rick Michaelson, At-Large

Guests: Lee Perlman, Hollywood Star/SE Examiner; Linda Nettekoven, HAND; MaryAnn Schwab, Jack Loftis, Dan Dhura, Kristen Beltz, Bureau of Planning and Sustainability; Kathleen Henderson; Roy Ettinger, Geometric Architecture; and Dave Unsworth, Tri-Met
Staff: Trang Lam, Denyse McGriff, and Joleen Jensen-Classen, PDC

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Susan Lindsay at 4:05 pm. She welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked the committee for any statements of conflict. None were declared.

1. Request for Public Comment- Mary Ann Schwab of Sunnyside NA and League of Women Voters, asked to address the Committee. She requested that the CES URAC oppose the school district's attempts to make boundary changes for schools. The early boundary shifts have been detrimental to neighborhood schools and she proposed that the URAC invite a representative from the Coalition for Livable Futures to attend a meeting and review their Equity Atlas findings with the committee.

2. Review of the Meeting notes of January 12, 2009 - Sue Pearce pointed out that she was at the meeting and her name needed to be added to the "present" list. She also asked that the following item be added to the meeting notes on page 3 under item 9. Clay Street Greenstreet Project: "Susan further noted that she has been opposed to this project in the past."

It was moved by Jeff Reaves and seconded by Michael Whitmore that the meeting notes be amended as written above. The motion was approved: Lindsay, Reaves, Pearce, Michaelson, Whitmore, and Lorati voted in favor.

3. Review of the Meeting notes of January 22, 2009 - Chair Lindsay recommended that the review of these notes be postponed until the March meeting.

4. Re-appointment to the CES Urban Renewal Advisory Committee - Joleen Jensen-Classen gave an update of the status of re-appointments. Susan Pearce and Susan Lindsay have been re-appointed by their respective neighborhood associations. CEIC has re-appointed Peter Stark and they are looking for a replacement for Tim Holmes. Jeff Reaves will also

continue with the Committee as an At-Large member. Juanita is out of town and has been contacted regarding what she plans to do.

Peter asked why the URAC doesn't have staggered terms of office to avoid the loss of experienced members leaving all at once every three years. Discussion followed. It was suggested that the URAC should decide on what the staggered terms would be.

5. Project Update: Willamette River Bridge - Dave Unsworth of Tri Met briefed the committee on the status of the project. Tri Met has applied for federal funding for the project, however, the funding is very competitive this round and other cities are getting into the act. The Oregon Lottery has appropriated some dollars for the preliminary work. Tri Met has hired HNTB Engineers and Rosales + Associates, bridge architects, to complete the work on a bridge design. A bridge advisory group has been meeting chaired by former mayor Vera Katz. The Willamette River Bridge Advisory Committee (WRBAC) has been tasked to select the right bridge for Portland asking the questions how does it fit in with the other bridges and is it within the budget. The new span will be 1720 feet from bank to bank and will have approximately 75 feet of navigational clearance over the Willamette River. The initial five bridge types were narrowed to three: the wave frame; 4 pier cable stayed; and 2 pier cable stayed. The WRBAC recommended that the cable stayed options be studied further.

Peter asked about coordination with the Portland Spirit owners. Dave replied that a questionnaire was sent to all river users. Peter went on to say that the CEIC has major concerns about the proposed 8th and Powell light.

Michael Whitmore expressed concern about the multi-purpose bridge and whether or not there are provisions for the streetcar. Dave stated that the bridge project staff is coordinating with the Portland Streetcar staff.

Jeff asked if the station locations are set and Dave answered that they are being studied.

6. Project Update: Routes to the River - Trang Lam reported on three "Near to Mid-term projects" from the Routes to the River study that will be implemented this fiscal year. The Salmon Street signalization study will be completed by Kittelson and Associates through a work order with PDC. The second project is to re-apply paint/stripping to faded paving markers, and PBOT will complete this work. The third project is to plant trees and we will be working with Friends of Trees.

Peter asked if the Salmon Street signalization study is being coordinated with the Portland Streetcar project and Trang answered that it is.

David Lorati asked if we will be coordinating with the property owners on Salmon Street. We should let owners know what's going on. Denyse and Trang suggested that information be sent out as the study progresses. Another suggestion is to print an article in the CEIC *Voice* that would help explain the project to stakeholders.

7. CES Budget FY 2009-2010 - Denyse reported that on Friday, February 13, 2009, the PDC Commission and the Mayor will meet with the PDC/Council budget committee and the review will begin with the Central City urban renewal areas. The Central Eastside will be the first URA to be reviewed at 9:00 am. The meeting will take place in the Commission meeting room at 222 NW 5th Avenue. If an agenda is available, it will be distributed in advance.

Susan Lindsay asked the other Committee members for their input and Peter lead off with several points as follows: focus of the TIF dollars should be on tax generating projects; Burnside Bridgehead is critical to the development of the URA; the Streetcar will bring some benefits to the District; and focus investments on jobs.

Susan asked about mentioning in the letter to the PDC/Mayor Budget Committee about the replacement of the TIF dollars with stimulus dollars for the infrastructure projects in the District.

TIF funds could then go to needed business finance and other CES projects. Trang noted that there are some stimulus dollars proposed for the Burnside Couch couplet project.

Discussion followed regarding comments about the letter:

- Let the Commission know that the URAC would like the TIF Set-aside fixed; TIF should be double-dipped from both revenue resources
- Redevelopment of vacant land
- Promote and support sustainable businesses
- Promote mixed use development along MLK and Grand (re-invest in historic buildings)
- Promote and support family wage jobs
- Invest in existing historic and multiple story buildings through seismic and green roof funding

David sees the urban renewal area as an investment, however, he is concerned about the overhead and asked why it is so high.

Rick Michaelson reminded everyone that a great deal of the TIF in the Central Eastside has been redirected to non-tax generating infrastructure projects. These projects may have an indirect effect on job creation. Michael and Jeff asked about the overhead for other URAs. The URAC would like see that information by the next meeting. Trang and Denyse will report the request to Tony Barnes.

Peter will rework his e-mail and Susan Lindsay asked that all comments be submitted to her as soon as possible.

8. Project Update: Burnside Bridgehead - Trang reported that the Burnside Bridgehead CAC will be meeting on February 17th at 3 pm at the PDC offices at 222 NW 5th Avenue. Kia will be reviewing the deal points of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Susan Lindsay asked what number was put in the land sale line item in the budget. Trang noted that the current number in the budget is a place holder in the revenue and expenditure line items in order for each side of the budget to balance.

9. Project Update: Burnside Couch Couplet - Trang reported that due to efforts by the URAC and then Commissioner Adams, the project was scaled down to \$17.8 million. Bidding and contract award processes will begin in April.

Michael felt that the final number has been shifting around. Trang replied that the \$17.8 million dollar number has been firm.

Sue Pearce asked if the "S" curve in the middle of Block 76 is set in stone and Trang answered that at this time it is. Construction will begin on Couch and then shift to East Burnside Street.

10. Project Update: Portland Streetcar Loop - Denyse noted that at the last Portland Streetcar Loop meeting the group began discussing the Parking Mitigation Technical Memorandum. The URAC received a copy. It would be helpful to receive any comments the

Committee may have on the document. The next meeting is scheduled for February 18th at 2:00 pm.

11. For the Good of the Order

- Susan Lindsay asked Kristen Beltz what the status is of the Portland Planning [Central City Plan Update] effort. Kristen replied that things are on hold due to the new reorganization going on with the Bureau of Planning and the Office of Sustainability. But the process will be starting up again soon. The staff is currently working on District profiles.
- Michael supported the information Peter has put together regarding the URAC comments. It summarizes the URAC philosophy correctly. A credo should be added to the letter to the PDC budget group restating the purpose of the CES URA. It was agreed by all that Susan Lindsay will try to fit that into the letter.

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned 6:10 pm.