

CENTRAL EASTSIDE



Central Eastside Urban Renewal Advisory Committee (URAC)

June 8, 2009
4:00-6:00 p.m.
Goodwill Industries
1943 SE 6th Ave.

Meeting Summary

URAC members present: Susan Lindsay, Buckman Community Association, Susan Pearce Hosford Abernethy Neighborhood; Jeff Reaves, At Large; Rick Michelson, At-Large; Michael Whitmore, Kerns Neighborhood Association; David Lorati, Central Eastside Industrial Council; Peter Stark, Central Eastside Industrial Council; Eric Shoemaker At-large; Dardinelle Troen, At-large; Steve Russell, Alternate Kerns NA; Linda Nettekoven, Alternate, Hosford Abernehy Neighborhood

Guests: Mary Ann Schwab, SE Advocate; Lee Perlman, freelance writer; Chris Armes, Portland Bureau of Transportation; Daniel Yates, Central Eastside Industrial Council; Rob Bernard, Tri-Met

PDC Staff: Kia Selley, George Cornett, Julie Cody, James Mast, Joleen Jensen-Classen

Call to order/Introductions/Meeting summary

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Susan Lindsay at 4:00 p.m. Introductions followed. The meeting summary of April 13, 2009 was approved.

Additions to the agenda:

Linda Nettekoven requested time to discuss the process for siting the AAA baseball stadium in the Lents URAC and implications for CES URAC and other URACs.

Statements of conflict of interest:

Peter Stark declared he has been selected as one of a team of architects on the Portland to Milwaukie Light Rail Project

Chair's statement:

Susan Lindsay restated concerns by the URAC that the members did not want to meet every other month and they want to be able to discuss the addition of new members to the URAC. Susan met with Kia Selley, the URA manager and has come away assured that these incidents were ones of an over-stretched staff and staffing changes. She advised that the group move on. She also suggested that the July meeting be followed by a social time so members can get better acquainted.

Portland Milwaukie Light Rail Project:

Rob Bernard provided the URAC with an update on the status of the new bridge across the Willamette. He reviewed all the qualifications involved in the selection of the Hybrid refined design. This type of bridge is also under the allocated budget amount. Preliminary engineering has begun. The bridge will

have separate paths for bikes and pedestrians consisting of a 14 foot path on either side of the span. Further decision –making efforts will be station design and right of way issues with the railroad. An open house will be held June 11, 2009 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at David Evans and Associates Willamette Room first floor 2100 SW river Parkway.

Regional Equity Issues:

Mary Ann Schwab talked with the URAC regarding social equity issues in SE Portland as illustrated by the Regional Equity Atlas produced by the Coalition for a Livable Future. She stressed the need for family friendly jobs and good schools and asked the URAC to keep these issues in mind as they determined expenditures in the URA.

Lents URAC and AAA Baseball:

Linda Nettekoven expressed her concern about the perceived lack of public process surrounding this issue. It was noted that the process has been managed by the Mayor's office. URAC members expressed concern that if Lents' 30% set aside for affordable housing is reduced to accommodate the stadium, the remaining URACs will have to make up the difference. Since the CES URA was created primarily to support job creation, the URAC would like to see if their responsibility for affordable housing might also be reduced. This will be a topic for a future agenda.

Budget discussion:

Julie Cody, Chief Financial Officer and George Cornett, budget analyst for PDC talked with the URAC about how overhead calculations are made. The URAC members are concerned that the overhead is too high and reduces money available for capital projects.

Overall URA expenditures are up by 15% across all URAs. This is primarily related to timing of projects programmed in Gateway, Central Eastside and River District URAs. Total operating costs allocated to URAs decreased about 6% in FY 2008-09. This is largely a result of efforts to scale back materials and services budgets as well as put on hold 12 positions that were budgeted in FY 2008-09. Operating costs have been reallocated between URA's primarily as a result of decreased planned expenditures and activity in Downtown Waterfront, South Park Blocks and Airport Way URAs as these districts phase out. Increased activity is occurring in Interstate, Gateway and Lents.

As a result of continued questions and comments, Jeff Reaves suggested that the URAC form a budget committee to explore all the issues and make a report back to the URAC.

Susan Pearce wanted to know the cost of and the source of funding for the trees on Clay Street as she was under the impression that URA money would not be used for this. Trang Lam, project manager will get back to Susan.

Announcements:

There will be an open house for the East Burnside-Couch Couplet on July 22, 2009 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at the Jupiter Hotel: Dream Box Room at 800 E. Burnside.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Submitted by Joleen Jensen-Classen Public Participation Manager