



**Central Eastside Urban Renewal Advisory Committee (CES URAC)
Goodwill Industries (1943 SE 6th Avenue, Conference Rooms A&B)
Meeting Summary
March 09, 2009**

Present: Susan Lindsay (Buckman Community Association), David Lorati (CES Industrial Council), Peter Stark (CES Industrial Council), Rick Michaelson (Bosco-Millegan), and Michael Whitmore (Kerns Neighborhood Association).

Guests: Tony Barnes (PDC), George Cornette (PDC), Trang Lam (PDD), Alice Meyers (City of Portland/Environmental Services), Lee Pearlman (Hollywood Star/SE Examiner), and Juanita Swartwood (PDC).

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Peter Stark at 4:10 p.m. He welcomed committee members and requested introductions around the room. Tony Barnes introduced George Cornette, the new Principal Budget Analyst that is now assigned to the Central Eastside (CES) and Oregon Convention Center (OCC) URAs.

Before moving forward with the meeting, Mr. Stark asked the committee that in review of the day's agenda if anyone had any statements of conflicts. None were declared. He also requested that 'statement of conflict' be added to the agenda.

Approval of January 22, 2009 and February 09, 2009 Meeting Summaries

The group deferred approval of the January and February minutes to the next meeting since not enough URAC members were present for a vote.

CES URA FY 2009-2010 Proposed Budget and Review of February 13, 2009 Budget Meeting Update

Tony Barnes again introduced George Cornette as the budget and finance contact assigned specifically to the CES. He thanked the group for assisting him in preparing the draft budget proposal and announced the document will be the basis of review in the upcoming three-hour work session with City Council scheduled for March 17, 2009, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. in City Hall's Council Chambers. He also detailed how the session would be structure, noting the presentation from the Office of Management and Finance following the PDC presentation. URAC members were encouraged to attend this session in the event Commissioners had pointed questions related to the Central Eastside URA or requested clarifying testimony.

Susan Lindsay committed to attending a portion of the March 17 City Council Budget Work Session, and David Lorati was committed to attending the entire session. She also stated that she would coordinate schedules with other URAC members to assure coverage for this particular work session.

Mr. Barnes also stipulated that he did not expect changes to the draft budget. He felt that the majority of changes would be addressed in a separate work session scheduled for April 19, 10:00 a.m. to Noon at City Hall, Council Chambers.

Clay Street Green Street Project Update

Alice Meyers, Bureau of Environmental (BES) Services Project Manager, provided materials describing the SE Clay Green Street Project factsheet and the draft project phasing plan. Ms. Meyers informed the URAC that BES has completed their work with the project's Technical Advisory Group (TAC) and a Public Stakeholder Group (PSG) to develop a draft plan; which she brought copy to share. She noted that this plan can be found on the BES webpage.

She explained that the draft plan is at 10% design level, and that BES is currently working with adjacent property owners to refine project design. BES is coordinating a project Open House for April 2, 2009. The public meeting will offer opportunities to view the ideas behind managing stormwater runoff and safety improvements to Clay Street.

The overall support for this project is positive, but several URAC members expressed support in maintaining the maximum amount of parking spaces for small businesses throughout the area. The message, while the catch basins and water collection is important, the community is also faced with the possible impacts of losing between four and potentially eight parking spaces on Clay. Ms. Meyers acknowledge this constraint and noted that this is why BES continues to work with adjacent property owners to refine the design.

Trang Lam reported she would like to use a portion of the Routes to the River line item to fund some safety improvement and tree plantings for the Clay Green Street project. As noted on the draft phasing plan, TIF dollars would be leveraged by BES funding. She anticipates allocating \$12,000 to the tree planting which must be spent before July 1, 2009. This effort is in coordination with some tree plantings for the Routes to the River project. PDC and BES will partner with Friends of Trees for the tree planting efforts. Friends of Trees will plant and provide watering service for two years to get the trees established. Both Ms. Lam and Ms. Meyers will do extensive outreach with property owners to make sure that they give approval to plant. The URAC members stressed the importance of outreach to property owners; and asked that Ms. Lam report back her findings of any neighborhood concerns.

Project Updates

Burnside Bridgehead

Trang Lam reported to the committee that the PDC has executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Beam Development for the Burnside Bridgehead redevelopment project. She noted that the March Burnside Bridgehead Citizen Advisory Committee meeting is cancelled; with a project status updated being emailed to members in lieu of the meeting.

Eastside Burnside-Couch Couplet

Michael Whitmore informed the committee that Emily Simmons shared information on a number of trees that were removed on 14th Avenue, behind the athletic equipment building. Mr. Whitmore reported walking the area and after being lead to believe that mature trees would not be removed, to discover approximately 18 mature trees had been removed in the area. He further detailed that in previous conversations with the forester, the explanation of having to shave the trees for the paving company would eventually destroy the trees, was misleading information and the destruction of the trees was unfounded.

Ms. Lam noted that PBOT has an outreach process working with adjacent property owners before action is taken, and would make Ms. Armes aware of these concerns. Mr. Whitmore and Susan Lindsay requested Ms. Lam to contact Ms. Armes to set-up a meeting to discuss this issue.

URAC Schedule for spring 2009

A public meeting calendar (see attached list) for the months of March and April was provided and detailed key meetings related to the CES district being held over the next few weeks. Additional information will be provided at the next URAC meeting.

For the Good of the Order

CES URAC Staffing Discussion

There was significant discussion between URAC members and PDC staff related to budget and staff reductions and the shifting of staff roles as a result of PDC's reorganization process and the development of a new city housing bureau.

Members asked for clarification of staff roles as it related to CES URAC support. Trang Lam, Tony Barnes, and George Cornette explained the impacts of merging the Development and Economic Development departments to form the new Urban Development Department (UDD). Ms. Lam further explained that new teams were being formed, resulting in changes to staff roles. Due to these changes the group was informed that Denise McGriff was reassigned to a new team.

Joleen Jensen-Classen is now assuming the coordination of the CES URAC meetings; and that project staff will continue to attend meetings to provide updated on projects and URA issues. Ms. Lam further explained that returning the URAC coordination duties to the Communications and Business Equity department also freed up more staff time to work on important key projects within the urban renewal districts. URAC members expressed a clear desire for project staff to be present as the agenda topics dictate.

In an effort to maintain consistent connections, both internal and external, members discussed concern over the reassignment of Denise McGriff. The group agreed to send a letter of support to PDC for Ms. McGriff's return to the CES to support the URAC duties. The message of the letter will be based on maintaining consistent institutional and project knowledge by those with direct access to program and project information. Some members also felt the reassignment was a positive change and a good opportunity for committee growth. In respect of time, Rick Michaelson will draft the letter and the group deferred this topic to the next meeting.

Naming Light Rail Bridge to "Cesar E. Chavez"

The group discussed how Mr. Chavez was a leader of bring people together and why the possibility of naming the lightrail bridge to "Cesar E. Chavez," in lieu of renaming the SE street "Grand," was a great idea. The group was excited over the prospect of have federal funds attached to the project for art and the potential draw for creativity to the project. Several members will be attending meetings at Metro and making informal calls in support of the proposal.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Meeting summary submitted by Juanita Swartwood, PDC Public Participation Specialist