

CENTRAL EASTSIDE



Central Eastside Urban Renewal Advisory Committee (URAC)

September 14, 2009

4:00-6:00 p.m.

Goodwill Industries
1943 S.E. 6th Avenue

Meeting Summary

URAC members present, Susan Pearce Hosford Abernethy Neighborhood; Jeff Reaves At-large member; Michael Whitmore, Kerns Neighborhood Association; David Lorati, Central Eastside Industrial Council; Peter Stark, Central Eastside Industrial Council; Dardinelle Troen, At-large; Linda Nettekoven, Alternate, Hosford Abernethy Neighborhood; Steve Russell, At-large member Kerns Neighborhood.

Guests: Lee Perlman, freelance writer; Chris Armes, Portland Bureau of Transportation; Kelly Youngblood, University of Portland student; Todd DeNeffe, Cascade Commercial Real Estate LLC; Marie Daniels, Work Source Portland Metro East.

PDC Staff: Kia Selley, Trang Lam, Steven Shain, Erin Flynn, Joleen Jensen-Classen

Call to order/Introductions/Meeting summary

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Peter Stark at 4:10 p.m. Introductions followed. The meeting summary of July 13, 2009 was approved with Michael Whitmore providing the motion and David Lorati the second.

Peter called for statements of conflict of interest. There were none.

Introduction of the Interim URA Manager

Steve Shain introduced himself as the interim manager of the CES URA. Kia Selley will be working part time at PDC. Steven is a third generation Portlander and very familiar with the URA. Prior to working at PDC, Steven worked for Zidell and served as a member of the North Macadam URAC.

Michael Whitmore requested that PDC consider becoming involved with the Washington Monroe project (WAMO) project as regards to job creation. Steven will follow up on that idea.

East Burnside-Couch Couplet Update

Chris Armes from the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) informed the committee that the Bureau of Environmental Services has uncovered some additional water and sewer work on Couch Street, which will delay the construction schedule about 3-4 weeks. PBOT now expects to

complete the curbs, swales and signal work on Couch this winter. The grinding and re-paving will take place next season.

Portland Economic Development Strategy

<http://www.pdc.us/pdxleadingitlivingit/index.html> (PDC web page)

Erin Flynn, the PDC Director of the Urban Development Department provided the committee with a high-level presentation of the Portland Economic Development Strategy. Last year, PDC combined the Development Department and Economic Development Department into the Urban Development Department in order to place economic development as an umbrella for all of PDC's work which will focus on building economic prosperity. The current strategy was adopted by City Council on July 8, 2009 and is the first comprehensive economic development strategy the city has had in 15 years.

The premise of the strategy is that Portland has done an excellent job of place making but this has not translated into jobs and economic prosperity for its residents. Portland has the opportunity to become the capital of the global green economy. The challenge is to focus on job creation with more family wage jobs and build a bigger more robust economy. Currently Portland has lower median wages and higher poverty level than Seattle and San Francisco. The goal is 10K net new jobs over the next five years. The goal is to create a vibrant central city, and enhance neighborhood vitality and small business growth.

Erin clarified that PDC provides assistance to firms that are not in URAs. She added that tax increment financing which has been PDC's main source of funds is not the best tool to implement the strategy so PDC and the city are looking at other resources. We need to work in all parts of the city, not just the URAs.

Michael Whitmore encouraged PDC to become more active with the WAMO project being led by Portland Parks and Recreation (Parks) to avoid missing economic development opportunities that could be developed as part of that project. Peter Stark commented that PDC should develop an inventory of spaces available in the CES URA to better market them to existing and new firms. The committee members reiterated their concern that the 30% set-aside for housing would not be effective for a primarily industrial district such as the CES URA.

Hooper Detox Center Predevelopment Study

Traci Manning, Chief Operating Office for Central City Concern, updated the committee on plans for the Hooper Center which currently houses the CHIERS Van, the Sobering Station and the Voluntary Medical Detox Clinic. The clinic has 48 beds and clients stay an average of five to eight days. This program will move to the soon to be renovated Ramada Inn in the Oregon Convention Center URA. Central City Concern will add a 16 bed crisis assessment and treatment center for mentally ill individuals. The facility will be locked and clients will stay between seven and 14 days.

Traci announced a meeting to discuss the programmatic details of this new facility on Monday, September 21, 2009 from 2-5 p.m. in the Lincoln Bldg at 421 SW Oak. Susan Pearce will attend for the URAC.

NA Meetings on WAMO

Michael Whitmore announced that the Kerns NA will hear an update on the WAMO project from Parks staff Elizabeth Kennedy-Wang on Wednesday, September 16, 2009 starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Pacific Crest Community School located at 116 NE 29th.

Susan Pearce announced that Hosford Abernethy NA will hear the same presentation on Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at St Phillip Neri Paulist Center, 2408 SE 16th.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Submitted by

Joleen Jensen-Classen PDC Public Participation Manager