

Gateway Regional Center URA Program Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: October 19, 2005
Time: 6:30-8:00 PM

Location: East Portland Community Center
740 SE 106th Ave

In attendance:

Dorene Warner, Chair
Bob Earnest, Vice Chair
Beth Baltz
Tim Brunner
Frieda Christopher
Dick Cooley
Jim Doig
Grace Fitzgerald
Ted Gilbert

Stuart Gwin
Arlene Kimura
Jerry Koike
Jackie Putnam
Alesia Reese
Linda Robinson
Phil Selinger
Duke Shepard
Carol Williams
Dann Wonser

Aleta Woodruff

Staff and Guests in attendance:

Sara King (PDC)
Kevin Bond (PDC)
Jon Connor (PDC)
Karl Dinkelspiel (PDC)
Clark Henry (BES)
Dan Layden (PDOT)

Not in attendance:

Teena Ainsle
Susan Brady
Jackie Butts
Andy Cotugno

Steve Dotterer
Renee Jensen
Dick Loffelmacher
Clyde Nelson

Lynn Powell
Fred Sanchez
Timothy Treible

1. Welcome and Introductions

Dorene opened the meeting at 6:35 PM. All PAC members introduced themselves as did PDC staff in attendance.

2. BES Brownfield Program

Clark Henry from the City of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services came to open a dialog with the Gateway PAC about the Brownfield Showcase Program. Since 1996, Portland has been working to build a set of government, business and community-supported processes that foster restoration and reuse of contaminated land, and promote revitalization of neighborhoods. Public and private partnerships within Portland have cleaned up and recycled hundreds of acres of contaminated property and created thousands of jobs, while promoting brownfields redevelopment, pollution prevention, and greenspace protection.

The program mostly works with small sites and projects facing major hurdles by offering technical assistance and guidance with liability issues. There is currently one brownfield project in Gateway at 101st Avenue and Ankeny Street.

Point of contact for the Brownfield Showcase Program is Clark Henry, by phone 503-823-5863, by e-mail clarkh@bes.ci.portland.or.us, and on the internet <http://www.brownfield.org>.

3. 102nd Avenue Streetscape Improvements

Dan Layden, Project Manager from the Portland Department of Transportation, gave an overview and update on the streetscape improvement project. The project plan is scheduled to go before City Council on November 9, 2005 at 10:15 AM. There have been some changes since spring earlier this year. The budget is tight and construction costs are expected to rise. However, the project is expected to go forward in its entirety. In the event that funding is delayed or exceeds the budget, the project scope would have to be reduced, at which time the project committee would be reconvened. Due to concerns about planting a single species of street trees, there are now three different species in the plan, which was approved by the city forestry department.

Dorene Warner, PAC Chair, proposed that the PAC write a letter of gratitude to Congressman Earl Blumenauer, who was responsible for securing the \$4.2 million in federal funding for the project, in time for the City Council meeting on November 9.

Storm water boxes are a new feature of the streetscape improvements. These are a new, experimental tool of stormwater management and represent a new direction for the department. They are not intended to treat all stormwater, but are an improvement over the existing conditions. “**Aleta Way**” will be constructed to connect to the post office and an extended traffic island, and may be eligible for some public art. The island and new post office access road are located just north of Southeast Stark Street where Southeast 103rd Drive merges with Southeast 102nd Avenue.

MOTION: Beth Baltz presented a motion to ask the City Council to approve the 102nd Avenue Streetscape Improvement Plan. Frieda Christopher seconded the motion. Dorene announced open discussion on the motion.

PAC member Linda Robinson expressed unhappiness with the tree diversity (not using native trees) in the streetscape plan. Linda alleged that the urban forester’s input was ignored by PDOT. PAC member Alesia Reese stated she is excited about the stormwater aspect of the plan and that it is “better than all concrete” and is “unique.” PAC member Duke Shepherd stated he would like an “assurance that BES will deliver on its stormwater promise” and “not leave the neighborhood stuck with an experiment to figure out how it works.” PAC member Ted Gilbert asked if the motion could be amended to make undergrounding utilities a priority. Dan Layden stated that the transportation funds for this project cannot be used to bury utilities. A local improvement district and exactions, for example, could fund something like that, but not transportation funds.

Motion approved unanimously. All PAC members present voted “yea,” with one member, Linda Robinson, voting “yea with conditions.” The motion to City Council approves the

streetscape plans, which authorizes the use of funds and acceptance of the series of recommendations.

4. Review of Subcommittee Membership

PAC Chair Dorene Warner led a review of Gateway PAC subcommittees. The subcommittees have been inactive lately and its time for members to renew their interest. This is a good opportunity for new people (non-PAC members) to become involved with the PAC. Gateway subcommittees include Transportation, Parks, Economic Development, Housing, Design & Development, and Education Center. Contact Sara King, the Gateway URA Manager, if you are interested in joining a subcommittee. Sara can be reached by phone 503-823-3468 and by e-mail KingS@pdc.us. Both PAC and non-PAC members are welcome to join.

5. New URAC Policies

This agenda item postponed, due to time, until the next Gateway PAC meeting

6. Prunedale Strategy

Gateway PAC Manager Sara King led an update on the progress of the Prunedale Strategy. There have been lots of plans for the Gateway area, but no specific implementation strategy for this particular area. A citizen advisory committee will be formed to provide input on the strategy, which will be development by a consultant. A request for proposals (RFP) is in progress. It is hoped to have a consultant on board by February 2006. There is still some consideration being given to changing the name “Prunedale,” but no consensus on what the new name should be.

7. Public Comment

Tammy Foxworthy, a board member at Gateway Arbors, asked what is happening to the “dogleg” parking area by the Gateway Transit Center. The “dogleg” will remain parking.

8. General Announcements

There will be no regular PAC meeting in November, but a work session is scheduled for Wednesday, November 16 from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM at the East Portland Community Center. There is no PAC meeting in December.

TriMet ex officio Phil Selinger announced that TriMet received federal approval for the final engineering and design phase of the I-205 Light Rail project, which is still on track with its

timeline. Federal funding approval and start of construction is scheduled for Fall 2006, with service projected to begin September 2009.

Dorene adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM.

The next Gateway PAC meeting will be held on November 16, 2005 at the East Portland Community Center located at 740 SE 106th Avenue. The meeting will begin at 6:30 PM.

Note: All confirmed meeting times, dates and locations are posted on the Gateway URA web site, www.pdc.us/ura/gateway.asp.