

Gateway Regional Center URA Program Advisory Committee

Meeting Summary

Date: May 17, 2006
Time: 6:30-8:00 PM

Location: East Portland Community Center
740 SE 106th Avenue

In attendance:

Bob Earnest, Acting
Chair
Teena Ainsle
Tim Brunner
Frieda Christopher
Dick Cooley
Steve Dotterrer
Ted Gilbert
Stuart Gwin

Rowanne Haley
Arlene Kimura
Jerry Koike
Lynn Powell
Jackie Putnam
Linda Robinson
Phil Selinger
Fred Sanchez
Carol Williams
Dann Wonser

Staff and Guests in attendance:

Sara King (PDC)
Randy Evans (PDC)
Jon Connor (PDC)
Joleen Jensen-Classen (PDC)
Sloan Schang (PDC)

Not in attendance:

Dorene Warner
Beth Baltz
Susan Brady

Jim Doig
Grace Fitzgerald
Andy Cotugno

Dick Loffelmacher
Alesia Reese

1. Welcome and Introductions

Bob Earnest, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and made introductions. He asked for announcements. Fred Sanchez reminded everyone about the upcoming GABA-sponsored parade and Fun-o-Rama.

2. Public Comment – none.

3. URAC Chair and Vice Chair Nomination Process

Joleen Jensen-Classen briefly went over the URAC Chair and Vice Chair nomination process which is getting underway. Elections will occur in July after the PDC Board has approved committee membership.

Sara asked for volunteers to form a nominating committee to find candidates for the upcoming URAC officer elections in July. Fred Sanchez, Jackie Putnam, and Ted Gilbert volunteered. The present term for URAC chairpersons is one year with eligibility for re-election. Dick commented that, historically, the Gateway PAC has done a good job of building leadership and stable membership which has provided strength of purpose.

Sara briefly listed the responsibilities of URAC chair. The chair is the media contact and spokesperson representing the advisory committee and testifies on behalf of the URAC to various public organizations, including the PDC Board of Commissioners as necessary to achieve the goals of the URA. The co, or vice chair, shares these responsibilities. Staff will clarify the nomination process for the volunteers of the nomination committee.

4. PDC's Economic Development Business Loan Programs

Randy Evans and Olivia Rebanal of PDC's Economic Development Department spoke to the committee about PDC's business loan programs and other forms of business assistance that are available to the community. They gave a PowerPoint presentation covering all of the existing programs.

Olivia went over all of the various programs and referenced businesses in Gateway that have benefited from them, such as Axis Design, The McTavish Company, and Center Point Graphics. Business finance resources are available for capital improvements for businesses within urban renewal areas.

Frieda asked if programs and assistance is available only to the private sector. Randy responded that non-profits are eligible but that there are no instances of any government or public entities receiving assistance from their programs. He commented that, regardless of eligibility, there are many other programs and services available, offered by other organizations that PDC staff are familiar with and may be able to help businesses connect with.

Tim Brunner complimented the way in which PDC staff were able to help him with his business, Axis Design, an architectural firm which Tim located within the Gateway URA at 111th and SE Stark. He said that through PDC's business assistance programs he was able to purchase his property, remodel the building, and create more spaces for new tenants. Frieda, who is also a business owner in Gateway, added that it really pushes the URA when people are looking for property or business locations within the area.

5. 102nd Avenue Improvements Update

Sloan Schang, of PDC's Development Department, updated the PAC on status of the 102nd Avenue Street Improvement Project. He reminded everyone that at the last PAC meeting, Dan Layden, Project Manager at the Office of Transportation, gave a presentation of the treatment of the "jug-handle" turnaround at 102nd and NE Weidler. The committee expressed a lot of concern that the "Windscape" concept would require approximately \$500,000 to construct. They wanted to look at other options. There was an open house and workshop to review other options held at the East Portland Community Center on May 4.

Sloan displayed three concepts to the PAC, each at differing costs to construct and maintain. Various members of the committee offered suggestions, asked questions and expressed concerns about the following:

- Installing flags to identify the area
- Not providing structures or trees that may hide trespassers or others from using the area for undesirable activities
- Stormwater treatment
- Cost of wind poles
- Cost of area maintenance
- Variety of tree types and colors
- Creating a well-kept area that is a symbol for Gateway
- Planting native drought-resistant grass as opposed to field grass
- Wind poles are quite narrow, smooth-surfaced, will not attract garbage and are relatively vandal proof
- Building an arch as a symbol of Gateway at this site
- Need for a symbol of Gateway that the community can identify with, something of interest, but not necessarily an arch
- Need for some nice visuals that bring some class to the area

Sloan said he will relay everyone's comments and concerns to project staff at the Office of Transportation.

6. Central Gateway Redevelopment Strategy

Sloan displayed the boundary area map for the PAC and went over the chief reasons for developing a long term strategy for the area. The project now has a location on PDC's website which is updated frequently. The web pages contain work products and comments are solicited from visitors.

Sloan said there will be at least two open houses / work shops and at least two presentations to the PAC. Sloan listed the participants in the Central Gateway Redevelopment Strategy Citizen Advisory Committee which include Nancy Yeaman , executive director of the Portland Metro Performing Arts Center & School which is located in the focus area. Also serving on the committee are Gordon Jones, Joyce Rothenbacher, Pat Mobley, David Panichello and PAC members Frieda Christopher, Dick Cooley, Jerry Koike, and Dorene Warner. The consultant team leader is Sumner Sharpe of Parametrix, Inc.

A technical advisory committee is being formed which will comprise staff from PDC, Parks, Transportation, Environmental Services, Planning, and Metro.

Sara expressed her excitement about having Metro involved in the project as it is looking at why regional centers, as defined in Metro's 2040 plan, grow or do not grow. Gateway is one such regional center in the metropolitan area. Phil added that Metro's analysis is two pronged: How has the URA grown since the urban renewal plan was adopted and at the

transportation plan for Gateway. They will be looking at what works and what doesn't work in the area.

Bob adjourned the meeting at 8:00

The next Gateway PAC meeting will be held on July 19, 2006 at the Portland Adventist Medical Center in Education Center A. The meeting will begin at 6:30 PM.

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