Agenda Item 1124

TESTIMONY

.

REGULAR AGENDA

37322

ESTABLISH BUILD PORTLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, PRINT YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

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PRESIDENT - JO ANN HARDESTY 1st V.P. - E.D. MONDAINE 2^{so} V.P. - NONI CAUSEY SECRETARY - MELISSA LANG TREASURER - CLEOPHAS CHAMBLISS

October 11, 2017

SUBJECT: Item #1124, Direct the Office of Management and Finance to establish a Build Portland Advisory Committee and develop a funding plan for infrastructure maintenance (Resolution)

Dear City Council Members,

The NAACP Portland Branch appreciates the necessity of funding infrastructure projects to ensure that Portland continues to be able to provide critical services. Maintenance of infrastructure is essential to ensuring its longevity and capabilities into the future. We applaud the city for thinking ahead on how to fund and execute a methodical plan for completing infrastructure projects and avoiding unnecessary replacement costs.

We are pleased to see the equity lens clearly laid out in the Build Portland worksession deck (https://www.portlandoregon.gov/cbo/article/655239) and look forward with anticipation to seeing this perspective throughout the initiative. (As an aside: We would recommend linking to the work session documents in future council agenda packets so that we do not have to hunt for them.) As the Build Portland proceeds through all its phases, we urge the council to be explicit in setting expectations around equitable contracting and hiring practices, and weighting equity sufficiently as more detailed criteria for project selection begin to emerge.

Regarding the advisory committee, we note the inclusion of community members on the advisory committee. We are concerned about the short timeline for identifying community advisers and the lack of specificity regarding their inclusion.

We also ask for clarification on the structure of the advisory committee. The ordinance states on page 2 that "Build Portland advisory committee comprised of the CAO, CFO, Directors of PBOT, Parks, the City Budget Office, City Asset Managers, and community advisers. Whereas the auditor's report on page 12 notes:

"A Technical Advisory Committee will be formed through this resolution - to be comprised of staff and industry experts - who will establish project selection criteria, identify projects and analyze the return on investment of bureau proposals. The Committee will establish a consistent methodology for evaluating and prioritizing projects for funding; using this methodology, the Committee will subsequently forward project funding recommendations to Council. "

The resolution itself makes no mention of a technical advisory committee, and the auditor's version does not include community members. We would ask for that discrepancy to be fixed so that the committee unambiguously includes community members.

Sincerely,

Jo Ann Hardesty, President NAACP Portland Branch