

I would like to talk with you about how Portland manages its historic resources. Now, a handful of self-selected people control the process of designating historic resources, but require the city to manage them. It is definitely a case of the tail wagging the dog.

I also will point out that neighborhood association boards are not representing the interests of their neighbors, let alone the city, and encourage you not to privilege them with special rights.

Using my neighborhood of Eastmoreland as an example, a small group of people decided to try to place the neighborhood in a national historic district. Why not use one of the local historic districts designed by Portland? Because the national program they chose is much easier to get into. You just have to show that the buildings are old. You don't have to say why they are more important than other parts of the city, or show cultural importance, or even alignment with the needs and values of Portland. Anyone can take an old neighborhood and submit it for some of the most stringent protections available in the country.

Why is the national process easier? As an honorary designation, everyone is assumed to support the designation unless they submit a written, notarized objection. But only in Oregon does this honorary designation come with local land use restrictions. And the city has practically no role in the designation process.

In this city of over 600,000 people, the homes of 2000 people were submitted for restrictive historic designation by 20 people. They did this without getting the support of their 2000 neighbors, or involving you, the representatives of this city. To do this, they used \$67,000 of the neighborhood's funds, which they could do because they controlled the neighborhood association board. But if the designation is granted, Portland bureaus will have to manage the historic district Portland had no hand in creating.

Months after submitting the national application, the neighborhood association finally took a poll of Eastmoreland neighbors. The neighbors were divided. Locally, 666 voted for, and 702 voted against. The board pushed the application forward. In the national level objection process, 400 submitted letters of support, and 1040 submitted letters of objection. But the neighborhood association board decided to continue the application process.

This is not how historic preservation happens in other states, or how it used to work in Oregon. Going forward, I encourage you to work with Portland's bureaus and the legislature to restore the city's leadership in this process, so that our local historic districts are used, and Portland's values once again can be part of the process.

Sandra Shotwell April 25, 2018 Portland City Council Testimony
Sandra.shotwell@gmail.com
503-348-0855

**PORTLAND CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION REQUEST
Wednesday Council Meeting 9:30 AM**

Council Meeting Date: April 25, 2018

Today's Date Feb 21, 2018

Name Sandra Shotwell

Address 7505 SE 36th Ave PDX OR 97202

Telephone 503-348-0855 Email sandra.shotwell@gmail.com

Reason for the request: Follow up related to historic districts
in Portland and Oregon

Sandra Shotwell
(signed)

- Give your request in writing to the Council Clerk's office to schedule a date for your Communication. Use this form or email the information to the Council Clerk at the email address below.
- You will be placed on the Wednesday official Council Agenda as a "Communication." Communications are the first item on the Agenda and are taken at 9:30 a.m. A total of five Communications may be scheduled. Individuals must schedule their own Communication.
- You will have 3 minutes to speak and may also submit written testimony before or at the meeting. Communications allow the Council to hear issues that interest our citizens, but do not allow an opportunity for dialogue.

Thank you for being an active participant in your City government.

Contact Information:

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Request of Sandra Shotwell to address Council regarding historic
districts in Portland and Oregon ((Communication))

APR 25 2018

PLACED ON FILE

Filed APR 17 2018

MARY HULL CABALLERO
Auditor of the City of Portland

By 
Deputy

**COMMISSIONERS VOTED
AS FOLLOWS:**

	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Eudaly		
Wheeler		