



1968 PROGRESS REPORT

CITY OF PORTLAND SOUTHEAST UPLIFT PROGRAM



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4318 S.E. HAWTHORNE BOULEVARD PORTLAND, OREGON 97215 PHONE 233-6236 233-6237



Portland City Council
City Hall
Portland, Oregon 97204

Gentlemen:

In accordance with your request, it is my pleasure to submit herewith a progress report for the year 1968 in behalf of the Southeast Uplift Program Committee. The report reviews the formation and organization of the Southeast Uplift Program in the first part of 1968 and the progress that has been made by our Committee during the remainder of the year.

The Committee wishes to express its sincere appreciation for the cooperation and assistance which it has received this past year in laying the groundwork for development of programs for improving our area of the city. The assistance of the staff provided by the City of Portland and the information and counsel rendered during orientation sessions by representatives of a number of public agencies were very helpful to the Committee.

With the continued assistance of staff generously provided by the City of Portland and with the support of both community organizations and residents of the Southeast area and the numerous agencies already concerned with facilities, services, and improvements needed, the Committee looks forward to success in developing plans and programs for uplifting our Southeast area.

Respectfully submitted,

Dent Thomas, Temporary Chairman

DT:ch
Encl.

SOUTHEAST UPLIFT PROGRAM

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- 1968 -

BEGINNING OF SOUTHEAST UPLIFT PROGRAM

At a public hearing held by the Portland City Council in February, 1968, the citizens of Southeast Portland presented convincing arguments which emphasized their problems along with their desire and need for assistance in planning a program "to better the Southeast Portland community by working toward the solution of its social and physical problems."

Their hope of being included in Model Cities was negated by the 10% population participation limitation imposed by the federal government; but, since the efforts of their organization helped to expose many problem areas which required both immediate, as well as long range solutions, and at the same time indicated a positive and cooperative attitude of the residents, the City was eager to offer such assistance as it could without the aid of a federal project.

It was at this time that the Southeast Uplift Program was proposed by Commissioner Francis J. Ivancie, and in May a thirteen member governing Committee was appointed by Mayor Terry Schrunk. The Southeast Uplift Program Committee is composed of eight members at large and five members who represent five organizations in Southeast Portland which had brought their requests to the public hearing.

These members are:

Members Appointed by the Mayor

Dent Thomas
Rev. Francis X. Diskin, C.S.P.
Thomas L. Bentley
Fred A. Bolien
Richard Priestley
Mrs. Burton Lundahl
Mrs. Bettie Mayer
Jack V. Bronleewe

Alternates

Mrs. Frank Kendig
John Verdick

Delegates

Mrs. Barbara Evens
(Sunnyside Community Improvement Committee)

Mrs. Florence Murray
(Brooklyn Action Corps)

Alternates

Mrs. Shirley St. Clair
Mrs. Helen Faulkner

Mrs. William B. Cate Mrs. Peter Koehler
(East-CAP Housing & Planning Commission)

Mrs. Sara Colby Mr. George Garrett
 (Richmond Community Action Committee)

Mrs. Jeanne Searls
(Buckman Community Action Committee)

From this Committee Mr. Dent Thomas, former president of the Sellwood-Moreland Improvement League, was designated Temporary Chairman by Mayor Schrunk.

A major decision made at the outset by this Committee was that it would attempt to serve the entire Southeast area, bounded by the Willamette River on the west, the Banfield Freeway on the north, and the city limits on the east and south. This area contains approximately 153,875 people, 40% of the total population of Portland.

ADOPTION OF BY-LAWS

Since May the Committee has held meetings on the second and fourth Monday of each month, and the first several of those meetings were devoted to preparation and adoption of a constitution and by-laws (see copy attached).

CITY OF PORTLAND ASSISTANCE

The City of Portland initiated its assistance by naming the Portland Development Commission as the agency responsible for administration of the Southeast Uplift Program. Following a survey, by a sub-committee of the Committee, of several possible locations the Development Commission obtained a two year lease on office space at 4316 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd. The Development Commission also arranged for installation of telephones and purchased office furniture and equipment adequate for a small office staff. The Portland City Planning Commission and the Portland Development Commission were asked to share the responsibility of providing staff for the Program. All other administrative costs have been the responsibility of the Portland Development Commission.

Following an open house on Saturday, September 7, with good coverage by both newspaper and television, the office at 4316 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd. opened for business on Monday, September 9 with a staff as follows: The Development Commission providing full time Office Manager and Secretary (H. W. Lawwill and Catherine Hughes respectively) and the City Planning Commission providing planning personnel (Dale D. Cannady, Assistant Planning Director, part time and Robert J. Lindh, City Planner, full time).

The staff members provided by the Portland City Planning Commission serve the Committee and are working toward plans which are acceptable to the area's residents and are compatible with an overall, long range plan for the optimum development of Southeast Portland and the entire city. Additional planning personnel in the City Planning Commission's staff are being utilized when available.

The Portland Development Commission is responsible for administration of the Southeast Uplift Program. In this capacity the Development Commission is the City agency designated for disbursement of all funds relative to its administrative costs. This includes both City funds and, as eligibilities are obtained, City and Federal funds designated for projects eligible for federal assistance. It also is its responsibility to provide sufficient office staff for carrying out the activities of the program, to provide office space for the staff and meeting room space for the Committee. The Portland Development Commission is also actively participating in the program in a liaison capacity between the local program and federal agencies in an effort to obtain approval for federal assistance.

COMMITTEE CONCERNS

Since the first meetings held for the organization of the Southeast Uplift Program Committee the Committee's meetings have been concerned with informing Committee members with respect to the area's problems and possible ways of coping with these problems. This has been accomplished through a series of orientation meetings in which invited qualified speakers with knowledgeable backgrounds have met with the Committee to review and discuss a variety of subjects and problems of concern to Southeast area residents. Orientation meetings of this type have included: Leasing Coordinator, Housing Authority of Portland; Regional Counsel, Small Business Administration; Executive Director, Portland Development Commission; Planning Director, Portland City Planning Commission; Assistant Manager, Unemployment Insurance Claims, State Department of Employment; Principal, Washington High School, and counselling staff; Director, State Apprenticeship Program, State Bureau of Labor; Manager, Portland Employment Service, State Department of Labor; Chief Underwriter, Federal Housing Administration; Director, Concentrated Employment Program, Metropolitan Steering Committee-EOA, Inc.; Executive Director, East-CAP; Director, City of Portland Bureau of Buildings; Chief Building Inspector, City of Portland Bureau of Buildings; Chief, Housing Inspection Division, City of Portland Bureau of Buildings.

After serious discussion and deliberation the Committee has determined that Southeast Portland has many problems to solve and is now seeking and considering ideas which will lead to their solution. Of these

problems, the Committee, through extensive review and discussion of orientation material, has determined that improvements in housing, education, and employment are of prime importance and is emphasizing action in these areas. Other areas proposed for improvement are street repair, traffic patterns, parks and playgrounds, and transportation. In addition, the Committee reviews requests for zoning changes pertinent to the Southeast community and submits its recommendations to City Council through the Portland City Planning Commission.

PUBLIC SERVICES

In the four months that the Southeast Uplift Program office has been open, considerable progress has been made in several categories of endeavor. These activities include the following: Staff members have, after careful investigation, answered many questions from the area's residents relative to programs and policies of existing local, state and federal agencies; property tax apportionment; street maintenance; installation of street lighting; parking zones; weed abatement; County welfare; Concentrated Employment Program; City housing inspection program; school gymnasium facilities used for the City Park Bureau's recreation program; and rental program for low income families administered by Housing Authority of Portland.

The staff has arranged many meetings with local agencies to discuss common problems, compare agency policies and those of the Committee, and determine the best possible means of approaching problems on a cooperative and coordinated basis. The office has also been working toward solution of the problems involved with the local school facilities and programs, the flooding problems in the Johnson Creek area, along with efforts toward developing possible ways in which assistance may be given to helping St. Francis School with development of a public playground, John R. Leach Y.M.C.A. with adding to their physical facilities, and Portland State College in a program to purchase and rehabilitate Southeast property for rental to students, etc.

The staff has also been effective in cooperating with local agencies to gain employment of several persons who have requested help from the Uplift Office.

The Southeast Uplift Program, in a cooperative relationship with the City's Bureau of Buildings - Housing Inspections Division, receives copies of conformance letters directed to owners of property where deficiencies are discovered through the city-wide Housing Code Enforcement Program now underway in the Richmond district, contacts these property owners with an offer of possible assistance, where needed, to help arrange the best possible system of financing repairs.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

The Southeast Uplift Program Committee is working with the staff provided by the Portland City Planning Commission and the Portland Development Commission to develop a comprehensive program for improvement of housing facilities, schools, parks, transportation, street improvements, land use and zoning patterns, area beautification, street tree planting, and general cleanup. The Committee contemplates the development of plans and programs which can be used to establish one or more federally assisted Neighborhood Development Programs (NDP) in the Southeast area.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

The Committee and staff are also working with the local schools and the School Board in a cooperative effort toward planning for improvement of school facilities, land acquisition, and vocational training facilities. Both the Southeast Uplift Committee and individual members of the Committee have met several times with officials of Portland School District #1 and with officials of Washington High School and its feeder grade schools, in an effort to isolate problems at the school and to recommend programs for improvement of the physical facilities as well as curricular changes which would provide for more extensive counselling to students and a more effective vocational training program. Subsequent to these meetings Washington High School officials have established a fifteen member committee, with three members from each of its five feeder school communities, to help them with a study and recommendations to carry out these objectives.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

In addition to setting Southeast Uplift policy the Southeast Uplift Committee has assigned geographic areas of responsibility to sub-committees, and the members have been working with organizations and residents in these areas. Their efforts have been directed toward an exchange of information and ideas, which will be helpful in establishing programs for correction of community problems, between the area's residents and the Committee.

The Committee members are encouraging and stimulating citizen participation and offering their services toward organization of the residents of their areas.

Since community organization is a vital link between the Southeast Uplift Program Committee and the residents of the community whose participation is so necessary to execution of any successful program, much effort has been directed toward activities which will help to create these organizations and to stimulate interest of members of existing

organizations toward the concept of community improvement. The Southeast Uplift Program Committee members have spent much of their time with this type of activity, and the Portland Development Commission has added the position of Specialist - Community Relations (filled by Mrs. Eleanor Hogan) in an effort to supplement their activities. Mrs. Hogan works in all areas of Southeast Portland, and she has been instrumental in establishing a new citizens organization in the Lents district.

The Southeast Uplift Program Committee and staff have published a brochure (see copy attached), which will be a tool useful to both the Committee members and the staff in presentations to individuals and representative groups or organizations within the area.

THE COMING YEAR

The Southeast Uplift Program Committee and staff look forward to increased cooperative efforts with community organizations, public agencies, and private persons and firms during the coming year, with the goal of improving housing facilities and education and employment opportunities in the Southeast area of the city. In the field of employment emphasis will be placed on liaison with existing agencies and organizations such as the State Department of Employment and the Office of Economic Opportunity which are directly concerned with employment matters.

CITY OF PORTLAND SOUTHEAST UPLIFT PROGRAM

BY-LAWS

I - NAME

The name of the organization shall be CITY OF PORTLAND SOUTHEAST UPLIFT PROGRAM.

II - PURPOSE

The purpose of the organization shall be to better the Southeast Portland community by working toward the solution of its social and physical problems.

III - MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

1. Membership shall be made up of
 - a) Persons from private fields of endeavor appointed by the Mayor.
 - b) Representatives of agencies or groups located in the area, which are organized for the purpose of bettering the community, elected or appointed by said agencies or groups.
2. The majority of the members shall be persons who live in the area.
3. All members shall serve for a term of two years except that one half of the initial members in each category, 1a and 1b above, shall serve one year.
4.
 - a) If any appointed member in category 1a above, is unable to serve or resigns, his alternate, as appointed by the Mayor, shall become a member for the unexpired term. If there is no alternate, the Chairman shall notify the Mayor of the vacancy within ten days of the time the vacancy occurs.
 - b) If any elected or appointed member in category 1b above, is unable to serve or resigns, his alternate, as elected or appointed by his agency or group shall become a member for the unexpired term. If there is no alternate, the Chairman shall notify said agency or group of the vacancy within ten days of the time the vacancy occurs.

IV - OFFICERS

1. Officers shall be the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary. Officers shall be elected by the Board.
2. All officers shall serve for a term of one year.
3. Vacancies in any office shall be filled by the Board for the unexpired term.
4. The Chairman shall preside at meetings of the Board and shall be the chief administrative officer of the Board. The Vice-Chairman shall, in the absence or incapacity of the Chairman, exercise the powers and duties of the Chairman.

V - MEETINGS

1. Regular meetings shall be held the second and fourth Mondays of each month.
2. Special meetings may be called by the Chairman or at the request of any five Board Members. Notice of special meetings shall be given to each member not less than 24 hours prior to the time set for the meeting.
3. All meetings shall be open to the public.
4. Two thirds of the Board Members shall constitute a quorum.
5. All decisions of the Board shall be by two thirds vote.

VI - COMMITTEES

1. The Board shall have the power to establish committees and to set their composition and duties.
2. Committee Chairmen shall be elected by each committee.

VII - AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be amended by a two thirds vote of the members present at any regular meeting provided that a quorum is present. The proposed change shall first be read at the two immediately preceding regular meetings.

**PREPARED BY THE PORTLAND CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
AND THE PORTLAND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION 1-15-69**