

Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission
Tuesday, February 8, 2011
1:00-3:00pm
Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Andre' Baugh, Don Hanson, Karen Gray, Mike Houck, Gary Oxman, Michelle Rudd, Howard Shapiro, Chris Smith, Irma Valdez

Commissioners Absent: Jill Sherman, Lai-Lani Ovalles

BPS Staff Present: Susan Anderson, Director; Julie Ocken, PSC Coordinator

Chair Hanson called the meeting to order at 1:05pm and provided an overview of the agenda.

Items of Interest from Commissioners

Commissioner Smith noted that the Schools Zoning project will be going to City Council on February 23rd. The Mayor will provide his alternative scenario on February 9th and PSC officers will have a briefing on February 10th.

Commissioner Valdez mentioned she had received a letter from Metro Council President Tom Hughes inviting her and all PSC officers to a "Metro 101" session.

Election of PSC Officers

Action: Decision

PSC members

Commissioner Smith recognized and thanked *Chair Hanson* for his work in leading the Commission. *Commissioner Baugh* has agreed to take the position, and *Commissioner Shapiro* and *Commissioner Rudd* have agreed to stay on the officers' slate as Vice Chairs.

Commissioner Smith nominated *Commissioner Baugh* as the new Chair and *Commissioner Shapiro* and *Commissioner Rudd* as Vice Chairs. *Commissioner Houck* seconded and the vote passed unanimously.

(Y8 – Baugh, Gray, Houck, Oxman, Rudd, Shapiro, Smith, Valdez)

Port Overview

Action: Briefing

Bill Wyatt, Port of Portland

Documents Provided:

- Port of Portland facts sheets
- PDX Backgrounder
- General Aviation Airports fact sheet
- Marine Terminals Backgrounder
- Industrial Development Backgrounder
- Environmental Management Map
- Port of Portland 2009-2010 Environmental Objectives and Targets Results
- "A Check-Up on the Portland Region's Economic Health" packet – combined work of Port, PBA, AOI, OBC, and OBA, available online at http://www.valueofjobs.com/economic_health/index.html.

PowerPoint:

- <http://www.portlandonline.com/bps/index.cfm?c=41664&a=337612>

Bill Wyatt provided details about the Port's work, oversight and new headquarters at PDX. They have been in the location about 9 months and have condensed staff who had worked downtown and at the airport to the one location; there are about 400 Port staff total.

Other highlights of the presentation:

- 95% of the Port's revenue comes through business transactions
- 15% of wheat exports in the US go through Terminal 5
- A 2008 study showed there were 83, 811 jobs related to Port activity
- Of the 49 marine terminals in the Lower Columbia, only 4 are Port of Portland-owned
- The Port is one of the 50 largest purchasers of green power in the US (EPA statistic)
- The ratio of imports-to-exports at the Port is 1:1, which is very uncommon in the US (most import much more product than export)

The new Port Headquarters should be certified LEED Gold 2.2, possibly Platinum. There is a living machine onsite (the largest living machine integrated into a building in the Western US), and all staff have open offices/cubes aside from lawyers and some HR managers.

The open nature of the workspace has allowed for more communication and collaboration among staff and teams; e-mail traffic is down as well. Expenses are down about \$3 million compared to when they were in different locations.

Questions from the Commissioners

Commissioner Houck noted that two Policy-Maker rides have started at the Port HQ. He asked about improvements to accessibility to increase the number of staff who bike to work.

- Bill Wyatt noted the two bike locker locations (including one solely for Port staff with a locker room adjacent) but also mentioned there are fewer transportation options to get to PDX than downtown.

Commissioner Valdez ask how PDX is doing business-wise in terms of travel.

- Bill Wyatt explained that many of the main indicators are up: parking, MAX ridership to the airport, passenger volume, retail at PDX, and local hotel stays show that business travel is basically back up to the 2008 numbers. Leisure travel is still lighter, likely due to the high unemployment rate. Oil costs are the last variable that are still unknown as to how they will react in the coming months.

Commissioner Shapiro asked about an operating agreement between the Port and the City of Portland.

- The Port is a municipal subdivision of the State of Oregon. But it works closely on a project-by-project basis with the City, with much coordination with the Water Bureau and Environmental Services. Additionally, the Port has helped to finance projects such as Airport Futures and the West Hayden Island planning process.

Commissioner Gray asked if the Port has any relationships with local school districts, for example on any career-related activities.

- The Port offers internships, mostly for technical and engineering areas, for students at OSU and PSU as well as with international students.
- There is a "Where in the World" program through the Port in local elementary school classrooms, and students from Reynolds SD have working on invasive plant removal at Port locations.
- *Commissioner Gray* noted that the ACE academy at Parkrose has an engineering arm that would be good to connect with for an on-going program.

Tour of Port Headquarters

Greg Sparks, Port Project Development Manager, lead a tour of the headquarters building, highlighting its openness and various sustainability features.

Commissioner Houck asked about the new Subaru plant in the river district that will be occupying 10 acres of what is currently a significant patch of habitat for the Streaked Horned Lark, a subspecies of Horned Lark, which is listed as a species of concern. Subaru's building design has proceeded far enough that they are not considering including an ecoroof to offset the habitat loss for this species of concern. *Commissioner Houck* asked Bill Wyatt about what the Port can do to get out in front of the process so that when developers or tenants on industrial land that the Port has an interest in are aware of and can design to address issues such as the Streaked Horned Lark. Ultimately the question is what the Port might do in the future to address similar issues up front, early in the process.

Director's Report

Susan Anderson

- River Plan North Reach
 - On Friday, January 21, 2011, the state Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) remanded the plan back to the City.
 - While LUBA rejected or chose not to rule on most of the petitioners' challenges, it did rule that the City failed to adequately demonstrate that River Plan / North Reach would not impermissibly reduce the City's supply of industrial land.
 - In response to the LUBA ruling, BPS is conducting more detailed analyses. The City will respond to the appeal on Friday, February 11th.
- The Tree Project went to City Council on February 2nd. There are still outstanding issues that staff need to address before the project goes back to Council on March 9th.
- The BPS Strategic Plan for 2011-13 is complete; Commissioners each received a copy, and the document will be available online soon.
- Susan Anderson also recognized *Chair Hanson* and thanked him for his work on the Commission since 2004. He has served on numerous committees and has overseen about 15 major projects and plans in his term as Chair of the previous Planning Commission and the current Planning and Sustainability Commission.
 - *Commissioner Baugh* concluded with a thanks as well as his hopes to follow in the Chair's footsteps.

Chair Hanson adjourned the meeting at 3:00pm.