



Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

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Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission

Tuesday, February 22, 2011

6-8pm

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Andre' Baugh, Don Hanson, Karen Gray, Mike Houck, Michelle Rudd, Jill Sherman, Chris Smith

Commissioners Absent: Lai-Lani Ovalles, Gary Oxman, Howard Shapiro, Irma Valdez

BPS Staff Present: Susan Anderson, Director; Julie Ocken, PSC Coordinator; Sandra Wood, Planning Manager; Deborah Stein, Supervising Planner; Barry Manning, Senior Planner; Julia Gisler, CPII; Steve Cohen, Sustainable Food Manager

Chair Baugh called the meeting to order at 6:05pm and provided an overview of the agenda.

Consideration of Minutes

01/25/11 and 02/08/11

Chair Baugh asked for any comments or edits by Commission members. *Commissioner Smith* moved to approve. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously with an Aye vote. (Y6 – Hanson, Gray, Houck, Rudd, Sherman, Smith)

Commissioner Houck gave a follow up comment: at the meeting with the Port, the question of Subaru moving in to an area that is a habitat for horned larks – and what the potential was for informing businesses moving in to areas with environmental issues. There are hundreds of rooftops that, via ecoroofs, could replace some habitats that might be lost.

Items of Interest from Commissioners

Commissioner Houck – at the January 25th meeting, I had asked Mark Wilson (Parks) about his perspective on natural resources in the Lake Oswego to Portland Transit (LOPT) project. In the Commission's letter to Mayor Adams, the PSC did point out concerns on environmental impacts and parks. He asked that park bureau staff be present at the March 8th PSC meeting to ensure concerns regarding alignment and impacts on park land and natural resources be brought to the Commission.

Commissioner Smith – the citizen advisory committee to LOPT had the same recommendation as did the PSC (Macadam with in-street alignment).

Commissioner Hanson attended the West Hayden Island advisory committee meeting last week. The charter, process and structure of the committee were agreed on. They looked at how the technical consultant work will be scoped. The group also brainstormed criteria to evaluate plans for WHI. *Commissioner Hanson* will continue to provide updates at the PSC meetings about this advisory committee group.

Chair Baugh asked to discuss how to bring in partners to come before the PSC about their partnership on the Portland Plan in future meetings. This will be discussed at the upcoming officers' briefing session.



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Sandra Wood presented a briefing on the Schools and Parks Conditional Use project:

- Planning Commission had weighed in on the topic last year, and the project is going to City Council tomorrow (Wednesday, February 23rd).
- Deborah Stein will present the PC recommendation, and the Mayor has published an alternative proposal for the grade regulation proposal. The Mayor's proposal includes a transportation improvement concept to include more robust funding for Safe Routes to Schools, specifically for PPS at this time.
- Included in the draft MOU (PPS and City Council) is that the district and PBOT will work together on the process to develop a prioritization list. This process proposal would later come to the PSC.
- Clarification about the decision: the action would take place when a school wants to reopen (after 5+ years), not when the school closes.
- *Commissioner Gray* noted that the grade level changes the Mayor is proposing really reflects PPS, not the other school districts in Portland, most of which are K-5, 6-8, 9-12. Adding funding for Safe Routes to Schools for PPS is a concern because Parkrose is also going for a bond.
- Deborah Stein: the MOU doesn't decrease any City money that would go to other districts. The increased Safe Routes to School funding in PPS would come from the PPS bond measure only if passed.

7-Steps of Planning overview

Because projects at various stages in their development come to the PSC for input and/or review, Sandra Wood provided an overview of planning projects in a 7-step format:

1. Project Scoping
2. Research and Analysis
3. Concept/Direction
4. Plan/Policies
5. Implementation Tools
6. Implementation
7. Monitoring and Evaluation

Commissioner Houck is very interested in point number 7 and would like the Commission to look into the efficacy of items that are passed. He gave the example of the city's reverting to the Greenway Plan in the face of the North Reach LUBA decision. Is the Greenway Plan adequate to the task?

Susan Anderson noted that BPS could put together a compendium of some of the plans that have been adopted that may be of interest to the PSC, then look at the schedule to see where some of those projects could come back to PSC for review.

- *Commissioner Hanson* agreed and suggested hearing back from staff about their observations instead of solely statistical data. *Chair Baugh* agreed and also asked for input from citizens as well.

Commissioner Sherman noted it might be interesting to be involved earlier to provide input on how the questions are asked for particular projects. Sandra noted that projects such as the Urban Food project are coming to the PSC earlier in the project timeline than previous projects, based on input from PSC members.



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122nd Avenue Study

Action: Briefing

Barry Manning presented

Documents Provided:

- Memo to PSC Commissioners
- [SE 122nd Avenue Study: Existing Conditions and Planning Implications](#)
- [SE 122nd Avenue Study: Final Report and Recommendations](#)

PowerPoint:

- <http://www.portlandonline.com/bps/index.cfm?c=41664&a=339539>

Tonight is a briefing and review of the project concept, outcomes and next steps – not an adoptable plan at this point.

The project was initiated by the East Portland Action Plan; and the Portland Plan and Comprehensive Plan update; a “health lens” was another part of the plan.

Project Goals

Explore ways to create a viable, sustainable, and healthy SE 122nd:

- accommodate growth and community “values”
- create a more convenient and walkable “20-minute neighborhood”
- improve quality and “fit” of infill development
- create a stronger “sense of place” in the area
- ensure the built environment supports health

Commissioner Smith noted that the area is at least numerically satisfied with grocery stores, but residents are going to other stores.

- Barry noted there was lack of opportunity in ethnic grocery stores and more affordable grocery or specialty stores. South of Foster is Pleasant Valley, which has no commercial stores. So between the two areas there looks to be opportunity for additional groceries.

Demography of the area: about 30% ages 19 and under; 31% non-white.

- *Commissioner Gray* noted that non-white in Parkrose district is about 60%. Barry noted that this is a different number comparing the school level to the neighborhood level. The school chapter of the study document touches more on the demographics of the schools and the overall neighborhood.

Study Events included various meetings and workshops. Staff worked with a variety of groups and did outreach in the area as well including the Community Working Group, Health Partners Working Group, working with Underrepresented Communities, and with Youth Planners who conducted a Youth Survey.

Study Outcomes: 4 topics as a Draft Vision for SE 122nd Avenue

- Topic 1: *Accessibility, Connections, Pedestrian Comfort and Safety* – SE 122nd Avenue and other arterial streets lack consistent sidewalks making them unsafe and difficult



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places to walk; sidewalks or safe pedestrian walkways are lacking on streets that are the location of key community amenities.

- Recommendations include: Develop a streetscape plan and improve sidewalks on SE 122nd Avenue; create safe pedestrian crossings along SE 122nd Avenue at key locations; facilitate improvement of local streets that serve schools and public facilities; consider larger minimum lot size threshold for residential subdivisions; improve transit service and amenities at stops.
- **Topic 2: Convenience and Availability of Services and Employment Opportunities**
 - Recommendations include: Retain, expand and attract businesses on SE 122nd Avenue through a variety of actions; consider applying commercial/mixed use zoning to allow opportunity for small business and mixed use in current R1 zoned areas on SE 122nd Avenue; explore ways to provide more healthful food and grocery store opportunities, particularly in south; support East Portland jobs centers (Gateway, East Lents, 122nd Station, Airport Way) and improve transit connections to them.
 - *Commissioner Smith* noted that there is a proposal for a food cart pod on the Springwater Corridor. Could we seed some activity via streetscape improvements with retail catalyzing around that? *Barry*: there are opportunities at Harold and Holgate as well as Zenger Farms for small-scale enterprise to link the nodes of the area.
 - *Commissioner Gray* noted that a culturally-specific enterprise she would not like to see “homemade vans” parked in a lot but rather projects that are viable and thoughtfully designed to boost the area.
 - *Commissioner Rudd*: are the jobs in the area ones that operate beyond the frequent bus times? *Barry*: yes, some are including Airport Way, but many of the services are easily accessed – it’s the Columbia Corridor that is a bit more difficult at off-bus hours.
- **Topic 3: Residential Infill Development and Design**
 - Recommendations include: Consider changes to R2 zoning and/or required density in areas far from arterials to address neighborhood compatibility; develop special site planning regulatory tools for multi-dwelling zones to improve “fit” in context; create contextual site development standards to address setbacks, tree preservation, and parking; explore use of the design overlay zone or design standards for R1 and R2 multi-dwelling zones.
 - *Chair Baugh* noted there could be opportunities with PDC and PHB about what they fund. *Barry* confirmed projects with those partners have been very successful.
 - *Commissioner Smith* asked what the development type will be. *Barry*: it is likely attached or detached row houses or condos that as typical. This doesn’t go through the subdivision processes – so it gets more of a “pass” to be developed. We need to take the type standards that work and adapt them to make them work better in this area.
- **Topic 4: Community Amenities and Livability**
 - Recommendations include: address school capacity and funding issues through multiple actions; find opportunities to create and improve parks and community gardens, and improve access to them; develop “green infrastructure” on SE 122 and in other areas to address stormwater



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- management and create amenities; ensure that social services and affordable housing are provided throughout Portland.
- *Commissioner Houck* noted the title of the slide was “amenities”, which devalues areas like parks and natural areas that are truly basic infrastructure. *Barry*: local parks were the biggest concerns from residents, and there was less input about connections to larger open spaces such as the Springwater Corridor.

Key Findings and Lessons Learned

- Developing Complete 20-Minute Neighborhoods – need to complete street and pedestrian infrastructure; create neighborhood-oriented places; retrofit auto-oriented developments.
- Integrating Health and Planning – build professional understanding; increase knowledge of health + planning; include health expertise on advisory groups; collect health indicator data; include health criteria in evaluation process.
- Improving Residential Infill Development – create new site planning tools; improve multi-dwelling building design.
- Prioritizing Transportation Infrastructure – Improve safety and comfort on “city walkways”; focus improvements in areas planned for change; create safe access to schools and parks
- Involving the Community – partner with community organizations; keep information clear and simple; engage youth.

Project Next Steps:

- Health related follow-up work – OHPI, BPS
- Early implementation zoning work – BPS, proposed FY 2011-12
- Incorporate into Comprehensive Plan update – BPS, begins 2011
- Sidewalk development – PBOT, PDC
- Stormwater improvements – BES, PBOT, PDC

Steve White (OHPI) and Mark Gilbert, MD (OMA) presented a health perspective of the study.

Commissioner Houck gave kudos to Kaiser for supporting and participating in issues such as a national Smart Growth Conference, endorsing the regional bond measure to increase trails and open space initiatives in the Portland region, and for Dr. Phil Wu’s participation in The Intertwine’s Executive Committee on Active Transportation, all of which contribute to public health.

Commissioner Hanson asked about increased bus access – isn’t that preferable to individual people driving cars? Dr Gilbert noted pollutants and local air quality were the questions about bus service (for example, proximity of bus stops to elementary schools).

Commissioner Smith asked about the bikeway network – per square mile, it is not that different in the area from inner neighborhoods, but the connectivity is the issue in east Portland.

- Steve White: the SE Bush bikeway has already been established; the City has been active in streetscape studies and in working to improve connectivity.



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Commissioner Houck asked about psychological/mental health relating to parks.

- Steve White: this project didn't focus on this due to scoping and funding, but we did address some of the main issues the community is interested in.

Commissioner Gray noted the report mentioned diversity and outreach and how those factors affect health and that perhaps with the new Office of Equity there an opportunity to have that office work with the plan.

- Steve White: additionally, Multnomah County received a Federal Grant to focus on developing a health equity strategy and tools to measure our investments.
- Dr Gilbert: AMA has a position on Medical Equity to be more inclusive and break down barriers.
- Barry: the Portland Plan is making great strides to include diverse communities to ensure people engaged.

Annette Mattson (David Douglas School District); Jean DeMaster (Human Solutions); Mark White (Powellhurst-Gilbert Neighborhood) also presented a community perspective of the project.

Of note: the population of David Douglas High School is 3100-3200 students, the largest in the state.

Mark White: the 122nd Ave area gets studied a lot. There is no frequent bus service; 9 of 35 most dangerous intersections within city are in the Study area. He encouraged staff to implement projects and programs (not just study).

Additionally, the Charter Commission and neighborhood associations should be thought of as partners for the Portland Plan. The PSC has the ability to change things in Portland. Potential to be the most desirable place in the city, but there is not a way for the neighborhood to brand itself so others will come to the neighborhood.

Commissioner Hanson thanked Mark White for his comments. As we look ahead, this is a big scale project, but the question could be about what we can do sooner to focus on some catalytic projects. This is a challenge to staff to think about the project from this perspective.

- Mark White noted he can send notes about what has already been discussed to Barry to forward to the Commissioners.
- Barry noted that the idea of a few catalytic projects is good but the projects would have to be "unearthed" as they are not fully apparent, which could be a bit of a slow process.

Zone changes in the area: perhaps opening opportunities may move the area in a positive way. Neighborhood scale and mixed-use opportunities between key nodes would be a good start for the area, but nodes would likely require PDC assistance.

Chair Baugh noted that connectivity to schools and parks and working to improve transit and economic development would be key areas to look at.



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- Susan Anderson noted we could bring this project back as a work session on an upcoming PSC meeting agenda. We could also invite PDC's Neighborhood Economic Development group to be a part of the conversation.
- *Commissioner Gray* noted that Gateway is another area to include as a node in this area.

Commissioner Houck mentioned Commissioner Fish's E205 initiative, which would fund more parks east of I-205. He acknowledged Jean DeMaster's call for places that kids to kick a soccer ball around. The East of 205 Initiative could be a potential to get facilities to compliment as a practical implementation area.

Chair Baugh: also something to look at are the health impacts of the work given the diverse and young population. Are there benchmarks and milestones we can measure to look at what "success" is?

Urban Food Production Project

Action: Briefing

Julia Gisler and Steve Cohen

Documents Provided:

- Food Project Flyer

Note: this project will be moved to the 03/08 or 03/22 PSC meeting agenda.

Director's Report

Susan Anderson

- Upcoming Portland Plan workshops: there will be 4 workshops in this phase - March 2, 6, 10 and 12. Staff will send the list of locations and times to PSC members.

Chair Baugh adjourned the meeting at 8:30pm.