

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Bonny McKnight [bonnymck@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, November 02, 2011 1:49 PM
To: Moore-Love, Karla
Subject: Fwd: Response to Today's Agenda Discussion Re: Minutes
Attachments: 11_2_11 council test follow.pdf

>

11/2/2011

November 2, 2011

Mayor Adams
Commissioner Nick Fish
Commissioner Amanda Fritz
Commissioner Randy Leonard
Commissioner Dan Saltzman

Regarding Today's Council Agenda Items Adopting Minutes

Members of the Council:

I was disappointed to hear this issue characterized as a problem with the Auditor's Office and how well it functions. Nothing could be more wrong.

Please understand that my comments regarding the proposal from the Auditor's Office was never about the excellent service that office has provided to me any time I asked for documents or background on what Council had done or was about to do on behalf of the public it serves.

In fact, the excellent and useful service that can be available is exactly my point.

There is not enough time between the Wednesday Council agenda being publicly available and the actual Council meeting for us to use the current system.

Minutes are, for many of us, a background for a continuing issue that may have been discussed in prior Council sessions. Minutes are also a tool to inform us of how previous actions on smaller parts of an issue before Council may have been decided. Council minutes provide us background for testimony that helps put issues into context rather than testimony that is simply generalized criticism. I think all of those functions are to the benefit of Council as we become better informed citizens about what our elected officials are doing on our behalf.

Karla Moore-Love is an outstanding City employee. Not only does she perform her responsibilities extraordinarily well, she has never made herself the sole conduit to needed information. She is especially valuable in explaining how things are done during City Council meetings and also how to place things in the public record.

However, for many of us, research and information gathering is done in the evenings after work or on weekends. City staff is not available during those times so finding the information cannot solely rely on City staff to find and print a needed document.

I understand that the Auditor's Office is playing catch up and that staff simply can't do the enormous volume of work that is needed to fix the past.

I believe that from this point forward, however, those limitations can be dealt with until a fully functional electronic archive with an easy to use subject-specific search engine is developed for public use.

For right now, I request that you simply establish a Council Agenda deadline to require at least 7 days between the publication of the public agenda and the related Council session.

That period of time will provide an opportunity for the interested public to find the information they want about agenda items that will be heard by using the skills offered by the Auditor's Office staff.

Minutes are most useful as a public guide to future Council decisions.

They are not archives, they are information to be used. They are not simply a legal record of what has been done, to be filed away in case a law suit resurrects them. If they are used correctly, they provide background for on-going actions and discussions by an elected public body and for informed public participation with their elected representatives.

There is an answer to the problem right now. Please decide to require adequate time between the public agenda being published and the Council meeting that will execute that agenda.

I believe anything less than that fails to meet the requirements of Council public process for the citizens of Portland.

Sincerely,

Bonny McKnight

1617 NE 140th
Portland, OR 97230
503-253-6848

cc Karla Moore-Love, City Council Clerk
City Auditor Yvonne Griffin-Vilade

Parsons, Susan

From: Schwab Mary Ann [e33maschwab@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 02, 2011 8:50 AM
To: Bartlett Mark; Parsons, Susan; McKnight, Bonny; Lindsay Susan
Cc: Adams, Mayor; Leonard, Randy; Saltzman Dan; Commissioner Fritz; Commissioner Fish; Alarcon Morris, Amalia; Dufay, Anne; Deumling Reuben
Subject: Please pull off today's agenda -- the Auditor's request to allow the adoption of 4-year City Council Minutes without public involvement 30-days notice

Attachments: DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE CITY COUNCIL IS DECIDING THIS WEDNESDAY.pdf

Good Morning Stakeholders:

Like Mark, I am also requesting City Council pull this item of the consent agenda until the public has had time to review. I know of several serious omissions in the minutes, even when handing hard copies to Council Clerk

and City Council. I have objected to the Portland Plan Draft and the process. For starters, during a snow storm in February, I read into the record the list of Portland Public School District school, most recent Marshall High School.

Regrettably, I can not attend today's Council Hearing on such short notice. This is not what I know to be a good faith public involvement process -- following the ONI guidelines. Public needs 30-days notice to their neighborhoods prior to taking action on any issue.

Thank you for listening.

Blessings,
 mas

On Nov 1, 2011, at 9:49 PM, Mark Bartlett wrote:

- > Any additions or comments?
- > I will send tomorrow morning by 830 am
- > Mark
- >
- > LaVonne,
- >
- > I have a number of concerns about these proposed items up before
- > Council tomorrow.
- >
- > As there was little if any notice to the public or time for them to
- > review just what is being proposed and why, I am asking for these
- > items to be withdrawn until there has been a reasonable opportunity
- > for citizens to do so.
- >
- > 1) This Council was not the same as that which passed Ordinance and
- > Resolutions etc... in 2007. How could they approve minutes for
- > actions they did not participate in?
- > This Council could not possibly know if the record submitted along
- > with any particular action is accurate or complete.
- >
- > 2) Having testified and submitted documents and comments to the
- > record on numerous agenda items, I can say with certainty, that
- > transcripts and inclusions into the record in some instances are

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> inaccurate and or incomplete. I objected to general findings on
 > certain items due to fabrications and distortions of the record, and
 > no response was ever forthcoming from those submitting documents for
 > the record.
 >
 > 3) There are some items that remain incomplete pending language
 > rewrites or revisions that have not yet come back before the public
 > for review, and then to Council for approval.
 >
 > What you show as the minutes do not contain any of the public
 > record, just the agendas with numerical outcomes in most cases. I
 > would object to the entire record being approved by any default
 > mechanism such as this retroactive voting, if incomplete or
 > inaccurate.
 >
 > The public should be allowed the opportunity to review and offer
 > corrections before records are deemed complete. The public should be
 > informed of and understand any consequence of this vote beyond
 > simply approving the simple numerical outcomes.
 >
 > Thank you,
 > Mark Bartlett

> Hello
 >
 > I am sending you this because all of us who are part of Neighborhood
 > Associations and/or do Land Use Review have certain deadlines for
 > notice and response that we rely on to keep actions fair and to
 > allow anyone who wishes to comment adequate time to prepare those
 > comments. Our system isn't even close to perfect but we still do
 > better than City Council. Please read this and comment before
 > Wednesday to the Council in some manner - if you think, as I do,
 > that this is simply not acceptable.
 >
 > Thank you.
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 > Bonny
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DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE CITY COUNCIL IS DECIDING THIS WEDNESDAY?

Answer: No, neither do I.

You can find the "current agenda" at the Auditor's website to get a list of the items to be considered. The most current agenda, however, was not available until late last week. If you needed to get any background for the items you had 3 work days at most to dig up the information.

How can I find out what the Council will be doing on Wednesdays after that?

Answer: I have no idea.

When you go to the Auditor's link for Upcoming Agenda Items, there are one or two listings but no full agenda to provide guidance for your obtaining more information in case you might want to testify or have your opinion considered.

What citywide policies are being discussed?

Answer: None

This Wednesday the closest thing to a policy discussion I can find is Item 1165 which prescribes a public hearing process for selecting City Charter Commission proposals to go to a public vote.

Why are there four Agenda Items from the Auditor's Office requesting approval of Council Meeting Minutes for calendar years 2007 through Jan-June, 2010.

Answer: I don't have any idea.

How can this Council approve minutes from 4 years ago when the Council was not the same people? And how can anyone know what has been done by City Council during that 4 year period if there are no written archives of their actions that are available to us?

COUNCIL ACTION TAKEN ON AGENDA ITEMS THAT DON'T PROVIDE ANY TIME FOR PEOPLE (OR EVEN COMMISSIONER'S STAFF) TO REVIEW THE ITEMS AND COMMENT IS NOT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SHOULD BE CHANGED.

Please send a note to Council members, call their offices, or attend the Council session on Wednesday, November 2, 2011 and testify. The Auditor's request to allow the adoption of 4 years of Council Meeting minutes is scheduled at the end of the agenda.

PLEASE TRY TO KEEP COUNCIL DECISION MAKING A PUBLIC PROCESS

Bonny McKnight

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Mark Bartlett [bartlett.m@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, November 02, 2011 8:30 AM
To: Moore-Love, Karla; City Auditor Griffin-Valade; Commissioner Fritz; Commissioner Saltzman; Commissioner Fish; Leonard, Randy; Adams, Mayor; Hoop, Brian; Dufay, Anne; Schwab Mary Ann; Mark Bartlett; Planning Commission; Lynn Schore & Steve Linder
Subject: agenda items 1167, 68, 69, 70

LaVonne,

I have a number of concerns about these proposed items up before Council tomorrow.

As there was little if any notice to the public or time for them to review just what is being proposed and why, I am asking for these items to be withdrawn until there has been a reasonable opportunity for citizens to do so.

1) This Council was not the same as that which passed Ordinance and Resolutions etc... in 2007 and 2008. How could they approve minutes for actions they did not participate in?

This Council could not possibly know if the record submitted along with any particular action is accurate or complete.

2) Having testified and submitted documents and comments to the record on numerous agenda items, I can say with certainty, that transcripts and inclusions into the record in some instances are inaccurate and or incomplete.

I objected to general findings on certain items due to fabrications and distortions of the record, and no response was ever forthcoming from those submitting documents for the record.

I objected to specific planning processes used to attempt to legitimize the Portland Plan when the City, Bureau, and DCLD Director did not follow ORS or OAR laws and rules. We never received any response, nor were any attempts made to correct these violations. These objections / violations occurred in 2007/8.

3) There are some agenda items that remain incomplete pending language rewrites or revisions that have not yet come back before the public for review, and then to Council for approval.

What you show as the minutes do not contain any of the public record, just the agendas with numerical outcomes in most cases. I would object to the entire record being approved by any default mechanism such as this retroactive voting, if incomplete or inaccurate.

The public should be informed of and understand any consequence of this vote beyond simply approving the simple numerical outcomes. The public should be allowed the opportunity to review and offer corrections before records are deemed complete.

Thank you,
Mark Bartlett

Moore-Love, Karla

From: Bonny McKnight [bonnymck@comcast.net]
Sent: Sunday, October 30, 2011 9:41 PM
To: Moore-Love, Karla
Subject: Fwd: Testimony for Wednesday, November 2, 2011 City Council Meeting
Attachments: 10_30_11 ltr to Council.pdf

> Karla

Please enter this into the public record for Wednesday's Council meeting.

Thanks. Bonny

11/1/2011

October 30, 2011

Mayor Adams
Commissioner Nick Fish
Commissioner Amanda Fritz
Commissioner Randy Leonard
Commissioner Dan Saltzman

Dear Members of the City Council:

During the past several years, as budgets have been cut and bureau responsibilities have become more complex, it has been more and more apparent that real opportunities for citizens of Portland who do not have a pet project or funding need to access you as decision makers in a public forum.

Without that access, already undefined and uncoordinated city expenditures of staff time and money are becoming the way that City of Portland business is done. As a city of more than 600,000 people and an inability to fund programs and projects with any flexibility due to a citizen-initiated tax limitation, it is long past time for an open discussion of city priorities and setting a city-wide policy for deciding those priorities.

Our form of government makes the role of Council as a legislative body very difficult. It doesn't make it impossible, however, at a minimum for regular City Council meetings to be opportunities to hear a variety of viewpoints from across the City.

The current way in which Council agenda items are scheduled, without adequate notice for those who might like to share their viewpoints with you, only makes the access to you as decision makers more difficult, if not impossible.

Regardless of whether or not you are legally required to provide an agenda to the public with adequate time for review and commentary by citizens, it is your moral responsibility to do so as elected representatives of that public.

I suggest that a Council meeting be set now for sometime in early December to consider a notice requirement for City Council agenda items. For those of us in Neighborhood Associations, our requirement is 10 days notice. It is mandated by state open meetings law.

How can our elected City Council justify doing less for agenda items that spend scarce public money or have used scarce public resources as the foundation for the project?

Sincerely,

Bonny McKnight
1617 NE 140th