

Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission
Tuesday, November 8, 2011
5:30-9:00pm
Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Andre' Baugh, Karen Gray (arrived 6:10pm), Don Hanson, Mike Houck, Gary Oxman, Lai-Lani Ovalles (arrived 5:47pm), Michelle Rudd, Howard Shapiro, Jill Sherman, Chris Smith, Irma Valdez
BPS Staff Present: Susan Anderson, Director; Joe Zehnder, Chief Planner; Eric Engstrom, Principal Planner; Julie Ocken, PSC Coordinator
Guest Presenter: Mayor Sam Adams

Chair Baugh called the meeting to order at 5:38pm and provided an overview of the agenda.

Consent Agenda

Consideration of Minutes

From 10/11/2011 PSC meeting

Chair Baugh asked for any comments or edits from Commission members.

The Consent Agenda was approved with an *aye* vote.

(Y9 – Baugh, Hanson, Houck, Oxman, Rudd, Shapiro, Sherman, Smith, Valdez)

Regular Agenda

Portland Plan

Action: Hearing

Mayor Sam Adams; Joe Zehnder

Documents:

- Portland Plan Proposed Draft - October 2011
- Staff Memo
- Attachment A: Public Testimony received October 18 - November 3, 2011
- Attachment B: Revised Sub-area Scorecard
- Neighborhood Associations & 20 Minute Analysis Areas Map

Presentation: <http://www.portlandonline.com/bps/index.cfm?c=41664&a=374119>

Chair Baugh gave an overview of the process to provide testimony for the Portland Plan. 3 ways:

- Verbal: hearings (tonight; next Tuesday at Parkrose HS; 11/29 @ 1900 SW 4th - all accepting testimony cards 5pm-7:30pm)
- E-mail: pdxplan@portlandoregon.gov or psc@portlandoregon.gov
- Mail: 1900 SW 4th Ave, Suite 7100, Portland OR 97201

Mayor Adams presented an overview of the Plan. This is a 122 page strategic plan for a city - which has never been done before in a holistic way. It is innovative; based on local inspiration; and is a unique effort.

Prosperous. Healthy. Equitable. - This is what we want for Portland, and what the Plan seeks to help us become. Overarching goals include improved social equity, educational outcomes, and healthy connected communities.

The Portland Plan outline includes the Framework for Equity; 3 Integrated Strategies; and 12 Measures of Success. It seeks to be a strategic plan for the city and involves many partners. The reason to do the Plan now has become more compelling in these economic times. We are aligning the work it lays out around the needs of people.

This is a strategic plan, seeking to achieve resiliency and be nimble. It includes short term actions that will be updated and moved forward. The process has been a two-way dialogue between partners, City, and the public about what we want to accomplish. Partnerships have been key in the process. Partnerships will be the driver of change.

To get more from our existing budgets, the Portland Plan emphasizes actions that have multiple benefits, improve alignment and improve efficiency.

- Staff from many agencies and community advisors, particularly from the health and equity communities helped write the reports and the plan.
- Staff worked with a hands-on all volunteer community involvement committee.
- Community leaders reviewed materials and leadership from partner agencies met quarterly to discuss the content of the plan.
- Together, we will implement the plan and carry it forward.

The Plan recognizes there are citywide initiatives AND unique challenges based on geography. One size does not fit all. The Plan outlines 24 local sub-areas to allow for some consistency in looking at the city in consistent units in terms of population (average of 11,000 households).

The process has been iterative and has included opportunities to provide input via surveys, workshops, and other meetings.

Joe Zehnder highlighted the elements of the Plan.

- The equity framework sets forth a new way of working that puts achieving equity front and center and identifies some of the specific actions needed to ensure that the Portland Plan's equity foundation is strong and supportive.
- Equity in the Plan is defined:
 - Equity is when everyone has access to the opportunities necessary to satisfy their essential needs, advance their well-being and achieve their full potential. We have a shared fate as individuals within a community and communities within society. All communities need the ability to shape their own present and future. Equity is both a means to a healthy community and an end that benefits us all.
- The equity framework sets out an action plan to:
 - Close the gaps
 - Deliver equitable public services
 - Engage the community
 - Build partnerships
 - Launch a racial/ethnic justice initiative
 - Increased internal accountability
- Three integrated strategies
- Strategies include: goals & objectives; guiding policies; 5-year action plans
- Strategy #1: Thriving Educated Youth - to ensure the success of youth, preschool through 25 years
- Strategy #2: Economic Prosperity and Affordability - emphasis on business growth coupled with household economic success and prosperity
- Strategy #3: Healthy Connected City - Improve human and watershed health by creating a system of neighborhood hubs, linked by a network that integrates nature into neighborhoods and connects Portlanders to services, destinations and opportunities locally and across the city.

- 12 Measures of Success to:
 - be used to see how we track our progress to learn about how affective the actions we are proposing are
 - align with the goals and purpose of the 3 strategies
 - note where we are today with a link to where the Plan says we want to get to in 2035
- Plan is also broken down into “local scorecards” to see how the indicators are different throughout the city
- Plan implementation
 - Partnerships are key - the Portland Plan is about doing more with less by aligning efforts of multiple agencies.
 - Goal-based budgeting so that bureaus and offices will direct discretionary funds toward the Portland Plan goals.
 - 5 year citywide and local actions.
 - New Comprehensive Plan policies
 - Tracking progress

Moving forward, the Plan proposed to focus on citywide partnerships, locally-driven action and the focus on equity.

Eric Engstrom provided an overview of the documents presented to the Commission:

- Copy of the Plan - there is a Summary and the full version; Commissioners have a full version
- Staff Memo with clarifications and corrections - staff will continue to create these memos to clarify and provide summary of testimony received between PSC hearings
- Map of Neighborhood Association boundaries, over-laid with the 24 sub-areas as described in the Plan.
- Testimony tracking sheet

At the end of each hearing, the Commission will have a session with a recap from staff about what was provided as testimony.

Ultimately, the PSC will make a recommendation to City Council. This is not a code project, but what staff is looking for is clear direction PSC wants to see as we update the Plan prior to bringing it to Council.

Testimony

- Lisa Bates, PSU / Portland Plan Equity Technical Action Group - we recognize there are real challenges, but we are also living in a changing world: an aging population, becoming more diverse, a changing economy, climate change, and other key issues. Without a fundamental change, things can get worse. The Portland Plan should be used to shift toward social sustainability as the Climate Action Plan has done for environmental sustainability. The Portland Plan is a plan to shape the future - to help achieve a vision we set for ourselves. The Technical Action Group envisions Portland with an education system that can raise achievement levels for all youth; an understanding of diversity; where immigrants are engaged in the city; where the growing elder population will not be isolated; and where children and families are more engaged in the future. The equity filter/tool should be used to allocate resources to address our needs.
- Katie Sawicki, Urban League / Portland Plan Equity Technical Action Group - supports the Plan’s equity goals and objectives. Equity mechanisms should be included in policy and allocation of funds, when looking at program development, and in other ways the City affects the public. The Equity TAG is also an advocate for the City’s new Office of Equity and Human Rights to help carry out the equity framework throughout the city.

- Roger Anthony, Vision into Action / Portland Plan Equity Technical Action Group - TAG members studied equity issues in the community, and the goals and strategies have inspired the Plan and creation of Office of Equity where many tools and information will live. The Office of Equity will coordinate the City policies promoting equity, many of which are in the Portland Plan. Equity strategies are crucial first steps.
- Carmen Madrid, Center for Intercultural Organizing - appreciative of the inclusion of equity in all areas of Portland development, but the specifics in the plan fall short. Equity is about eliminating disparities for historically marginalized groups. We need support for immigrants to eliminate disparities. Inclusiveness in the process is key. The Healthy Connected City strategy features specific plan on equity, but it is just one line on the page. The Plan needs to be more than just buzz-words. We need affordable housing throughout city. CIO does applaud the work of the Plan process and the commitment to engage community stakeholders, but it's clear we have a long way to go to achieve equity.
- Bill Scott and Roberta Phillip; SUN System Coordinating Council - pleased with Plan, both the process and the product. The current draft is responsive to the updates SUN submitted, particularly that SUN is a partner and is called out as such in all 3 strategies; this is appropriate since SUN goals align with PP goals. Central focus on equity is also praised. Specific comments will be mailed in. SUN is supported by City/County partnership, so this will be continued in the Plan's work.
- Noelle Dobson, Oregon Public Health Institute - acknowledged BPS staff who were open and supportive of health partners in the process. We should adopt and use the Plan. OPHI is especially supportive of the HCC strategy because public decisions impact human health. How do we consider health in public decisions? We need to align the priorities and strategies since income and education are strong determinants of people's health. Targeting disparities can make progress toward decreasing things that impact low income and communities of color. The HCC strategy identifies many elements, but describing vision alone won't get us to results. We hope this Plan and input will guide Comp Plan and goal-based budgeting.
- Bridgette Lang, Multnomah Youth Commission (Jefferson High School) - noted that what's missing from the Plan is a goal about positive youth development so youth have support they need to become healthy adults. Youth empowerment can increase the chances and opportunities for youth to prepare for next steps in lives.
- Ray Kennedy, Multnomah Youth Commission (Trillium Charter School) - The Thriving Education Youth strategy represents one-third of the Plan, a significant piece, which means that youth have to be involved in the city. We need to involve that group to be equitable since youth are for whom the Plan is written. Good youth-adult partnerships are key so youth can learn from adults and feel valued and part of the city voice. MYC allows for this, and other programs can too. Adults can also learn from youth, but you really have to want to learn.
- Umulkher Abdullahi, BPS Youth Planner (PSU) - diverse youth and perspectives are important in the Plan. The youth voice was touched on in the Plan, but not to the level youth need or want. Adults give so youth can give. Youth voice and civic engagement are crucial for the future of Portland youth. Policies that impact the youth community should include youth in decision-making; youth want to be a part of the process. Youth is the diverse population that the Plan talks about engaging.

For a specific note about the graduation rate - setting students/youth up for success in getting closer to 100% graduation rate needs efforts and work with adults as well.

- Bob Sallinger, Audubon Society - impressed with work City has done in terms of the focus on integrating natural resources and protection. We need to stress the importance of equitable distribution. More detail is needed, for example with watershed planning, to make this owned by all bureaus, not just BES. There is a need for green infrastructure throughout City projects, and we need to highlight the multiple objectives they serve. Access to parks needs to focus on funding gap and dependence on the City's general fund. Prioritizing park projects to make access more equitable (e.g. east Portland) is also needed. City needs to be a leader in the superfund objectives in the Plan, which can free up issues that have circulated around River projects in recent years. Climate change also needs more language in the Plan and should include landscape resiliency and flood plain objectives.
- James Paul Brown, Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods - procedural request. NECN needs more time for the volunteer org to review and comment on the Plan. Requested an extension of the comment period.
- Don MacGillivray, inner SE Portland resident - the public asked for Plan that is integrated and open. We have a concern with the compartmentalization of government and business because leveraging resources is equally important. The emphasis on equity is a great strength of the plan, as are the 3 integrated strategies. We all need to take appropriate time needed to make sure the Plan is comprehensive and thrives in a world of transition.

Additional Testimony Received (written)

- Chuck Martin, ED Sellwood Westmoreland Business Alliance
- Ross Swanson
- Jason Barnstead-Long
- Jay Bloom
- Alice Gustafson, Wilkes Community Group member
- SUN Service System Coordinating Council - letter dated November 8, 2011 with recommendations attachment
- Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods
- Don MacGillivray

Portland Plan

Action: Work Session

Eric Engstrom, Joe Zehnder

Commissioners had a discussion about themes heard tonight and that the PSC wants staff to focus on:

- Connecting initiatives and goals.
- Timing for providing testimony. The current schedule includes 2 more hearings (11/15 and 11/29) with a work session on 12/13. Public comments are due by 11/30. The Council process would begin with the new year, and BPS staff was targeting first quarter of 2012 to get to Council. The PSC can decide to extend this timeline, which can be an item at Thursday's officer briefing. We will announce any changes at the 11/15 hearing.

- Equity issue regarding the statement that urgency exacerbates privilege. If we are not careful in attaching urgency, we can worsen the equity issue rather than help it. We need to integrate goals and move everything forward together.
- The Youth testifiers raised good points, but we also contrast their statements with the written testimony about an aging population. We need to remember the spectrum of ages and articulate them in the Plan.
- Testimony offered by public asked for more detail in the Plan but people were not specific in their recommendations. How do we ensure that we're not only getting general messages but also specific recommendations for changes or improvements when people testify? The Plan needs to be as specific as possible in the 5-year actions and noted measures of success.
- Goal-based budgeting and budget choices will be necessary to achieve all the objectives of the Plan. Budgeting is not determined solely by equity... we need to look at both equity concerns and, for example, ecosystem health. Making connections in the Plan for OMF and the budget process will be important.
- Equity surfaces as the core impetus of the Plan - both as written and in testimony given. We need to make sure equity is broad and comprehensive, not narrowing to particular issues.
- Public has been generally positive about the Plan process.
- Neighborhood hubs - these become anchors of what we do around the city. What are the elements of these hubs? What can the City do to make them successful? These are tangible areas, but we need to define them clearly as we move forward.
- Equity tools can be a valuable way to filter projects/allocation of resources. The equity tools discussion will be available to all as a best practices set of research by the end of this year.
- Develop tools and spread into bureaus, budget process is a main piece, recommended action that BPS will be forming based on research that is already available. Similarly, BPS will work to take health info that's available (e.g. from County) to create a way to review how health is integrated in the Plan and actions.
- How will other bureaus besides BPS take a lead in allocating resources to help meet the Plan goals? As a City, how do we get to the work of making disparities decrease? This may be an issue/question of funding, people into positions of power, and needing all bureaus to be involved... partnerships are key to making the actions reality.
- Other City bureaus have been asked to submit written comments to staff; other partner agencies are working on their testimony and will provide at the upcoming meetings.
- Economic prosperity and the connection to equity - this was not heard about much. How do you get the HCC strategy aligned with education, income, and housing? These are connected to prosperity and economic health. What about vocational careers and investment strategies? We hope to hear more about this in coming meetings about what people would like to see.
- East Portland School District liaisons met with superintendents recently to discuss the full plan (not just the Thriving Educated Youth component). They will provide concerted testimony will be provided at the 11/15 meeting.

- Thank you to BPS staff on the draft Plan.
- Thank you to PSC members. BPS was the “glue” to bring together the comments we received, listen to PSC, take knowledge from TAG members, public, etc. The work will definitely not stop once the Plan is adopted. We will need the PSC advocacy to get business groups, neighborhood associations, partners, and bureaus to move the Plan towards the 5-year goals.

Adjourn

Chair Baugh adjourned the meeting at 7:56pm.