

Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

6:00-9:00pm

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Andre' Baugh, Karen Gray, Mike Houck, Gary Oxman, Howard Shapiro, Jill Sherman (arrived 6:15pm), Chris Smith, Irma Valdez

Commissioners Absent: Don Hanson, Lai-Lani Ovalles, Michelle Rudd

BPS Staff Present: Joe Zehnder, Chief Planner; Eric Engstrom, Principal Planner; Sallie Edmunds, Planning Manager; Marty Stockton, Community Outreach Representative; Julie Ocken, PSC Coordinator

Other City Staff Present: Ann Beier, Rick Bastach, BES; Kathleen Wadden, Parks

Chair Baugh called the meeting to order at 6:00pm and provided an overview of the agenda.

Items of Interest from Commissioners

Commissioner Houck: On February 2, 2-5pm, there is an Intertwine Alliance Summit at City Hall. Guests from Houston and Chicago will join us to strategize on a federal agenda to bring financial resources to fund trails, parks and other green infrastructure to our regions.

Director's Report

Joe Zehnder:

- The BPS Council budget work session slated for April 11 at 2:30pm.
- Aiming for hearing dates for Portland Plan at Council April 18 and April 25.

Consent Agenda

Consideration of Minutes

From 12/13/11 and 01/10/12 PSC meetings

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

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

(Y7 – Baugh, Gray, Houck, Oxman, Shapiro, Smith, Valdez)

Regular Agenda

Willamette River Recreation Strategy

Action: Briefing

Sallie Edmunds; Ann Beier Rick Bastasch, BES; Kathleen Wadden, Parks

Documents:

- Memo to PSC
- Willamette River Recreation Strategy Summary
- Draft Willamette River Recreation Strategy Document (November 2011)

Presentation:

- <http://www.portlandonline.com/bps/index.cfm?c=41664&a=383450>

Sallie Edmunds

We are updating the City's plan for the Willamette River in three sections, based on the geography of the river (North, Central and South reaches). The plan will include integrated, interdisciplinary recommendations that promote economic prosperity, watershed health, livable neighborhoods and enhanced access to the river. The previous Planning Commission recommended the River Plan/North Reach, as did Council, but the plan is now under appeal. The Central Reach is being worked on as part of the Central City 2035 Plan.

This Willamette River Strategy from OHWR and Parks focuses on boating facilities and environmentally conscious docks. That work will help input to the River Planning process.

Rick Bastasch, Ann Beier, Kathleen Wadden

The Big Pipe project is complete, and the river as clean as it's been in past 150 years.

The strategy:

- Articulates City's comprehensive vision for River recreation
- Documents recreation uses, trends and needs
- Zeros-in on public facilities
- Stresses importance of serving both recreational and environmental needs
- Focuses on priority projects and actions for next 15 years

There are public and private entities - the strategy focuses on public elements.

What helped shape the strategy:

- 2006 Water-based Recreation Report
- Consultations with Oregon State Marine Board and use of OSMB Triennial Boater Survey
- City of Portland River on-line surveys
 - 1,800 respondents
 - 2,500 comments
- 2 workshops

We need to serve all recreation options and facilities. Recreation and stewardship can work side-by-side. If the actions of the strategy are implemented, it will be a benefit for all who use the river.

The Vision of the strategy is a clean and healthy Willamette River being the pride of Portlanders who fish, paddle, sail, pleasure-boat, swim, experience nature and sightsee on its waters.

Goals of the strategy are to:

- Increase Portlanders' enjoyment of, and direct experience with, the Willamette River.
- Bring people closer to the river to foster an improved understanding of river history, economy, and ecology.
- Manage recreation in concert with other City priorities to secure a net improvement in river health
- Provide for safe, enjoyable, and valuable on-water recreational experiences for all users.

Portland's public river recreation infrastructure is aging and is not unified. The goal is to have a framework to guide City investment in maintenance, operations, or expansion; help manage river user conflicts; and track how Portlanders use, and want to use, the River.

Getting people to the river is important in Portland. Will be very careful with new in-water structures - making use of what we already have and planning just three new dock-related sites in the next 15 years, two of which are replacements. When we do build docks, we will be rigorous in citing and design, using latest info from natural resource agencies.

2006 Parks map shows limited geography for potential new sites, which is important for reviewing affordability and environmental impact.

It takes about one year to permit and \$100k to update. Permits (to dredge the river) are expensive. DEQ has a 12 month time frame for their review, so a new dock project should expect 18 months minimum - and a five year time frame for a dock is not unusual. It is critical for the public to know this.

At Willamette Park, there was dredging, but there was also some modification of design, so the downstream accretion of sediment led to a habitat benefit. There is an opportunity here in the design consideration of the strategy. The area downstream of Willamette Park where Park staff indicated there would be a dredging project is especially important shallow water, wetland and riparian habitat. *Commissioners Houck* noted he hopes the dredging will be restricted to the dock area only, and not downstream. He also suggested that future dock design be developed that might lead to creation of similar habitat elsewhere on the Willamette. He also indicated that he had thought that South Waterfront was to have a human powered craft dock, not one for motorized craft. Park staff confirmed that the dock, as currently proposed, would include motorized craft, but no access from land.

Commissioner Houck also asked that future dock plans consider cost/benefit and "radius of reach", meaning that motorized craft can get from point A to point B much more rapidly than human powered craft and that for the cost of a single multi-purpose dock several small, low impact docks for kayaks and canoes could be built.

Relating to the Portland Plan, the Willamette River Strategy coincides well with various objectives:

- 2035 Objective 7:...All Portlanders can conveniently get to the Willamette and Columbia Rivers
- Connections for people, places, water and wildlife—Policy: Locate Neighborhood Greenways to ... make connections to ... the Willamette and Columbia Rivers.
- 5-Year Action Plan 26: Neighborhood greenways : ... connect every quadrant of the city to the Willamette River.
- Coordinated Inter-agency Approach—Policy: Plan and invest in active transportation, parks and recreation, public infrastructure, watershed health ...

The project team is working with a variety of partners and will be forming a River Recreation Advisory Group with representation from the Oregon State Marine Board, Willamette River Water Trail, Multnomah County, the Port, Intertwine, and others.

The project is going to Council on February 22 for approval.

Another driver for the strategy was the conflict between motorized and non-motorized boaters. The Marine Board suggested that some projects could help keep these parties separate so we aren't starting out with conflict. Noise is a consideration we need to think about for people both on the river and on shore.

The plan needs a unifying framework to coalesce the work around the use of the river for recreation and maintenance to work effectively and efficiently. The advisory committee will help to keep this on track. Regarding maintenance, an asset management plan, which we have for other City infrastructure, will be helpful to know what the maintenance needs are. We have heard "fix what we have" as the main statement from recreators. This is a population the City hasn't engaged before, but we now have a constituency we didn't think we had before.

What is opposition/reasons people wouldn't want to pass the strategy?

- Perception of a “power grab” on a part of the City - and a misunderstanding that people may think of this as a duplication of the Marine Board (versus creating efficiencies, which is what the plan intends).
- Tension between motorized and non-motorized boating community - if one feels the other is getting more, it may bring up issues.
- Cost.

We see the facilities as a system, and that they are integrated in how they serve users. Most are in parks, which means the facility is serving marine users and park users. Having a systems approach to help point where we invest has been beneficial.

The plan should have stronger language to make sure OHWR is known as the lead/go-to and the place to bring conflicts. Outreach to community organizations is another component - they have funds, human capita and some can provide grants to help projects.

OHWR and Parks partnership has been growing and a benefit to this strategy. This partnership can continue to other bureaus to rebuild an integrated network to continue strong river planning.

Efforts to demonstrate healthful nature of the water could be added. The river is a place to have active recreation... a workout (e.g. dragon boaters, water skiers).

Commissioners praised the plan and thanked the project team.

Portland Plan: Public Participation Phase 3 Progress Report

Action: Hearing / Recommendation

Marty Stockton

Document:

- [Portland Plan Public Participation Phase 3 Progress Report](#)

20,000 Portlanders have been involved in outreach throughout the various phases of the Portland Plan. The Community Involvement Community (CIC) is the eyes and ears to watch-dog the public process. The PPAG, made up of community leaders and expert stakeholders, was set-up by the Mayor’s office to review content. 9 Technical Action Groups reviewed data in the background reports and have provided continued input.

Phase 3 (September 2010 - May 2011) had three major notable successes:

- **Equity/inclusion:** Diversity and Civic Leadership (DCL) partners were brought together in June 2010 and were very active in Phase 3. Staff worked with the partners to focus on public involvement that is culturally appropriate. There was a shift from workshops from phases 1 and 2 to community fairs in this phase, which proved to encourage higher participation from Latinos and Asian Portlanders. Other areas included continuing tabling at events and fairs, allowing the team to reach populations who we wouldn’t typically have reached. Staff gained experience on translating materials and learning what materials are key pieces to translate.
- **Business outreach:** we learned that outreach to this segment can’t be after-the-fact; they need to be included from the start. In Phase 3 we connected with large employers via 5 brown bag sessions, had one business workshop plus additional workshops with Venture Portland and NINA.
- **Social media and technology:** new technology continues to help us further outreach to Portlanders and beyond.

Areas for improvement from Phase 3

- Use of surveys as a tool to get input: 13 surveys have been used in the process of the Portland Plan. We need to make them more accessible for all Portlanders - including translating them as well.
- Work with community groups to design outreach is key. We learned this from the DCL partners, but it goes beyond to other communities.
- There is a continued struggle to do outreach with homeless and faith-based communities. This is a continued area for improvement.
- Analysis of timely public feedback is key: it's easy to report on raw data/comments, but how that feedback ties into future drafts and decisions is still something to work on.

Two sections of the report should be highlighted:

- Appendix B1 includes comments from the CIC regarding the challenge for City staff to communicate about all the moving parts in a complex process such as the Portland Plan.
- Appendix C1 from the DCL partners is a success story. Staff shared the report with DCL partners in October 2011, at which time they felt their evaluation of the public process was missing, so this is an addition to the originally-published report. It highlights (1) staff needs to continue to show that public feedback is in the work we take before them and (2) staff needs to talk about relationships we're forming via the outreach we've done. Their recommendation for a Phase 4 report is to have staff talk about growth and continued opportunities with key community partners.

Testimony

- Elizabeth Gatti - CIC member, speaking for herself, praised the quality of effort by BPS staff. She acknowledged that City planning takes place over time, over many administrations, different staff and with different community members. Staff has been gracious about getting input and everyone involved has grown through the process.

Written Testimony Received

- Jim Brown

PSC members reiterated their thanks for staff and the CIC to continue aiming higher. Regarding the disability community's complaint that some documents were not compatible with e-readers used by this community, staff noted this is a goal for going forward, especially with the draft going before Council. Design and graphics make the plan look professional, but to be readable it needs to be in Word or HTML format.

There have been great efforts on outreach, and there is pride in the intellectual and emotional attachment to the process, work and draft plan. Relationships are what will make the plan easier to implement once adopted.

Chair Baugh closed testimony.

Commissioner Shapiro moved to accept the report. *Commissioner Valdez* seconded.

Chair Baugh restated the motion, and the motion passed.

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

Portland Plan

Action: Work Session / Recommendation
Eric Engstrom

Document:

- Draft memo

Tonight's memo is structured around themes discussed and the sections of the plan document. This is an updated memo of the previous memos discussed at the PSC on December 13, 2011 and January 10, 2012.

Staff and commissioners discussed the memo's components and the direction to staff about updating the plan prior to sending it to Council for adoption.

Resiliency, Emergency and Hazard Planning - under (c), the work "mention" of climate adaptation will be changed to "integration" to stress the importance of adaptation for change.

East Portland - An index of East Portland projects will be included in the Implementation, Community Involvement and Local Actions section (point #10 in the memo). "Index" should be used to describe that section.

Thriving Educated Youth - for expanding the Youth Pass program, use the phrase "*sustaining and expanding*" the Youth Pass program.

Economic Prosperity and Affordability -

- Identify a lead agency to develop strategies for incenting the private sector to make private housing accessible... not just proportion of what the City funds, but all housing built. Also, identify an owner to oversee this initiative.
- Regarding the revision of housing policies and actions, the Portland Plan now works in conjunction with the Housing Bureau's new strategic plan objectives and goals. There is renewed commitment to 10-year plan. incorporated PHB strategic plan as a building block in draft that is being updated.

Health Connected City -

- Complete the sentence about what we wouldn't do to build sidewalks ("sidewalks will be given priority over...").
- The phrase "in lieu of expensive pipe upgrade" should be "as a complement to"

Implementation, Community Involvement and Local Actions -

- The Phase 3 Public Outreach report will be incorporated in the implementation chapter to provide ideas for mechanisms about how we move forward with plan and how entities are/become partners with actions.
- Staff has been tracking all comments received about the plan, and the main points are cataloged. Staff will be able to disclose the tracking of what we did with all comments after the draft is published. Aside from database, we eventually will present the process reporting that the CIC will help draft, which includes major elements of the plan that came from public ideas.
- Appendix B will be added at the end of the plan (Local Actions) that will include a description of some of the hub areas and metrics, but without the specific call-outs of actions for the subareas.

Final changes to the memo will be reviewed with *Chair Baugh*.

Commissioner Shapiro moved to direct staff to revise the Proposed Draft Portland Plan as outlined in the letter from Chair Andre' Baugh to Director Susan Anderson as discussed at tonight's meeting, and to recommend that City Council adopt the Proposed Draft Portland Plan, as revised by staff at our direction.

Commissioner Valdez seconded.

Chair Baugh restated the motion, and the motion passed.
(Y8 – Baugh, Gray, Houck, Oxman, Shapiro, Sherman, Smith, Valdez)

PSC members discussed the preparation of their transmittal letter to Council, the completion of which will be discussed with red line version of plan at the PSC on 02/28. The letter should stress this is a community document, not just from City staff and partners.

PSC is steward of the comments heard from the public, back to VisionPDX. The letter should emphasize this is the product of the citizens of Portland. These are difficult times for governments. In adopting the plan we need to be conscious of the current state, but this is a 25 year plan, and aspirations of the plan are equally important to the current issues.

The letter also should address items staff may think the public will bring forward at Council, for example how the plan will be used (not a wish-list, but to articulate as a strategic plan to prioritize projects, goal-based budgeting and fiscal prioritization).

This plan is a benchmark for how the city will grow, continue relationship-building and integrate the city. The letter needs to emphasize partnerships as necessary to implement the plan; participation is vital to make the plan work.

Adjourn

Chair Baugh adjourned the meeting at 7:48pm.