

Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission

Tuesday, October 8, 2013

12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Andre' Baugh, Karen Gray (arrived 12:48 p.m.), Mike Houck, Gary Oxman, Michelle Rudd, Katherine Schultz, Howard Shapiro, Chris Smith, Irma Valdez

Commissioners Absent: Lai-Lani Ovalles, Don Hanson

BPS Staff Present: Susan Anderson, Joe Zehnder, Eric Engstrom, Julie Ocken

Chair Baugh called the meeting to order at 12:31 p.m. and gave an overview of the agenda.

Items of Interest from Commissioners

- *Commissioner Shapiro* noted the vacancy of PSC members on the Community Involvement Committee. Hopes he can find someone to join him and ultimately replace him. Meetings are once a quarter, likely for the next 1.5 years.
- *Chair Baugh* reminded the Commissioners of the Work Session with City Council on Thursday, 2:30-4 p.m., about West Hayden Island.
- *Commissioner Houck* commented on the letters to the editor in *The Oregonian* about building height, compared to his traveling in Europe. In Paris, almost none of the buildings are above 8 feet high, so this makes a point that density can be achieved at this level too.

Director's Report

Susan Anderson

- For the West Hayden Island work session, Susan will do introductions and a brief overview; Eric will do brief presentation on key/controversial issues; *Chair Baugh* and Commissioners *Houck* and *Schultz* will each provide a few minutes/perspectives. The remainder of the session will be fielding questions from Council members. *Commissioner Houck* noted it is important to have all PSC members at the session.
- *Commissioner Hanson* has offered to be the PSC representative to the SE Quadrant SAC. This group will meet about 14 times over the next 18 months.
- Because we're doubling up on meetings this week, there will not be a 10/22 PSC mtg.

Joe Zehnder

- Joe provided an update about the LCDC hearing on the City's Economic Opportunity Analysis work. The LCDC hearing was brought about by an appeal filed by Schnitzer Steel. They unanimously denied objections and approved the EOA and factual basis, which is the base for the Comp Plan Update. Even while it accepted the City's work, LCDC expressed interest in Portland taking a close look accurately and thoroughly about having superfund presence on the redevelopment of the harbor.

Consent Agenda

- Consideration of Minutes from the September 24, 2013 PSC meeting.

Chair Baugh asked for any comments for the consent agenda. *Commissioner Valdez* moved to approve. *Commissioner Shapiro* seconded.

The Consent Agenda was approved with an *aye* vote.
(Y8 – Baugh, Houck, Oxman, Rudd, Schultz, Shapiro, Smith, Valdez)

Comprehensive Plan Update – Working Draft Part 2

Briefing: Eric Engstrom

Documents:

- [Working Draft Part 2](#)
- [Companion Guide](#)
- [Map App how-to guide](#)

Presentation: <http://efiles.portlandoregon.gov/webdrawer.dll/webdrawer/rec/6053882/>

Today's briefing includes an overview of the Comp Plan Update Part 2 deliverables and directions and a hands-on exploration of the online tool, the [Map App](#).

Growth and major investments are the focus of the Comp Plan. Last time the Comp Plan was updated most of East Portland was not yet annexed into the city; the diversity of Portland community was much smaller.

12 measures of success from Portland Plan are the “goal posts” of the Comp Plan.

Comp Plan main components include:

1. Urban Design Framework (illustrate intended growth structure; like Metro 2040 map)
2. Land Use Map
3. Goals and Policies (Part 1)
4. Citywide Systems Plan (CSP; released with this Part 2)
5. Transportation Systems Plan (sub-set of the CSP – placeholders are in the draft CSP right now)

In Spring 2014, staff will introduce a proposed draft, and the PSC will have a public hearing before making their recommendation to City Council.

Eric demonstrated the [Map App](#).

The water, sewer, parks and transportation layers are within the CSP. Existing and a starting point for the conversation about what the recommended draft will include. E.g. transportation doesn't include all high-capacity transit that we may include as projects for the future.

Natural resources projects are in the sewer/stormwater infrastructure list. Urban habitat (natural areas) and greenways (people-oriented) layers are distinct.

The background layers give information from the Portland Plan background reports. They can be used to see how discussion layers relate to the underlying data maps.

The Working Maps tab is a set that includes a collection of layers turned on at the same time. The Land Use Requests map includes items the public has asked for/about, but these have not yet been vetted by staff.

A key innovation of this app is the public comment feature. You can turn this on and see virtual pins on the map, circles and lines highlighting where people have added comments, and individuals can attach their own comments. Comments are unedited and will be left viewable to all until the map gets crowded with comments; staff may have to clean the map if gets too crowded. Ultimately, all comments will be reviewed by staff.

Susan noted that we didn't hire a consultant to create this. BPS' GIS staff and interns created it all.

The 5 Key Directions we are hoping to portray in the map (as described in the Companion Guide) are:

1. Create Healthy Connected Neighborhoods by growing in centers and corridors
2. Provide Land and Infrastructure for Development
3. Connect Habitats and Building Green Infrastructure
4. Make Strategic Investments
5. Prepare for Climate Change, Earthquakes, and Other Natural Hazards

Strategies for Industrial Job Growth

1. Add new industrial areas
2. Intensify development and uses in existing industrial areas
3. Multimodal freight transportation
4. Re-invest in brownfields
5. Increase employment land in East Portland
6. Balance persistent land use conflicts

Strategies to maintain and improved environmental health and quality

1. Protect, enhance and expand Urban Habitat Corridors and Areas
2. Build City Greenways
3. Manage stormwater with natural and built green infrastructure

These are not new policies, but they haven't yet been integrated into the current Comp Plan.

Infrastructure core concerns

- System maintenance
- System deficiencies
- Future needs

Strategies to reduce infrastructure disparities and improve equity

1. Make infrastructure investments to fill gaps in services
2. Grow in areas that have high levels of service
3. View infrastructure investment decisions through an equity lens

There is an overlap of high need and high growth, which is likely a starting point.

Strategies to improve resiliency

1. Encourage growth in lower-risk areas
2. Protect and improve the city's green infrastructure
3. Invest in infrastructure to reduce risks
 - critical infrastructure
 - backup systems
 - complete neighborhoods

The timeline for the Comp Plan Update is expected to be:

- Comments on Working Draft Part 2 – December 31, 2013
- Proposed Draft – Spring 2014
- Planning and Sustainability Commission
- Recommended Draft – Summer 2014
- City Council
- Adopted Plan – Fall 2014

There is no proposed Comp Plan map yet, but all the seeds of issues are included in the layers of the Map App.

Discussion

Commissioner Houck commented on the tool and how great it looks. At some point it seems like we should have a session about the balancing of natural resources and industrial land. We are in a situation where we're talking about rezoning to accommodate industrial need (e.g. golf courses), but what happens the next time around when we don't have capacity for industrial land in the city? This is a huge issue related to our land use planning program.

Commissioner Gray thanked Eric for his explanation. She is curious how this app will be used as a tool for budgeting for the City, especially when looking at vulnerable populations and needs. How will the tool help provide equity across Portland?

- Data in the tool has been vetted in the budget process to continue to embed through the Portland Plan in the annual budget process.
- Susan has been talking with the City Budget Officer and will be meeting with Mayor about how to use the Portland Plan 12 measures of success to budget for the upcoming years. Equity mapping will continue to be used – where infrastructure is and where investments could go in the future.
- Not all budget line-items have a geography, so we are still working through the protocol on this.

Commissioner Houck likes the “investments through and equity lens” language. Decisions need to be made on ecological issues (for example) that aren't geographically-based, so this is an important concept to keep in mind.

Commissioner Smith is a City budget adviser. So far, budgeting has only through neighborhood coalition areas; it's not as granular as this or as it should be. It is challenging because the budget line items are not necessarily geographic.

Chair Baugh notes that it is important to do some mapping and see where investments are going and tie those to the 12 measures. If we're not addressing the measures over time, they aren't the right measures, and/or we aren't making the right investments. Those measures should be getting better for people, and we should be able to measure it.

Susan: These are external measures, and there need to be internal measures (e.g. cost effectiveness) about how we do our business. The 12 measures could be expanded but hopefully not to too many since we brought the numbers down from 100s to these 12.

Commissioner Rudd: If you rezoned a golf course, creating family-wage jobs in the process, you've done investments/infrastructure work, but the geography of the expense isn't necessarily in the geography of the benefit.

Commissioner Valdez noted it is critical to have a vibrant downtown core. This makes some people upset because investments are diverted from other areas of the city. There is a balance of a vibrant heart of the city so people want to come to Portland without neglecting other areas of need. There will be opportunities throughout the city, and the PSC should be thinking about what may make neighborhood-changing decisions.

We are likely seeing 2 key issues for the PSC when reviewing the Comp Plan:

- Industrial versus environmental land need/use.
- Where do you put limited resources when there is a need in many parts of the city, for certain populations, while at the same time those places may not be where we are expecting population growth.

Commissioner Smith noted that most PSC members live in the lower right-hand quadrant areas of the chart on slide 18 of the presentation. *Commissioner Shapiro* noted that working for the common good of the city is most important... e.g. based on this slide, we should be investing in Gateway.

Chair Baugh: We have the issue of limited resources. Strategies from the Comp Plan will set the tone about where investments will go. There may be an investment in one location but the idea is to get people from other areas to work there. I'm not sure how we get to that, but we have to think about the complexity of investments and fairness.

Commissioner Gray asked Susan about the Housing Strategy presentation from the last PSC meeting. There was a semantic issue of "opportunity" versus "amenity". Were there any plans to try to correct this issue?

- We decided to leave it alone at this point because it's been out in the public and has been broadly understood.

This is unfortunate. The message that opportunities are low in East Portland is not right in my opinion.

- *Chair Baugh* is meeting with PHB staff to talk about this question and the housing strategy.

Adjourn

Chair Baugh adjourned the meeting at 1:38 p.m.