Event: Community Needs Meeting
Date: November 15, 2018
Time: 5:45 PM – 7:45 PM
Location: New Song Community Center
Facilitators: Kim McCarty, JoAnn Gillmer, Jessica Conner, Dyvisha Gordon, Maxine Fitzpatrick
Participants: (20 Total)

Summary

Each year the Portland Consortium of the City of Portland, City of Gresham and Multnomah County hold community meetings to hear about community housing, economic development and social service needs. Three hearings were planned. The hearing in Spanish was cancelled due to no RSVP's. Approximately twenty people attended the November 15th meeting and approximately twenty people attended the Gresham and Multnomah County hearing. Below is a summary of the discussions had November 15, 2018 at New Song Community Center. Summary of the joint Multnomah County and City of Gresham meeting held November 13th at the Gresham Library is summarized separately.

Attendees participated in small group discussions to share their experiences in the community with City and County staff.   Facilitators asked a series of questions to gather input and prioritize community needs regarding community, housing, infrastructure, economic opportunity and other services. While attendees shared their ideas and experiences, facilitators took notes to accurately record and summarize the groups' discussions. Following the discussion each participant was given three stickers to add to their group's notes to vote for items they felt were the highest priorities. Overall 20 attendees participated in voting with a total of 55 votes. Asterix (*) indicates a priority "dot". (x2, x3, etc.) indicate item mentioned repeatedly within same question/session.

Participants emphasized housing needs as the highest priority in every group and in relation to every discussion topic. For Gresham and East Multnomah County the community offered similar feedback. Staff responses to key concerns will be summarized in the FY 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan.

Question 1- Community Experience: *What changes did you see in your city and/or neighborhood that contribute to a positive community experience? What changes did you see in your city and/or neighborhood that contribute to a negative community experience?*

> Question 1-Response Summary: The bus system in Portland is helpful, and social service providers such as Outside In and college assistance programs are effective. However, some of the positive changes and gentrification are leading to the displacement issues. Even established social service providers are not resourced to overcome the income and price problems caused by gentrification. Because of rising rents, participants noted less diversity, and loss of neighborhood/cultural identity. In some area's participants are experiencing over policing, and in other communities, a failure of response by the police. Gentrification was also identified as the reason for increased homelessness and litter.

Question 2- Community Services Needed: *Are community services in your city and/or neighborhood adequate? If not, what is missing? (Community services can include: recreation activities, social services, parks programs, etc.)*

Question 2 - Response Summary: Participants identified regulated affordable housing, targeted to 0-30% MFI households as the most important social service, followed by shelter for the homeless. Other identified needs included late-night shelters, short term rent assistance, and emergency mental health. Participants felt that if people who are homeless, are not offered shelter, bathroom facilities and trash pickup, then the community will experience more public health issues from trash and human waste. Service is also lacking for low-income homeowners. Participants believe low-income homeowners cannot afford the trash service and are dumping in the neighborhood.

Question 3- Economic Opportunity: *What economic development activities would you like to see in your city and/or neighborhood? (Economic development can include: job training, job creation, micro-enterprise projects, improvements to business store fronts, etc.)*

Question 3- Response Summary**:** Helping people become homeowners and helping current homeowners remain homeowners were considered central to economic opportunity. The discussion regarding economic opportunity centered on the elderly. People are living longer and working in their senior years because their retirement income is not enough. Issues of property taxes, public official accountability, access to education and training, business grants and sustainable incomes were identified as key means to prevent housing instability for elders.

Question 4- Infrastructure Improvements: *What infrastructure improvement projects do you think are needed in your community? (Infrastructure improvements include: more lighting, street improvements, sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, park projects, etc.)*

Question 4- Response Summary: Participants disproportionate barriers to transportation based on income because of the cost of fares and race because low-income people and People of Color are disproportionately targeted for infractions and those infractions are over criminalized. Solutions suggested included "gate fares." Although bikes are an affordable means of transportation, participants note that bikes will be underutilized until the road infrastructure is made physically safe and discrimination safe for the most vulnerable bicyclist.

Question 5- Barriers to Housing & Housing Discrimination: *Do you know of anyone who has experienced barriers to housing choice or housing discrimination? How does this impact the community as a whole?*

Question 5- Response Summary: Housing discrimination was identified as a cause of housing instability, especially in the private housing market. It appears that most regulated affordable housing is being built for households at 60 -80 MFI and not for the 0-30 % MFI households that are most in need. Tiny homes and rent control were suggested solutions. Gresham Participants shared their experiences with unfair treatment from landlords and emphasized the need for advocacy and communication with landlords and property management. Discussions called attention to senior citizen's housing needs and their increased vulnerability due to rising rents and property taxes. Seniors are often on fixed incomes and cannot afford drastic increases in their expenses. Many programs to prevent homelessness are only available to families with children.

11.15.19 Portland Need Hearing Notes. Asterix (*) indicates a priority "dot".
(x2, x3, etc.) indicate item mentioned repeatedly within same question/session

Question 1- Community Experience: *What changes did you see in your city and/or neighborhood that contribute to a positive community experience? What changes did you see in your city and/or neighborhood that contribute to a negative community experience?*

Question 1 notes: Changes, positive and negative
Positive:
> Green spaces,
> Parks
> Community Centers
> *Bus system
> Road "diets"
> *Outside-In services
> Increased transit access allows access to housing
> CCC project @ 122nd
> CCC project w/partnering for hospice care for homeless
> PEAR program
> Services to house people (however, issues with ability to retain housing because of cost).
> Peer support method for mental health
> *College programs through some sources
> Recognition that housing is an issue (however, many of the same policies)
> Parkrose drainage ditches 122nd helps run-off
> Piedmont more high-density housing
> City Hall Leadership change, listening to workers
> Affordable housing looks good, blends in
> Mixed use and commercial space
> Wonderful parks and rec

Negative
> *Less policing
> More homeless (x4)
> More drug activity (X2)
> Dealers (drug?)
> Negative reputation (Rockwood)
> **Gentrification (draining of diversity, loss of neighborhood/cultural identity)
> Structure of new housing designed for young (less ADA access)
> (People feel) Trapped in circumstances

Question 1: Changes, positive and negative, continued (negative)
Negative
> Not enough parking
> Lack of jobs
> Shelters are unsafe for youth
> Applying for housing takes a very long time
> *Rents too high (Rockwood)
> Rent increases

Poor landlords
Section 8 vouchers too limited
Lack of (regulated?) affordable housing/wait lists too long (x2)
Age-out limit at shelters
Lack of NOAH
What affordable means (too much of income to rent)
Being told can't hand out food to people on the street
Discrimination against people w/disabilities
Portland crowded
More noise
Homeless affects (effects?) infrastructure and health (clutter, dirt, no place to help people w/hygiene)
(need to?) Make places to help people clean up like Seattle
*Wapato empty
Lack of public toilets
Few businesses of color have access to new space (i.e. Alberta Commons do not have people of color businesses)
Maintenance of streets
*Lack of streets, sidewalks (Cully)
Lack of accessible access
City hall will not help homeowners pay for sidewalks.

Question 2- Community Services Needed: *Are community services in your city and/or neighborhood adequate? If not, what is missing? (Community services can include: recreation activities, social services, parks programs, etc.)*

Place for laundry, health, shower, TPI shelter
*Public toilets
(providers) lack money
(providers) lack competency in deliverables
Nonprofit orgs to do advertise services well, ways to navigate services
The booklet (?) is out of date or not available
Lack of resources is intentional
Lines too long, by appointment only
*Places to put garage and human waste
*Most of the trash if from low income residents because people cannot afford trash (service) so they dump (trash) next to camps
*Elderly cannot afford to transport or hire waste disposal or cannot lift it
Service to pick up large items
Preference Policy should have recruited clients and in the hand of culturally specific agencies

Question 2: (Services) continued

******** Want more affordable housing (as regulated)
**Project-based 0-30% units
*Community engagement
***Resources for housing homeless. Currently revolving cycle, limited service providers

*Short term rental assistance
**Emergency mental health services
**Late night shelters
Shelters (general)
PHB seems to not trust partners, and organizations.
Parks underdeveloped
Community service center
 (need) Child welfare center, parenting resources, community connection
Access to information of what resources exist
No place for people to hang
Health and safety programs
More affordable childcare
Help to avoid eviction, home retention
Crisis responders
Case managers
New models need to respond to this issue
Permanent Supportive Housing
Better bedding, showers

Question 3- Economic Opportunity: *What economic development activities would you like to see in your city and/or neighborhood? (Economic development can include: job training, job creation, micro-enterprise projects, improvements to business store fronts, etc.)*

*Business need grants and loans
Store front grants help community
*Improve job training by working w/High Schools and colleges
Short- and long-term training to bridge skill gap i.e. housing construction, vocational tech
**Older people live longer and need new careers, cannot afford to retire
Taxes will price out older people i.e. the Bond may impact the ability of older homeowners to retain their housing if over taxed
The Bond may not help low income
Target area job (Enterprise Zones)
*We do not need an Art Tax
Tax reform
*Grocery stores, access to healthy foods
Job training, help develop people formerly incarcerated and young people
Vocational training
**Homeownership Opportunity
Housing outside market rate
***Holding our legislators accountable for their inactions
Youth employment and job training opportunities
Free college w/less restrictions, maybe income based, maybe for focused areas beneficial to the City
Year-round summer works
Lower savings cap for Medicaid
Low income small business loans

Better dissemination (of information) about programs/opportunities that currently exist
Financial assistance, 1st time home buyers
Matched savings account through employers
****Universal income

Question 4- Infrastructure Improvements: *What infrastructure improvement projects do you think are needed in your community? (Infrastructure improvements include: more lighting, street improvements, sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, park projects, etc.)*

Street improvements-potholes
More pedestrian crossings signaled
All pedestrian signal crossings-Powell
Separate, buffered bike lane between traffic and sidewalk
Sidewalks in East Portland
More bathrooms in parks, bathrooms open year-round
Are there enough parks in high density areas or East Portland?
*Add Max station gate fares
Traffic is bad, gridlock due to too many people
Put two lanes back on Williams
*Conflict bikes and car safety
Make downtown foot traffic
Bicycle
    Get a license
    Improve safety and training
    Be aware of affordability
Remove mid-street crosswalks (MLK)
Lighting, street improvements (all listed in the question)
Garbage,
Hire people who want to clean streets
Public bathrooms
Traffic flow, connectiveness for foot and bike traffic
Curbs and sidewalks
Equitable infrastructure

Question 5- Barriers to Housing & Housing Discrimination: *Do you know of anyone who has experienced barriers to housing choice or housing discrimination? How does this impact the community as a whole?*

Economic barrier, disabled, fixed income, source of income
Will face discrimination because of fixed income if he wants to live in new building
Fair Housing Barriers for the following groups:
- Sexual Orientation (LGBTQ+)
- Age
- Race (x3)

- Disability (x3)

Nowhere to go, not protected, not engaged

**Housing instability, multiple moves

Question 5: (Discrimination) continued

Families doubled up, people couch surfing creates stress
Transportation becomes problematic
Youth must travel longer distances to get to school
People w/disability have limited choices
People with a criminal record
*Private landlord discrimination
Leads to poor relations between individuals and property manager
Need property tax relief for certain incomes
Tax debt can affect what heirs inherit
We need a definition of affordable
Define low income and living wage
Need to allow for Incomes rising in place
Keep at 30% throughout tenancy, give more time to get stable (over 2 yrs.)
Priced out middle-income households
Displacement breaks up community
***Affordable Housing is not affordable
Research who has done gentrification well
Rent control housing
Parking proportional to housing units
Parking units are expensive
Need to partner w/landlord for solutions
Do not demonize landlords or renters
City landlord training helped
*Build affordable tiny homes, Eugene example Square One villages

Additional Comments:

Comment from a resident of the Portland Cully neighborhood. Research housing model of Square One Villages in Eugene. Consist of Emerald Village, Opportunity Village. It is self-funding, requires no government funding. Residents pay $300 per unit, with no time limit. Portland does not have anything quite like it. Building/land code may need to be adjusted for this model. For Affordable Housing; Build high quality tiny homes. Not for everyone but enough of them would alleviate some of the burden. Way under $40,000 per unit. For homeless services, provide sustainable and affordable tiny homes that can be created over and over.

Affordable housing is not so affordable for many low-income citizens.
Make use of WAPATO for housing for homeless. It will also create jobs. No Arts Tax. More responsible bicyclists through bike regulation.

Summary of Community Priorities

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Votes	Topic- question #
8	******** Want more affordable housing (as regulated)-2
4	****Universal income-3
3	***Affordable Housing is not affordable-5
3	***Holding our legislators accountable for their inactions-3
3	***Resources for housing homeless. Currently revolving cycle, limited service providers
2	**Emergency mental health services-2
2	**Gentrification (draining of diversity, loss of neighborhood/cultural identity)-1
2	**Homeownership Opportunity-3
2	**Housing instability, multiple moves-5
2	**Late night shelters-2
2	**Older people live longer and need new careers, cannot afford to retire-3
2	**Project-based 0-30% units-2
1	*Add Max station gate fares-4
1	*Build affordable tiny homes, Eugene example Square One villages -5
1	*Bus system-1
1	*Business need grants and loans-3
1	*College programs through some sources-1
1	*Community engagement-2
1	*Conflict bikes and car safety-4
1	*Elderly cannot afford to transport or hire waste disposal or cannot lift it-2
1	*Grocery stores, access to healthy foods-3
1	*Improve job training by working w/High Schools and colleges-3
1	*Lack of streets, sidewalks (Cully)-1
1	*Less policing-1
1	*Most of the trash if from low income residents because people cannot afford trash (service) so they dump (trash) next to camps-2
1	*Outside-In services-1
1	*Places to put garage and human waste-2
1	*Private landlord discrimination-5
1	*Public toilets-2
1	*Rents too high (Rockwood)-1
1	*Short term rental assistance-2
1	*Wapato empty-1
1	*We do not need an Art Tax-3
1	Store front grants help community-3