

Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission

July 26, 2022

5:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

PSC Commissioners Present: Katie Larsell, Oriana Magnera, Valeria McWilliams, Steph Routh, Gabe Sheoships, Eli Spevak, Erica Thompson; 1 open position

PSC Commissioners Absent: Jeff Bachrach, Johnell Bell, Jessica Gittemeier

City Staff Presenting: Patricia Diefenderfer, Bill Cunningham, Héctor Rodriguez Ruiz; Bryan Poole (PBOT)

Guest Presenters: Leah Maurer, JR Lilly, Annette Stanhope

Documents and Presentations for today's meeting

Chair Routh called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

Chair Routh: In keeping with the Oregon Public Meetings law, Statutory land use hearing requirements, and Title 33 of the Portland City Code, the Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission is holding hybrid meetings, which provides for both virtual and in-person attendance for Commissioners, staff, and the public.

- Members of the PSC will elect to attend in person or remotely by video and teleconference.
- The public may watch the live stream or attend in person in the Commission room at 1900 SW 4th Ave, Suite 2500.
- Public testimony for projects that have a hearing at the PSC will be taken both in person and by electronic means.
- The PSC is taking these steps as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the continued need to limit in-person contact and promote physical distancing when warranted. The pandemic is an emergency that threatens the public's health, safety, and welfare.
- Thank you all for your patience, humor, flexibility and understanding as we navigate this situation to do the City's business.

Items of Interest from Commissioners

- *Commissioner Spevak* noted that the Earl Blumenauer bridge opens on Sunday! We had a debate years ago about 7th or 9th being the bike route... but now this will be connected as a pass-way on Sunday.
- *Chair Routh* noted the heat wave, and climate change is real and present. We are working to address and mitigate that.
- *PSC members* confirmed the West Portland Town Center Plan recommendation letter.

Director's Report

Patricia Diefenderfer

- Council dates and updates: Last Wednesday, BPS had a couple big items at City Council including the Climate Emergency Workplan and the PCEF second round of grantees. The next hearing for CEW will be on August 24, and the Fossil Fuels Terminal Zoning work returns that same date as well.
- The August 9 PSC meeting will be canceled but working groups will start in on the recommendations report. More details will be sent to PSC members soon.

Consent Agenda

- Consideration of Minutes from the June 28, 2022 PSC meeting.

Commissioner Thompson moved to approve the Consent Agenda. *Commissioner Larsell* seconded.

The consent agenda passed.

(Y8 – Larsell, Magnera, McWilliams, Routh, Sheoships, Spevak, Thompson)

Parkrose Community Plan

Briefing: Bill Cunningham, Héctor Rodríguez Ruiz; Bryan Poole (PBOT); Leah Maurer, JR Lilly, Annette Stanhope

Presentation

Patricia provided opening remarks: We are happy to share the Plan, created by the Parkrose community with City staff. This plan is unlike many of our City plans – it is a community-adopted plan, with an interesting genesis. The focus is more about memorializing issues and concerns and aspirations of the community. It is something the community can use to advocate around in the future.

Bill introduced the project and team. Hector Rodríguez Ruiz is here from BPS, and he was with ODOT when the project started. Today is to share the Parkrose Community Plan, where BPS and PBOT worked to pull the community together, identify actions needed to address the issues the community is most concerned about. This is not about zoning or maps – there are more pressing opportunities that will be highlighted today, but of course it does relate to equitable community development.

This is a community plan with support of City staff. It was an effort that received major state Transportation and Growth Management (TGM) grants, as Sandy Blvd is a state highway but also a community street. There has been a huge amount of displacement in the area. What we did was to go beyond looking at transportation but leveraged that to focus on a broader range of community issues. It was also an effort to integrate equity into our planning efforts and center on BIPOC voices. Implementers are not primarily City agencies – businesses, community colleges, school districts.

This is a community-led effort to address Parkrose issues including:

- Housing affordability and displacement
- Access to jobs
- Small business opportunities

- Transportation safety
- Community spaces and access to nature
- Emergency preparedness

Bill introduced Héctor, who was the ODOT administrator when the plan started originally. Héctor introduced himself and his work – as the East Portland District Planner now with BPS. It’s good to see the beginning and the end from my different perspectives. Bringing equity to the forefront, and community engagement as the main guideline, is the key part of this plan. It will serve as a tool for the community to advocate for itself and for local jurisdictions to prioritize community needs.

Bill highlighted the geography of the area – I205, 122nd, I5, Columbia River are the main boundaries. Half of the land area in employment/industrial zoning, the Parkrose Neighborhood Center, and Rossi Farms. There are about 4,000 people living in the area and 8,000 jobs... so connecting people who live there with the living-wage jobs is a piece of this work.

Bill introduced the community members (Historic Parkrose) presenting tonight:

- Annette Stanhope
- Leah Maurer
- JR Lilly

Annette highlighted the importance of community topics and center the importance of BIPOC voices in the process. It started with Parkrose youth, then discussions with people of color, then public open houses. These opportunities provided time for community input and making recommendations on implementing actions. The open houses included 2 dates this year and online surveys to capture input. There were community decision teams that were convened to look at the recommended actions to make final decisions about what to include in the plan. There was a separate Sandy Blvd safety group as well.

Leah and JR highlighted issues, objectives, and actions related to each of the areas of the plan:

- Affordable housing and displacement (slides 6-8)
- Jobs (slides 9-11)
- Home-based and small businesses (slides 12-14)
- Sandy Blvd safety (slides 15-17)
- Neighborhood transportation needs (slides 18-20)
- Community spaces and access to nature (slides 21-23)
- Emergency preparedness (slides 24-26)

What do we do next? The first thing is to look at what’s already in the works and build on those.

Next steps include:

- (Annette) Historic Parkrose / Community
 - Historic Parkrose initiatives
 - Community advocacy and partnerships
- (Bill) City / Government Agencies
 - Early implementation actions
 - TriMet’s Better Red project

- Guidance for future City projects, such as transportation projects when funding becomes available
- Lessons for community engagement, partnerships

View the Plan at <https://historicparkrose.com/community-initiatives/community-plan>. The plan is translated into 6 languages, which is a bit more extensive than our usual translation. The artwork in the Plan was done by Parkrose High School students too.

Discussion

Commissioner Larsell: I live very near this neighborhood, so this work is close to my heart. One of the things I really appreciate is how the Plan thinks about the slough. I have thought about this for years and have hoped there could be trails or other ways to use this area. The emphasis on jobs and economic development is something I think could really be taken further. For many of the items in the plan, there are City bureaus that could take the list and start implementing it (e.g. transportation). When it comes to something about jobs, there is more than one actor, so I would love to see something more done to push this forward with the help of government actors as well – so the community ends up with something after all the work they’ve put in.

- Bill: We are planning to meet with City commissioners to talk about next steps and possibilities, even though there isn’t a legislative action here. a range of City bureaus (Parks, Housing, PBOT) were in the conversation as well.
- Patricia: A plan like this has a lot of value in terms of the community’s aspirations. It allows the City to understand priorities and inform our priorities as, for example, grant become available. With these partners, the City is interested to implement the Plan over time and elevate it as components of it can be.

Commissioner Sheoships: Thank you for this report and for sharing it. There’s lots of work that went into this, and this is an important story of community voice. I appreciate that the community is identifying issues we see throughout the city – access to greenspaces, affordable housing, jobs, etc. I really like the suggestions around how to fix some of the issues and exploring things such as a TIF district to fund some of the work. Thank you for this work. I have seen Parkrose change quite a bit over time, and as we look to support development but also think about gentrification and displacement as things evolve.

Commissioner Spevak: I live in Cully and am on Sandy Blvd frequently (this is a state-owned road). From affordable housing perspective, we have lots of opportunities for multi-family dwelling and opportunity for affordable housing. The LDS church is selling a large parcel nearby, so I imagine there are opportunities for purchasing land and building affordable housing here.

Commissioner Thompson: Thank you for this informative presentation – it was great to hear from so many voices. I live about 2 blocks from 80th and Sandy. I am curious about the perception of some of the new crossings in terms of safety (the ones that don’t have lights) or if this is helping.

- Bill: When we’re talking about new pedestrian crossings, they would include a signal to create safer crossings.
- Bryan: We do have new standards (both the state and the City) on 5-lane roads, where we would be putting in some sort of beacons or a full controlled stop for pedestrians. ODOT has slightly different standards, but at least it would make it more apparent for drivers and create safer crossings for pedestrians.

Annette: In terms of multi-family housing, we have lots of rentals in Parkrose, and as the housing market has heated up, some of these have gone up for sale.

Chair Routh: I grew up in Parkrose, so I have lots of history with the area as well. Access to the slough is a solvable problem, and I'm excited to see what can happen with it in this work. I wanted to ask about the current disposition of the Rossi Farms development is and what would the pathway potentially be for Sandy to become a civic passway? Is jurisdictional transfer an option here?

- Bryan: We have had preliminary discussions about jurisdictional transfer, though this section of Sandy isn't necessarily a top priority. ODOT has a new blueprint for urban design, which we hope will improve corridors like this to make them more responsive to the character of roads in urban contexts even in advance of a jurisdictional transfer. At Rossi, we heard they are looking at finding a design/consultant team with the development, but I haven't heard anything in the last few months.

Commissioner Larsell: The emphasis on housing is really important – so thank you for looking into this in the plan too.

Commissioner Thompson: Thank you for all the effort that has gone into thinking of and working on this. The actions touch every bureau, and when the bureaus come to us with things relative to this area, the ability to look at what the community has said directly, separate from a bureau-led process, is invaluable.

Commissioner Spevak: The Plan calls to work with the community land trust – Proud Ground could be a good connection, so I encourage you to reach out to them.

Chair Routh: Thank you for all your work and for being part of this. I also appreciate you've shared this work and your time with us this evening. We would be happy to hear how we can continue to advance this Plan.

Adjourn

Chair Routh adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Submitted by Julie Ocken