

Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

5:30-9:00pm

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Andre' Baugh, Karen Gray, Don Hanson (arrived 6:12pm), Mike Houck, Gary Oxman (arrived 5:50pm), Lai-Lani Ovalles, Michelle Rudd, Howard Shapiro, Jill Sherman (arrived 5:55pm), Chris Smith, Irma Valdez

BPS Staff Present: Susan Anderson, Director; Joe Zehnder, Chief Planner; Eric Engstrom, Principal Planner; Julie Ocken, PSC Coordinator

Chair Baugh called the meeting to order at 5:40pm and provided an overview of the agenda.

Commissioner Gray welcomed the community to Parkrose High School. The flags in the room tonight represent the countries where students at Parkrose are from - about 40 countries.

Regular Agenda

Portland Plan

Action: Hearing

Joe Zehnder

Documents:

- Portland Plan Proposed Draft - October 2011
- Neighborhood Associations & 20-Minute Analysis Areas Map
- Staff Memo: Transmittal of Comments Received: November 4 through November 12, 2011 and Presentation and Discussion Schedule

Presentation:

Joe Zehnder presented an overview of the Plan.

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. Reducing disparities and becoming a more equitable city is the heart of each strategy.

This is a strategic plan, seeking to achieve resiliency and be nimble. This is the time to act in a smarter way and plan for the future. It includes short-term actions that will be updated and moved forward. The Plan provides a framework for the long-term with opportunity to look at opportunities as they arise.

The Plan is a plan for people. "What do Portlanders need?" was the initial question, followed by "How to get there".

The process has been a two-way dialogue between partners, the City, and the public about what we want to accomplish. Partnerships have been key in the process and will be the driver of change. This is not just City or public-sector action. There are shared priorities and actions

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

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.

The elements of the Plan include:

- 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 and works to reduce disparities.
- 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.
- Why the focus on equity? Prosperity that we want depends on reducing disparities. We can't achieve overall prosperity if groups are left behind. Need to be a city that can adapt to change. Helps prevent costly problems by being proactive in addressing equity.
- 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 each include: goals & objectives; guiding policies; 5-year action plans
 - Strategy #1: Thriving Educated Youth - focuses on the success of youth, preschool through 25 years.
 - Strategy #2: Economic Prosperity and Affordability - has an emphasis on business growth coupled with household economic success and prosperity.
 - Strategy #3: Healthy Connected City - with an overall goal to 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; and
 - note where we are today with a link to where the Plan says we want to get to in 2035.
- The Plan is also broken down into "local scorecards" to see how the indicators are varied throughout the city. This shows how the Plan needs to be tailored to the different areas of the city, based on different needs in different areas.
- Plan implementation includes 5 key items:

- Partnerships - 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.

Testimony

- Don Grotting, David Douglas School District Superintendent - spoke on behalf of the school districts in east Portland. The draft is comprehensive, but it needs some clarifications and additions regarding: high-density housing and low-income housing being distributed equitably across the city; allocating resources to school districts and neighborhoods with the greatest needs; working with not only the Cradle to Career initiative but also working with All Hands Raised Foundation; and SUN community school development in East Portland. The Portland Plan should be a guiding vision that is monitored and adjusted to assure success.
- Annette Mattson - the Plan's focus on equity is right; we must not let the words just sit on the shelf. The result of current policy has been the creation of high poverty neighborhoods, high poverty schools, high poverty school districts, and a disproportionate loss of property value in some areas. Specifics are included in the written testimony, including a request for an additional mention of the diversity of the city's children. Kids are not across the board white and middle class as the majority of those in power are today.
East Portland in Motion Plan is a good start and on the right track.
- Max Denning, Parkrose High School student - recently elected as the Portland metro representative to the Oregon Student Executive Council. There is currently a lack of youth involvement in planning. The Plan needs to empower them to have a voice - which can make it more likely that this and future plans take effect. There needs to be more promotion and opportunities in high schools to give youth chances to be involved. *Commissioner Gray's* monthly meetings with youth help youth see themselves as important to community. There is also the Free Child Project (based in Olympia)- freechild.org - that provides new roles for youth in community as planners, activists, and librarians. Portland to enter this project.
- Jason Barnstead-Long - there is a need and desire for all Portlanders to continue and/or increase their involvement. The partners mentioned in the Plan and summary are ambassadors, but people and residents are almost completely unmentioned in the Plan, which may make community members feel unappreciated. Portland values community input. At the least, all the text of the framework for equity should be included in the summary and promoted in conversations.
- Terry Parker - concerned about the transportation in the Plan. A Healthy Connected City requires financial backing, but what is the price tag? The draft outline is like providing a roadmap without funding. The average transit passenger received a taxpayer-funded subsidy of over \$6 in operational costs for each one-way trip. Bicyclists are not charged user fees. Motorist-paid fuel taxes are not coming in if cars are parked. Driving less will reduce family-wage private sector jobs, likely with an increase in public sector jobs. The Plan's attempt to increase the costs of driving will

result in a further separation of the middle working class from the upper class and the wealthy.

- David Hampsten - Applauds the Plan's equity items, which will help in the long-term for areas that traditionally haven't received sufficient funding from the City. But the budget related to the Plan in terms of the transportation component is unsustainable. PBOT is looking at a shrinking budget. How will we actually fund improvements in the next 25 years? The Plan's goals are good but lofty. Utility fees have been discussed at PBOT, but the conversation needs to be much wider. We also need to address the 59 miles of gravel streets that need to be paved.
- Darise Weller - where is emergency planning in the Plan? Decreasing crime rate is the only metric referred to in the 12 measures of success. What about the eminent earthquake in the Portland/Cascadia region? We need to update infrastructure and schools in preparation for disasters. 90% of fuel for our region is in Linnton; if this is lost in a major quake, how to get what we need? Long-term emergency planning is needed in the Plan.
- Jeremy O'Leary - in terms of equity, we do need to address how our society functions after a major disaster, and the Portland LEAP (Local Energy Assurance Plan) is a good example of efforts being made. In the Plan on p. 76 (diagram of hubs), there is not a 20-min neighborhood in East Portland. If people are not close to neighborhood hubs, there needs to be additional efforts to have schools become community centers. These could then be used as areas for the community to stay after an earthquake. I also encourage food desert areas to have buying clubs so people can buy food in bulk to reduce cost and a build buffer so the community resiliency remains in an earthquake.
- Bridgette Lang, Multnomah Youth Commission - the Thriving Educated Youth Objective #1 (Supportive Neighborhoods) needs to relate to at-risk youth. There is disparity between neighborhoods and the youth who live in different areas. Youth in disadvantaged neighborhoods lack access to get outside of their areas, and the Plan needs to address this. Things like mentorship, healthy eating, and employment are important, but there are other ways to create supportive neighborhoods. We need to continue to involve youth in the Plan and the process.
- Marius Ibueye, Youth Planner - in order for the Thriving Educated Youth component to be implemented, youth need to be able to influence the process. Objective #3 (Graduation Rates) should not only be numerical goal of graduation percentage. Youth in Portland are more diverse racially and ethnically than the current adult population. We have unique needs and unique backgrounds. Schools cannot be one size fits all. We need to ask why people are not graduating to get at the root of the graduation rate concern. Schools need to advocate for immigrants (e.g. transcripts coming in from around the world and making comparisons to where the students should be placed) and also consider diverse experiences to understand youth success.
- Ana Meza, Multnomah Youth Commission - Thriving Education Youth Objective #6 (Health and Wellness): access to healthy food and physical activity are only a couple parts of youth health. PE in school is often the only activity kids get, and we are only required to take that for 1.5 years. We need more places to go within our neighborhoods that have high school age youth in mind - places that encourage us to get out of the house, like parks, community centers and other public spaces. Health is really the first step to allow a person to become educated.
- Sumitra Chhetri, Youth Planner - programs like YPP and MYC have made it possible for youth to gain an understanding of the things that have a big impact on all the youth in

the city. Objective #7 (Youth Voice) has some missing aspects. Many of the 25% of youth in Multnomah County are not students. We need to include all youth perspectives, figure out what is working for them, and provide education that can work for individuals. There is a commitment to YPP at BPS. If the City could employ youth in other bureaus, it would encourage development for youth and the city overall. Civic engagement for youth is needed for a prosperous future, and we need adult involvement with youth.

- Mary Walker, Parkrose NA Chair - livability along Sandy needs to be improved. The change from residential zoning to commercial would help since as zoned, Sandy is not fit for supporting a healthy family's living. The area is more business-district like. There is much more potential in Parkrose, and we need investments and the City to encourage the development of the area to make Portland overall more of a destination location. We need to support the area with a community center (currently a void in this area). We need a place where people can come together as a community, network, have opportunities for youth, education, and mentorships. This is a beautiful area, but it needs financial support to build on.
- Brian Walker - bike paths would be a great emergency transportation option... and they don't run out of gas. Sten's Dairy Park has a big influence (positive) in the Parkrose neighborhood. We also need to encourage small businesses development, which is costly and not feasible for many, so they can't afford to start a business here. We also need to be sure to account for homeless children - there are a lot in Parkrose. Be sure to account for them. I hope the Plan is serious in the actions it proposes.
- Katie Larsell - glad to see the Gateway Education Center mentioned in Plan. It's geared to many people in East Portland and needs support. SUN is a good way to reach youth, and there should also be a statement on equity for SUN schools (distribution where needed). Poor students get behind in school because they have to move lots. In Objective #41 in the Healthy Connected City section, we need to be aware how to improve neighborhoods without changing their character drastically. East Portland is asking for resources, but we don't want neighborhoods to change so that we don't recognize them and can't afford to live in them. There should also be an explicit statement on school districts and where City resources will go, especially when comparing east school districts with PPS. East Portland in Motion should be used as a way to distribute resources around greenways. We need to prioritize capital funding for parks in East Portland.
- Carla Danley - a success of our society is that people are living longer before. In next 20 years, 25% of Portlanders will be over 65. We address youth needs in the Plan, but what about needs of older adults? Research shows that people 50 and older prefer to age in place and in their communities rather than in institutional settings. There is no language in the Plan to address need to create a stock of housing to accommodate a variety of abilities or policies to develop age-friendly housing. We also need to be sure to promote neighborhood choice and options. The Plan mentions the Fair Housing Action Plan, but Portland's obligation to meet these needs is glaring in absence. The Plan can start to address these discrepancies.
- Sam Chase, Coalition of Community Health Clinics; candidate for Metro District 5 (N/NE/E Portland) - The Plan includes lots of the things we want to be doing. We know kids succeed when they have good schools, affordable housing, and a healthy built environment. The nNext charge, if we're serious about equity, is about how investments are happening in the areas of most need. We have lots of priorities in the city. At the end of the day, how serious are we about spending our dollars where

needed most? These are areas where people are struggling, not a voice that is always heard (e.g. at City Council).

- Alan Lazo - appreciates the efforts to gather comments in a public forum. One note about the Plan is that language is important. On p. 10 the Plan states "Portland is a place where your future is not limited by your race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, income, where you were born, or where you live." "Disability" may be viewed as a negative word, and we could look to rewrite the Plan with inclusive versus exclusive language. "Ability" as opposed to "Disability" could be used.

Additional Testimony Received (written)

- Terry Parker
- Bridgette Lang
- Ana Meza
- Sumitra Chhetri
- Carla Danley
- Jennifer Basham
- Brian Walker
- Annette Mattson
- East Portland School Districts Superintendents: Teresa Baldwin, Don Grotting, Karen Gray, Joyce Henstrand

Portland Plan

Action: Work Session

Eric Engstrom, Joe Zehnder

Staff noted the extension of time for providing testimony. The final public hearing will be on 11/29 at the 1900 building. The original deadline for providing comments was 11/30, but based on testimony at the 11/08 meeting, written comments will be accepted until 12/28. Oral will still close after the 11/29 hearing. The 12/13 PSC meeting will be a work session, followed by work session and recommendation on 01/10.

Staff also reminding the Commissioners that they are individually asked to provide testimony in writing as *Commissioner Smith* has already done (provided in the staff memo).

Commissioners discussed themes heard tonight and that the PSC wants staff to focus on:

- Testimony tonight was great. Very specific, and that is appreciated.
- Parks were mentioned numerous times - the importance of parks, and the power of citizens being engaged in creating neighborhood parks was referred to. The PSC's desire is to see the budget process line up with the Portland Plan goals, and the Commissioners encourage community members to follow through with written comments to make sure we are influencing the budget process and actions. It's critical that both the Commission and citizens testifying before the Commission track how the budget reflects the goals and specific actions of the Portland Plan.
- Important testimony from young people and the topic of inclusion. How can we use youth to come to PSC meetings, be involved, and educated? The PSC should look at the future of Portland and connect groups and individuals for youth to work with.

- Inclusion of the aging population is equally important. Both constituencies contribute to the greatness of the city.
- Youth is taking their time to develop meaningful, relevant testimony. It behooves the PSC to include a youth voice in bureaus as advisors and even perhaps on the PSC.
- Sandy rezoning is something we can suggest to encourage economic development on this street.
- Low-income housing needs to be distributed more equitably.
- As a Commission, how do we work with the schools to get equitable distribution of resources? We need to be strategic to implement.
- Transportation improvements funding is a challenge to the City, in part because people aren't driving as much, which is good news. If we get near our Climate Action Plan goals, we will basically wipe out this transportation funding source. The Plan can't succeed unless we identify another way to fund transportation infrastructure in the city.
- The Portland Plan is more than a land-use plan. Key ideals and the goals of LEAP could be a component of it, as could various other City plans. Connections between the plans are strong and could be leveraged. Making resilient communities in an emergency is a large part LEAP, as is the Portland Plan. Connections are natural. Commissioners agreed there is a need for climate adaptation planning, which will be key in the event of a disaster. The foundation is in LEAP, and we need to clarify that plan's connections with the Portland Plan.
- The Plan is notably quiet on air quality. Tree canopy helps. A plan for growth and air quality burdens to be distributed equitably, but there is not much else in the Plan language regarding air quality. The HCC strategy should address air quality, even though most of the work is done and standardized/controlled by agencies outside the City.
- There is a need for accessible housing for an aging and differently-abled population - this is different from what the PSC usually talks about, but it is still an equity issue. We heard that we need to support neighborhood choice; and we should engage BDS to look at building code issues to have greater choice.
- Thanks for this evening: East Portland Action Plan members in attendance and work of the EPAP. To the City - for choosing Barney & Worth as consultants to East Portland schools.
- On-time graduation rate - is this the best/only metric for evaluating youth success? The only? Self-sufficiency by age 25 is not totally about graduation rate.
- There is an importance for good connections to the central city as a resource. Via TriMet, or by knowing neighbors to carpool. Bringing people together from different neighborhoods is central to the HCC strategy. The more people know each other, the more they are willing to share resources.
- It is notably important that tonight's meeting is at Parkrose High School. Thanks to *Commissioner Gray* for hosting at this facility.

- East Portland feels “outside”. The Portland Plan addresses the need to treat the whole city equitably. We hope to mend some of the social concerns about neglect, etc. East Portland is where much of the affordable housing is. This stresses the infrastructure, parks, schools, etc. Hubs need a special focus to include parks (not just physical, but also programs for the community), especially here.
- Language comments - should we shift towards more specific language to propel us into a more meaningful dialogue about the Plan and specifics, especially relating to various groups and equity?
- Thanks to staff: the Portland Plan process has really engaged different segments of the community. The outreach strategy to engage diverse sectors of the community for this Plan was impressive.
- It is important to keep in mind that there is a distinction between resilience of communities and the social fabric of the city and resilience of ecological systems. Both the testimony and Commission discussion focused on the former. We need to focus on both. When we talk about disaster preparedness, there is a role for considering the potential for disasters and disasters that may be related to climate change. We also need to keep at the forefront of our work climate adaptation and the need to plan for resilience of nature resources and ecosystems. These are two complementary but separate issues we need to deal with and that the Portland Plan must explicitly address.
- The Plan is a plan for people. Tonight’s hearing really talked about people. We need to incorporate specifics about the things that people do, where they live, and how they make a living. We have a lot right in the Plan, but we need more specifics about how to make people successful in the areas they live (e.g. East Portland).

Adjourn

Chair Baugh adjourned the meeting at 7:56pm.