

Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission
Tuesday, January 10, 2012
12:30-4pm
Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Andre' Baugh, Karen Gray, Don Hanson, Lai-Lani Ovalles, Gary Oxman, Michelle Rudd, Howard Shapiro, Jill Sherman (arrived 1:35pm), Chris Smith, Irma Valdez

Commissioners Absent: Mike Houck

BPS Staff Present: Susan Anderson, Director; Joe Zehnder, Chief Planner; Eric Engstrom, Principal Planner; Julie Ocken, PSC Coordinator; Alex Howard, Portland Plan Project Manager

Other City Staff Present: Mary Beth Henry, Office for Community Technology; Kim McCarty, PHB; Courtney Duke, PBOT

Chair Baugh called the meeting to order at 12:37pm and provided an overview of the agenda. He noted that the Climate Action Plan will not be presented at this meeting but may come to the PSC when we'll have additional information, particularly about the status of the adaptation plan.

Items of Interest from Commissioners

Commissioner Smith noted and congratulated *Commissioner Houck* on being recently voted one of the most influential people in Portland in *Portland Monthly* magazine.

Election of PSC Officers

Action: Decision

PSC members

Commissioner Smith recognized and thanked *Chair Baugh* for his work in leading the Commission in 2011; we should not "mess with success".

Commissioner Smith nominated the slate of *Chair Baugh* and *Commissioner Shapiro* and *Commissioner Rudd* as Vice Chairs. *Commissioner Hanson* seconded and the vote passed unanimously.

(Y8 - Baugh, Hanson, Ovalles, Oxman, Rudd, Shapiro, Smith, Valdez)

BPS FY12-13 Budget Overview

Briefing: Susan Anderson

The merger of the Bureau of Planning and the Office of Sustainable Development three years ago was a success. And over the past three years, we have had significant reductions in the bureau's budget. Three years ago we had \$2M more from General Fund than in FY11-12. We are doing an intense look at BPS' operations, looking to increase efficiencies. We have reduced planning staff by more than 20 positions over past three years. Much of BOP's budget used to be one-time General Fund (for example, four years ago, BOP received \$3M in one-time for just the year, while in FY11-12, BPS received \$875k predominantly for Portland Plan and Comp Plan).

Overall, BPS has been successful in getting large grants, amounting to over \$20M over the past three past years. Some of this funding flows directly through to non-profits, but we have also been able to retrain planning staff to keep them on as well as to have cross-over between staff. Grants come from Federal, State, and foundations; many allow us to use some of the funding for admin and overhead costs.

The Mayor has asked all bureaus to propose FY12-13 base budgets with 4, 6, 8 percent cuts. It's likely cuts will be between 6 and 8 percent. Public safety usually takes less of a cut than other bureaus, so even if the stated target is 6 percent, it's likely other bureaus will take higher cuts. Additionally, some grants that have funded BPS positions/programs are ending this year.

Overall BPS could lose as many as 9 positions. Contracts are getting cut to the bone, but some are for technical work that we need done. Looking at other sources before cuts to staff. We do have some vacancies that won't be filled (included in the 9).

There is a bit of one-time General Fund available, so we can ask for funding from there for the same amount as we have received this year. The BPS ask will include \$500k to implement and develop the Comp Plan, a request to finish West Hayden Island, and some for the Youth Planning program.

Other bureaus have usually not had cuts as BPS has; this year the whole City is feeling the impact of reduced funds.

Like the merger made us more resilient and diverse, our budget is diverse which is beneficial. In years past, BOP was 85-90% funded by the City's General Fund. OSD was never more than 10%. BPS currently is about 40-50% General Fund, 25% solid waste management fund (which only can be used for SWM), and 25-35% funding from grants, contracts, and IGAs.

We are optimistic, but the impact on staff is real. It is hard on morale, and we're again doing more with less. We commend our staff and managers who have taken limited funding and continue to deliver great work.

Bureaus are required to submit their proposed budgets at the end of January. Council budget work sessions are in March and April. End of April or early May is when the Mayor's budget is proposed.

PSC can offer support for the BPS budget via a letter of support or by attending the BPS/Council work session. Also there are 3-4 public hearings in the community PSC members can offer support at as well.

Portland Plan

Work Session: Joe Zehnder, Eric Engstrom

Staff presented (1) newly raised themes and (2) updates to the previous staff recommendations for the PSC direction.

Newly raised themes since 12/13/11 work session:

- Traded sector and target industries

Testifiers noted that the emphasis on the traded sector is too exclusively aligned with international trade (which they noted is not right/smart for this plan); they also noted this focus is a distinct opposition to an emphasis of "buy local" economic activity.

Additional critiques of the current draft regarding the traded sector related to resource use and environmental quality - that international trade is inefficient and unsustainable regarding energy use.

“Traded sector” is defined as producing goods and services, many of which are sold outside of the region. It brings resources from outside to the local markets. Traded sector businesses also have more prospects for growth, and they sell locally. They typically pay higher wages. Staff noted the need to clarify the business case for the traded sector.

Regarding target industries, some readers expressed confusion about what kinds of businesses are included in this sector. Others mentioned that they would prefer to target other sectors, such as bicycle businesses, housing construction and local food businesses. Portland has five current target sectors: advanced manufacturing, athletic and outdoor, clean tech, software, and research and commercialization.

Some readers wanted to know if certain Portland Harbor firms, which contribute significant jobs to Portland’s economy, are included in the “advanced manufacturing” category. This cluster is distinct in the how they work versus traditional manufacturing. In the plan, we need to clarify this, but there is not a need for amendments in the plan.

Other testimony provided a critique of export growth as our measure of success for products. We do need to find better, more inclusive measures to get at the growth and impact for the city. In discussion with PDC and will be working with others to refine metrics to capture wider range of industries.

- Local measures and actions -
There is notable interest for the community to help with implementation (e.g. East Portland Action Plan and Cully-Concordia). Staff recommends to add text to the implementation chapter that highlights the potential role of community-driven action plans.

Discussion about updates to the previous staff recommendations and themes identified in December:

B. Action Item Review Criteria - staff updated criteria based on feedback from PSC members at 12/13/11 meeting. We will encourage Council to consider the plan based on criteria such as what the PSC is using to review the plan.

C. Basic Public Services - staff is working with other infrastructure and public safety bureaus to identify how to make linkages to the other bureaus’ plans. These conversations are in progress, with no specific recommendations as of yet.

D. Equity and Disability - staff moved forward with meeting with stakeholders (PCOD, Elders in Action). They will be focusing on: (a) linking disability to the indicators and data-collection; (b) highlight more on housing gaps; and (c) recognizing a full range of disability issues in the plan. Staff will add an action item that supports revising section of the Zoning Code that provide various bonuses in exchange for a set of community amenities. The eligible community amenities list should be revised to include providing a certain, to be determined, amount of accessible units in a development, as permitted by all applicable regulations.

E. Resiliency, Emergency and Hazard Planning - staff is working with PBEM and BES on resiliency issues and will have proposal for specific amendments for the PSC at the 01/24 meeting. Updates will include additional text in the introduction that addresses the concept of resiliency and will describe how the plan components contribute to Portland’s resiliency.

F. Youth - BPS' Youth Planning Program coordinator is convening youth conversations; recommendations are in progress, including how we portray public safety issues with youth as role of youth on City commissions.

G. Multigenerational City - staff is aiming to add a specific page to outline how specific strategies work to create a multigenerational city. There will be an added emphasis on housing choices in HCC strategy and greater reference to Age-Friendly Cities initiatives.

H. Active Transportation and Bicycling - staff has met with PBOT staff and stakeholder representatives. They are working on creating better links to the Bicycle Master Plan and defining the health benefits of active transportation. Regarding how to use the term, the plan will refer to the specific mode when needed, but we will also define "active transportation" in the plan. The diagram in the HCC strategy showing hubs and networks will get a clarifying statement and explanation about how it fits into the Comp Plan.

I. Community Action - staff recommends adding information to the implementation section that would provide community members with a path to support and help implement the plan.

J. Implementation - we will add an action to direct City to revise budget process to focus on Portland Plan priorities/goals and actions that specify when the plan will be evaluated and revised.

K. Healthy Connected City - Adaptation and Relationship to Economic Prosperity and Affordability - recommendations addressed under active transportation and bicycling, youth and resiliency and emergency and hazard planning will result in changes to the Healthy Connected City strategy. Staff will add a note to emphasize the importance of livability and the natural environment as an inherent value.

N. Historic Preservation and Community Character - feedback from the PSC was that this should be included. Staff is looking at where the plan has references to historic preservation and where else it should be included and called out.

The PSC had discussed the theme updates and recommendations:

Traded sector and target industries -

There will always be a question/issue in Portland about international business. We have shrinking resources, so we have to encourage businesses to come to Portland - both international and local. If we don't have industry coming to the region, the tax base decreases.

We should focus that we're talking about Portland businesses first (though not at the expense of international business) then looking outside (exporting and bringing companies). We need to do both.

Local Measures and Actions -

We need to be sure to include business and partner frameworks to help with implementation.

What about an examination of Portland's regulatory approach? This is not explicitly mentioned, but it could be used to reevaluate and be conscious about where we sit, not necessarily change the regulations. An explanation about how this adjusts over the 25 years of the plan as a process approach.

- Cost of doing business in Portland - data is not conclusive. In the EPA strategy about providing space for job growth, regulatory notes are included.
- P46 (guiding policy #3) and p47 items 22-24 of the plan also relate to regulations, though maybe not as directly as this conversation points to.

Commissioners discussed the role of broadband and that it should be included as a city aspiration with an immediate infrastructure need. It is critical as a part of basic services, and PSC should stand firm on the 1 percent universal access fee for broadband.

Mary Beth Henry, Office for Community Technology: Broadband internet is a necessity with everything moving online, job applications, health information, bill paying, government information etc. The intent in the Broadband Strategic Plan is to address issues of bandwidth and accessibility. Approximately 28 percent of Portland homes don't have internet access. The two reasons cited were affordability and relevance. Libraries have internet access, but people need more than 1 hour (as is the daily allotted by Multnomah County libraries, and 80-90 percent of library computers are in use all the time) online to do a resume. Both wired and wireless broadband are important for Portland's future. The fee could be on broadband, but there are federal limitations on that.

Regarding the staff memo to under basic public services to "add an action that prioritizes sidewalk improvements", this should be used to highlight, not prioritize, over something else. Service levels will be evaluated in the Comp Plan. Because we are talking about change actions on a 25 year timeline, we acknowledge we could do a better job highlighting big-picture items that fire, police, and other bureaus have in their long-range plans.

Equity

- Staff does not have a response to the definition issue yet.
- PCOD provided ideas for how to better phrase/frame "equity" to be more inclusive; we will broaden the definition of disability.
- Much of the disability community testimony focused on access to housing. Kim McCarty, PHB: PHB started a detailed accessibility housing inventory where PHB has made investments. The inventory is incomplete and resources have not been identified for completing the inventory and incorporating the full results into Housing Connections. . There should be further discussion to expand the conversation from housing unit accessibility to broadening the approach to housing opportunities and mapping for affordable housing in service-rich neighborhoods.
- Most developers incorporate the basic accessibility features demanded by Federal and State law. As a part of the Portland Housing Strategy actions to enhance the current accessible housing stock will be explored. The current tool available to PHB to encourage accessible housing are public benefit of accessible units in exchange for a limited tax exemption. The Accessibility public benefit of the LTE programs may be a more prominent criteria in the future. Home Forward likely has a good inventory as well, at least of properties they work with.
- References to local business support, entrepreneurship development, displacement issues need to be strengthened in the plan. The EPA section does not state this clearly or forcefully enough yet.
- BPS' role in housing is to look at the overall supply and determine if are we meeting needs. This evaluation is done in Comp Plan.
- The City has breaks for affordable housing. Is there something similar for housing for people with disabilities?
- The 5-year actions under the "close the gaps" section is a good foundation.

Resiliency, Emergency and Hazard Planning

Commissioners were happy to see the inclusion of this section, and it's well-described. "Climate adaptation" could be another item to review and add an action about.

Youth

- The PSC made a request to call out the importance of the Youth Transit Pass.
- BPS has been working with our Youth Program; they will be offering language feedback on full the TEY strategy.

- The diversity of Portland's youth population is addressed in the plan, but it should be a guiding principle as an overarching statement.
- YPP is one area BPS is asking for additional funding for our FY12-13 budget. Every year we think it's a priority, and every year a little gets done but not enough.

Multigenerational City

- We continue to need to plan for the older population and make accommodations.
- PSC members also discussed the need for language about the older population as a resource, not just what we need to work on to assist.

Active Transportation and Bicycling

- With our transportation financial challenges, what about a minimal bicycle licensing fee? Gas tax is under-delivering, but we still wouldn't get enough revenue with bike fees. The preference from many bike advocates is to not create more of a barrier to biking. What about an inner tube tax (e.g. operational tax)? Street utility fees are another option since they are stable and not tied to fuel prices or modal shifts.
- This also relates to the conversation about basic services and sidewalks as basic services.
- To reduce car traffic and increase alternative modes, a basic discussion needs to be framed to not do things that may be counter-intuitive to the plan. Once adopted, we need to make budget decisions that are consistent with plan; may not be as fast as we want to, but in alignment so we stay on track. The goal will be to transform transportation (healthy, sustainable) and be sure to continue with basic services (e.g. filling potholes).

Implementation

- If the goal is to have a broader, diverse audience, we need to think about how we get people with increasingly diverse language, internet and mobility skills to be involved as well.

HCC - Adaptation and Relationship to EPA

- Regarding HCC as a general topic, there were testimony letters about noise regulation. In the plan this falls under statements about incorporating health into evaluating planning decisions, but it's not yet a specific call-out. It can also relate to freight and economic development. There are noise regulations and ordinances, which we could reference and recognize we need to learn from other cities or other parts of the city who have worked through these issues. We should add phrase about noise regarding its environmental- and health-related impacts. It's especially important as we identify and grow hubs, major traffic streets and industrial areas.
- Should we have Design Review for larger geographic areas of the city? Staff did have discussion about how design review accepts issues related more to low-income areas. A broad application of design review is not sustainable because of the fees and permits. Community Design Standards need to be revisited, and administrators of the tool want to make it more effective. An example is that URAs are defined with a good set of standards relating to hubs, and it acknowledges one size doesn't fit all; community design standards could take a similar approach.
- The submitted letter from Linnton about hubs/nodes - the heart of identifying a hub is its ability to be supported by the market. But there is a hierarchy of smaller forms of hubs. Linnton is hyper-local but close to places that have numerous hubs. To get a vibrant main street environment, data shows that it needs about 30-40K people in the walk-shed to support it. The Comp Plan will look at if there is a smaller version of a hub that can be made in less dense areas.
- There is a direct connection between environment, corridors, and restoration and EPA. There is an innate value of parks as an economic contribution of the city. Part of the EPA strategy needs to be about quality of life is not exclusively enough since other

things are needed to support business growth. Staff is working on how best to incorporate these ideas together and show value between them.

East Portland

- Referencing the East Portland Action Plan in appendix B is a good example of ways people can get involved in planning. Propose in implementation chapter as an example of the approach.

Housing

- Using the PHB strategic plan staff will look to bring its concepts into the Portland Plan more directly. This will sharpen the plan and will put PHB into the plan more directly and clearly.

Historic Resources and Community Character

- There is a request for an inventory of historic resources in the city with a look to policies to develop around historic resources. Historic can be an asset to a hub, but there is an aspect of infill to fill in the “missing” parts of neighborhoods as well. We need to clarify that denser hubs are not the opposite of historic areas.
- The PSC noted it would be interesting to have an extended discussion at a later date about how to build historic areas with people of different perspectives, possibly in conjunction with the Historic Landmarks Commission.
- In terms of hazard planning, we also need to look at how we bring more resources to reinforce older buildings to protect against, for example, an earthquake.

PSC members offered thanks to all city and partner staff for the great work and noted the PSC’s “additional” issues they’ve brought up are because the work in the plan is good.

Accessibility of the plan will be key - both in keeping the more technical language included and in making the plan clear and easy to read for a wide, diverse audience. The Local Actions section, Appendix B, is intended to do this by illustrating relevance of equity and the three strategies for hyper-local thinking, not a one-size-fits-all approach.

All actions in Local Actions exist in the plan in the equity framework of in one of the three strategies, but this section was not vetted as much as the rest of the plan. Local measures are to provide a tool for local actions to be worked on after the adoption of the plan; local indicators acknowledge that we sometimes make decisions on where to act based on who’s in the room. By looking at all actions and comparing them quantitatively, we hope to respond better to needs rather than simply going with the loudest voices.

Some testimony comments have been focused on elements of this section that may be a distraction or that may obstruct the rest of the document. District planners help with selecting the actions appropriate for the different sub-areas, so even if this section is removed from the plan, the ideas can be used for district-level planning.

So as to not lose the tangible aspects of the plan as the Local Actions section illustrates, the PSC could produce this as a separate document, “an illustrated guide to implementing the Portland Plan” as examples but not absolutes. This is an option as a part of the implementation of the plan, after it is approved by Council.

Process and next steps

- At the 01/24 PSC meeting:
 - Staff will return with cleaned-up version of the themes memo.
 - Staff will ask the PSC to provide final direction to staff about how to proceed with plan revisions.
 - The PSC will vote on the major themes and direction to staff.

- There will be discussion about the transmittal from the PSC to Council that will highlight the major ideas the PSC wants Council to review/emphasize.
- The 02/28 will be a final with a copy of the draft plan with edits for a final review prior to sending the PSC' recommendation to Council.

Adjourn

Chair Baugh adjourned the meeting at 3:32pm.