



Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
Innovation. Collaboration. Practical Solutions.

Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission

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August 20, 2012

Dear Susan:

On July 10, 2012, Mary Coolidge from the Audubon Society of Portland and Roberta Jortner from your bureau briefed the Planning and Sustainability Commission on the new voluntary Portland Bird-Friendly Building Design Resource Guide (First Edition, July 2012). The resource guide was produced through a partnership between the City of Portland and the Audubon Society of Portland, with funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Staff presented information about the diversity of bird species in Portland and about Audubon's efforts to collect bird strike data here in the city. We learned about the bird strike risks associated with unmarked exterior glass on buildings, and from diffuse night lighting.

We also learned about building design options and lighting practices that can reduce these hazards. We were pleased to hear that Audubon and the City collaborated with local architects in developing the new resource guide, and that the Bird-Friendly Building Design forum held at KEEN headquarters in June was well attended.

The Commission agreed that it is timely to explore opportunities for bird-friendly building practices in Portland, including approaches that meet multiple objectives (e.g., reduced bird strike risk *and* improved energy efficiency). The Commission also agreed that encouraging bird-friendly design through voluntary means is appropriate at this time, and we support continued efforts to learn, collaborate and build community awareness.

To further encourage this work, Commissioner Mike Houck presented the following motion to the Commission for consideration:

The Planning and Sustainability Commission supports the continued integration of Bird-Friendly Building Design into the City's programs, including but not limited to: a) Language in the Comprehensive Plan policies, b) Central City 2035 policies, c) EcoDistrict planning, and d) Exploring a broadening of the city's requirements for sustainable practices in City buildings to address Bird-Friendly Building Design and Lights Out.

The Commission voted unanimously to approve the motion, and agreed to forward it to you via this letter.

We appreciate the City's involvement in developing the resource guide and look forward to hearing more about advances in bird-friendly building design in the future.

Sincerely,

Andre Baugh, Chair



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