

East Portland Action Plan (EPAP)

Civic Engagement Subcommittee Meeting

August 15, 2017

Meeting began at 6:35pm.

Purpose: To organize cultural + language specific Civic Engagement workshop, share curriculum, advocate for ongoing funding, and advise on East Portland cultural + language specific issues and projects.

Attendees: Natalie Arreola, lore wintergreen, Zinha Mudhafar, Adriana Govea, Emily Larraga, Frieda Christopher and Linh Doan.

Interpreters: Baher Butti– Arabic, Jessica Dover – Spanish and Dee D. Nolin - Vietnamese

Lore welcomed everyone and each attendee introduced themselves. Natalie arrived to facilitate the meeting.

Next month's (September 19th) meeting:

Facilitator: Lore will try to find someone

Notes: Fiona Yau-Luu

Food: Linh Doan

General EPAP Report: Adriana Govea

Review of Advocacy letter for strategic priority: lore was directed by the committee to draft a letter, in response to information lore was given by Amy Archer saying that the \$100,000 Adriana and Emily successfully advocated for in the Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI) budget for Accessibility would not be available to EPAP except for special project. This is because EPAP has consistently budgeted for Accessibility. Basically, the ONI funds for interpretation/translation/child care are not available to EPAP until EPAP spends the operations budget. EPAP Chairs felt this is not fair and that EPAP is being punished because EPAP has always made accessibility a priority. Lore called the ONI staff establishing the ONI Accessibility Fund today and was told that said EPAP will have equal access and can use the funds available through ONI, but if the funds get low they might ask us to use our EPAP funds.

The draft letter was still shared, in case ONI again changes their approach to fund distribution. We had time to review the letter and lore asked if

anyone objected to any content in the letter. No one objected. It was determined we will not send the letter unless we find we don't have access to the funds. Zinah suggested that everyone at today's meeting sign the letter. Lore explained that she had Natalya and Adriana signing it because they were the EPAP Representatives who advocated for these funds at the ONI Budget Advisory Committee, but Lore agrees that it is a great idea to have everyone sign if we send the letter. Zinah said we could also add the organizations that are getting the grants. Emily said if they don't fund we might want to send the letter in another language to demonstrate the difficulty for those who don't speak English have when they are not provided interpretation or translation. Adriana said when we only speak a little English it is difficult because we miss so much and it is frustrating.

ACTION: The letter was approved with non-content adjustments as needed. Everyone agreed to have all attending sign the letter and to send it in other languages, if we need to send it in the future. The letter will be followed up the next day with an English version.

Advocacy meeting with meeting with Mayor's Office staff: Andrea Valderrama said she could meet with the committee at the EPAP office on August 31st any time between 4pm – 6pm for ½ hour. This regards advocacy for City of Portland overhead funding of translation/ interpretation/childcare. Overhead funding means each City Bureau would be required to have a percentage of their annual budget dedicated to accessibility. Adriana said she could do it a 4pm. Natalie can meet at 5:30 pm. Lore will contact other members. Baher said he would like to attend as a member with Zinah and can meet at 5:30pm. Lore will get back to everyone on what is the best time for the majority who can attend on that day.

Review advocacy letter to Portland United Against Hate: Natalie said she was not able to draft the letter. The letter is to advocate for funds to Portland United Against Hate to provide legal assistance for those who need immigration system assistance in order to make sanctuary real in Portland. Lore suggested that we use the agenda time to work on the letter now. Lore suggested that we reference the ONI Accessibility Fund letter organization as a way to start the letter. A letter was drafted and is attached. Frieda read the draft letter and Lore asked if everyone was okay with the draft. Natalie will edit and Lore will add letter head and polish the final letter. Zinah said we should add stories, Lore asked if she could

suggest some and Zinah agreed to collect and share some stories. lore mentioned that Adriana shared some people's stories during past meetings and asked if Adriana could also get stories and send them to lore as well. lore suggested that if anyone else could think of other people that might be impacted they could share their stories with her, to be added to the letter.

Explore advocacy to establish the ability for minor traffic violations to allow for Skyped Video Chat attendance: Natalie said she met with the Martha Strawn Morris, Director of the Gateway Domestic Violence Center to invite her to discuss what they learned developing the option to Skype for restraining orders from the Gateway Domestic Violence Center.

Linh asked if she ran into a person with a domestic violence problem, who can she contact. Natalie provided the phone number of for help from the Gateway Domestic Violence Center.

The suggestion is that Skype be used for people who have minor traffic violations and want to pay their fines or fight the charge, but do not feel safe because if they go to court, they might be arrested by ICE because of their immigration status. The committee thought the Skype process might work for this population. Natalie said that Martha suggested that New York has a mobile court and that might be an option.

ACTION: Natalie said the Martha will come to the September 19th Civic Engagement meeting, since she was not available this month.

There was a discussion of how it could be set up and what identifying issues. Zinah asked about interpretation. Natalie said the interpreters are on site at the court house and lore suggested using telephone interpreters. Natalie said that the interpreters need to be court certified. lore reminded people that in the past we talked about using libraries. Concern was raised that while ICE does not invade libraries now, they do have the legal right to do so and if this is set-up from libraries, it might motivate ICE to enter libraries to make arrests. One considerations is whether people can Skype from anywhere or does it have to be a designated site. Also, we need to know to whom and how to advocate. Adriana ask if it could possibly be a church, because they are not in use during the week. It was mentioned that this would have the same issues as libraries.. Frieda thought it would be good to continue the discussion next month.

Next Month's Agenda:

lore suggested that we make time to have the Iraqi Society report on their work with the Multnomah County Community Health Workers Training in Arabic. Baher said that there has been some communication and a steering committee is being formed.

ACTION: Zinah and Baher will come prepared with an update for the September 19th Civic Engagement meeting.

Announcements:

Frieda asked the committee's input on a David Douglas School District (DD) issue. She said a new board member suggested holding a Citizenship Ceremony in conjunction with Constitution and Citizenship Day. It would not be before 2018. Frieda explained that another board member did not feel it was appropriate, because of the number of undocumented community members. There was a discussion and there seemed to be pros and cons for doing the ceremony at the high school. After some discussion and the fact it wouldn't possibly happen until 2018, there seemed to be agreement that it might be a positive event.

Frieda also announced that David Douglas School Board would be forming a committee to develop an equity policy for the district and a family engagement policy. The District is hoping that members from different ethnic groups will participate. Frieda will provide more information as it becomes available.

lore announced this Sunday, August 20th at 11am there is a Walk with Refugees and Immigrants. It will start at the East Portland Action Plan office. It will be a 1 mile walk to Knott Park. There will be ethnic bakery goods at the EPAP office. It will end at Knott Park and they will provide 300 children's lunches and back-to-school packs. There will also be music and the Mayor will attend. There will be peace keepers from a Portland State University program. The peace keepers usually they wear blue arm bands and vests. Lore wants to know if anyone objects to them wearing this identifying gear. Someone mentioned that blue and red are gang colors, but no-one was concerned about it. Baher said the logos on the flyer only have high profile organizations but the grassroots organizations are missed.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Next meeting September 19th at 6:30pm at 1017 NE 117th Ave. (117th between Halsey + Glisan at the foot of the water tower). Please contact lore wintergreen to request childcare, interpretation, or translation.

RE: Portland United Against Hate legal aid funding allocation

To: Linda Castillo, Polo Catalani, Suk Rhee, Commissioner Chloe Eudaly plus all commissioners and Mayor

We are grateful for the funding the city is providing for Portland United Against Hate, but the EPAP Civic Engagement Committee thinks that this work should be supplemented to support the people who are legally at risk for systemic legal assault on their rights to be living in Portland. Since the City Council has declare Portland a sanctuary city, it is import not just to track hate crimes but to support the people the city is giving sanctuary to. Let's make Sanctuary real!

The civic engagement committee has had representatives with the Latino, Russian, Arabic, Zomi, Vietnamese, Iraqi, and English and we all agree it is important to provide the support to the people who need this assistance. We know that everyone has concerns about this issue. The city is developing the data about the need, so now we want them to support legal aid funding for new Portlander/Refugee communities.

Include information on who we are.

The action items which support our request:

Please let us know how we can help you. We will stay in con tact with Portland United Against Hate to see if our suggestions are being implemented.

Cc: [Jamey Duhamel](#)

East Portland Action Plan (EPAP) Strategic priorities

Fiscal Year 2017

Municipality Specific references in bold

EPAP lead advocates in italics

E. City of Portland All Bureaus: Engage ethnic communities in neighborhood activities; provide overhead funding for translation/language services to remove barriers and improve messaging and invitations. (CB.1.2) *Civic Engagement Subcommittee*

F. Multnomah County Health Department and State of Oregon Health Division: Increase funding and technical assistance for organizations that desire to establish (two new ethnicity/languages every two years) or to strengthen existing ethnically-based Community Health Worker programs. Establish racially and ethnically representative community oversight of Community Health Worker programming. (EC.4.4 and SN.6.2) *Civic Engagement Subcommittee*

Involuntary Displacement Prevention

Recommendations for East Portland

Arabic language recommendations أدوات توصية لخطة عمل منطقة شرق بورتلاند لمنع النزوح الغير طوعي.pdf: <http://tinyurl.com/Recommendations-in-Arabic> - See more at: <http://eastportlandactionplan.org/#sthash.jJFuUPN3.dpuf>

Предупреждение вынужденного переселения граждан Рекомендации для Восточного района Портленда_Recommendations in Russian.pdf: <http://tinyurl.com/Recommendations-in-Russian> - See more at: <http://eastportlandactionplan.org/#sthash.jJFuUPN3.dpuf>

Prevención del desplazamiento involuntario Recomendaciones para el este de Portland_Spanish_Recommendations in Spanish.pdf: <http://tinyurl.com/Recommendations-in-Spanish> - See more at: <http://eastportlandactionplan.org/#sthash.jJFuUPN3.dpuf>

Civic Engagement Process To Be Applied

When Implementing All Recommended Tools

As the East Portland Involuntary Displacement Prevention Tools are being implemented, it is important that the community stay involved to provide leadership and guidance on how to strategically address these community-identified issues and resource allocations.

The following* process will actively engage the community as partners in seeking responsible and equitable outcomes in the work to prevent involuntary displacement in East Portland.

- 1) Provide a wide range of opportunities for involvement, with targeted access and inclusion in decision-making for those with the potential to be adversely affected by gentrification/livability improvements.
- 2) Foster ongoing positive relationships between communities and Municipal Governments by ensuring accountability for improving community well-being and inclusion, and by ensuring adherence to Community Benefit Agreements that should be instituted to support East Portlanders adversely impacted by gentrification/livability improvements whenever possible.
- 3) Recognize that Municipal Governments have a responsibility to plan for the needs of and engage with disparately under-served, under-resourced, and under-represented communities, and to prioritize policy mandates based on need, so as to achieve greater equity for those most adversely impacted by gentrification/livability improvements.
- 4) Expand opportunities for meaningful community engagement and require transparent, well designed, and thoughtful culturally and language specific and relevant representative and responsive public processes throughout address of the recommended tools: from issue identification, analysis, and project scoping through implementation, monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and enforcement.
- 5) Build community capacity to increase the community's meaningful participation, innovation, solution-making and leadership by allocating adequate resources to realistically accomplish this community involvement outcome.

- 6) Utilize public comment as part of an equity-based community impact assessment to promote thoughtful consideration of and mitigation for policies that cause negative disparate impacts, irrespective of intent.

*These recommendations are a revision of the “Community-Based Anti-Displacement Recommendations” produced by several community organizations and submitted as input to the Portland Comprehensive Plan Update: February 2015.

Recommendations to Be Implemented

not in prioritized order

East Portland Action Plan Civic Engagement Grants

Fund the East Portland Action Plan Civic Engagement Grants program that allocates monies for language and racially/ethnically specific projects for those who are under-resourced/served and not normally included in decision making. Utilization of this tool has proven to be a best practice for the East Portland Action Plan’s work in this richly multicultural area.