

East Portland Action Plan (EPAP) Civic Engagement Subcommittee Meeting

October 17, 2017

Meeting began at 6:35pm.

Purpose:	To organize cultural + language specific civic engagement workshops, share curriculum, advocate for ongoing funding, and advise on East Portland cultural + language specific issues and projects.
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Attendees: Natalie Arreola, lore wintergreen, Zinha Mudhafar, Adriana Govea, Frieda Christopher, Fiona Yau-Luu, Layla Assem, Natalya Sobolevskaya

Fiona welcomed everyone and each attendee introduced themselves.

Next month's (November 21st) meeting:

Facilitator: Layla

Notes: Frieda

Food: Zinah

General EPAP Report: Adriana Govea

Natalie said she would facilitate in December. Frieda said she would be not be at the December meeting.

Report and follow-up on meeting with Mayor's Office staff Andrea Valderrama (Priority E):

Natalya reported that she, Natalie, Baher, and lore met with Andrea Valderrama to discuss putting interpretation, translation, and child care into an overhead funding model. This means that each City Bureau will contribute a portion of their budget for the above purpose. Andrea is supportive of making it part of an overhead funding model and she said so is the Mayor. Natalya said as part of the New Portland Commission she will bring-up the issue to make these services part of overhead funding, so it can be discussed at one of there meetings. She explained how the process would work to get it on the agenda.

Lore announced that Andrea was going to run for Commissioner Saltzman's seat.

ACTION: Lore will follow-up with Andrea Valderrama on the status of this EPAP Strategic Priority. (*Andrea said the Mayor is planning to include this in the 2018 – 19 Fiscal Year budget for the City*)

Meeting with Commissioner Eudaly:

Adrianna shared about the EPAP annual advocacy meeting with Commissioner Chloe Eudaly. Adrianna felt Tom Armstrong from the Bureau of Planning and Stainability was hostile and not interested. Adriana said she felt comfortable and that the Commissioner, her staff, and the Directors from the Bureau of Development Services and Office of Neighborhood Involvement understood that we speak languages in addition to English. Adriana thought they were listening to what we all said. She felt one person took too much talking time, which gave others less time, which is why we did not have time to fully address the 'EPAP Involuntary Displacement Prevention Recommendations'. Zinah shared that this meeting was her first time at City Hall and she felt comfortable and supported by the group. She thought the Commissioner supported East Portland. She liked the way lore organized the meeting and liked participating. Frieda asked if the subject of East Portland Neighborhood Office (EPNO) getting their fair share of funds was addressed. Lore said no, that in the past EPNO did not want EPAP to advocate for this, as they did not want EPNO and EPAP to seem like one group. At this time, the Neighborhood Coalition Directors have decided not to advocate of a reduction for other neighborhood districts, but to add funds to EPNO as funds become available. Lore is aware that this has been the EPNO strategy for the past 8 years and no funding has become available.

Plan for advocacy to establish the ability for minor traffic violations to allow for skyped attendance, as a protective factor for the City/County sanctuary commitment:

Natalie said she has not been able to talk with Martha Straw Morris because of Violence Prevention Month. Martha was not available this month, but Natalie will schedule Martha's attendance at the Civic Engagement Subcommittee for December. She will copy lore on scheduling for the discussion in December.

ACTION: Natalie will schedule Martha Straw Morris to be at the December meeting to discuss how the Skyped attendance could work with traffic violations.

Dinámica: Fiona asked people to share their favorite physical stretches.

Report from the Iraqi Society of Oregon work with Multnomah County Community Health Worker (CHW) program to establish a language and cultural-specific Arabic language training.

Zinah shared that Baher and Iraqi community members met with Teresa Rios with the Multnomah County Capacitation Program and she explained more about their role as the Steering Committee for the Arabic-language Community Health Worker training sessions. The Iraqi Society of Oregon/Multnomah County agreement is that the Iraqi Society of Oregon will have a committee with 12 members to meet with Teresa and be part of the CHW training. Zinah said that the committee is going to have members from multiple countries that speak Arabic. Zinah asked the EPAP Civic Engagement Subcommittee members to get the word about CHW training in Arabic out to the community. Teresa is out of the country, but will meet with the committee formed by the Iraqi Society of Oregon when she gets back into the country.

Fiona said that she is attending and working with an Asian centric CHW training. Lore asked how it worked with the different Asian cultures and languages. Fiona said they talked about shared values. They used scenarios that were more culturally specific and she is not aware of the County reaching out to let the community know that language interpretation would be made available.

There was a discussion of how many countries in the Middle East share common language Arabic language, despite dialect differences, they can understand the formalized language. Natalya said in Russia, although there are many languages the common language is Russian and it, too transcends dialects.

Review and sign advocacy letter to Portland United Against Hate and Mayor and Commissioners:

The committee reviewed the draft letter. Lore noted one correction that it reads \$500,000 when it should read \$50,000 legal assistance to Multnomah County Public Defenders. Frieda said it should read “schools with 90% free or reduced lunch” instead of 100%. She explained why. Frieda also suggested that we change from “Fall Bump” to “Spring Bump”, since the Fall Bump recommendations have been closed. Everyone was in consensus with the changes to the letter. And everyone wants to sign the letter.

Lore also shared the Sanctuary City Resolution passed by City Council in March (Andrea Valderrama provided the document). Natalie said she has seen the funds used and the Public Defenders have met with community members who have needed assistance. Zina recommended adding a specific request amount in the letter and this was discussed. Natalya said we should ask for an increase of \$300,000. No one objected. Natalie thought there might a capacity issue unless they hire more people. She suggested that we consider recommending that the funds go to not-for-profit organizations, as they naturally encounter community members with the needs for these services. Lore said that she was worried that a lot of

money would then be spent on administration for each organization and for the bureau overseeing the funds. There was a discussion of what the \$300,000 should be spent on. Layla said for legal representation and fees. It was a consensus to put the amount of \$300,000 in the letter, and that it be spend on “legal representation and application and process fees.” Everyone agreed.

ACTION: It was agreed by full consensus to make the adjustments recommended above and to add an amount of \$300,000 for legal representation and application and process fees. lore will adjust the letter and send it to everyone. They will need to send her their electronic signature.

Zinah asked how they could spread the word in her community for those that need this type of legal assistance. Lore said it would have to be done through a referral. Lore said she would contact the Multnomah County District Attorney’s Office to have someone come to the next Civic Engagement Subcommittee to explain how the program/resources can be accessed. Everyone agreed.

ACTION: Lore will arrange for the appropriate person from Multnomah County to be at our November meeting.

Review of the 2035 comprehensive Plan Equity Guiding Principle Draft to give input to Anti-Displacement PDX.

Lore said this was important especially if you care about housing. Lore explained some of the charts in the draft report. They are defining East Portland as High Vulnerability and Low Opportunity. Lore wants everyone to understand the information so they can speak to it knowledgeably in the future. Frieda said the information was provided to the Housing Bond Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAG) and they took it as just one piece of information. The SAG strongly advocated that Vulnerability status, not Opportunity, be the guide in regard to land purchases and rehabilitation.

Announcements:

Arlene sent a note that the Sunshine Division is going to open an office on 124th and Stark. Will open on first part of November and will provide food boxes and clothes.

Frieda announced the two men who tagged 4 schools with hate messages were arrested and confessed to the crime.

Lore said the new 2018 EPAP grants are open until November 8th. She handed out grant applications.

Layla announced there will be a 'No Muslim Ban Ever' rally at Terry Shrunck Plaza on Wed., Oct 18th at 5pm.

Adjourned 8:35 pm.