

East Portland Action Plan (EPAP)

Civic Engagement Subcommittee – June 19, 2018 Notes

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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1. Introductions: Adriana welcomed everyone and each attendee introduced themselves.

Adriana Govea, Kate Coenen, Naimah Shaheed, Layla Assem, Frieda Christopher, lore wintergreen, Natalya Sobolevskaya, and Galina Nekrasova.

2. Next meeting: July 17th, 6:30-8:30 PM

Facilitator: Layla Assem

Notes: Frida Christopher

Food Gatherer: To be decided

Reporter at the General EPAP: Natalya Sobolevskaya and Galina Nekrasova

Clean Up: To be decided

EPAP 2018-20 Strategic Priority recommendations:

Last month committee decided to keep

E. Engage ethnic communities in neighborhood activities; provide overhead funding for translation/language and childcare services to remove barriers and improve messaging and invitation.

Lore contacted Andrea Valderrama with the Mayor's office, who said it was put in the Mayor's proposed budget, but when the budget was being considered by City Council an issue was raised by the Office of Equity and Human Rights (OEHR). The interim Director, Koffi Dessou said they did not have the capacity to handle funds. The change was made to put \$75,000 in the budget, which has no defined use, but may be used to set-up a mechanism to handle the process. Andrea said she remains our best contract regarding this Strategic Priority. Lore said those on New

Portlander Commission need to advocate that OEHR support moving forward, since they stopped the overhead funding from being established. Lore read an email from Andrea regarding the issue. Lore recommends that in September we should have Andrea, the director of OEHR, ONI and Budget office to our meeting to discuss how it can be implemented and when it will be implemented. There was a discussion of how the funds ONI had were used this past year. Lore confirmed to Frieda's question that overall, the funds were not used for interpretation at Neighborhood Association meetings. Adriana asked what if change doesn't happen. Lore said we need to organize and advocate at the next budget hearing; this means bringing many community members. Adriana says they say they support funding but then do nothing. There was additional discussion on this issue.

It was decided to discuss the following strategic priority further this month:

F. Increase funding and technical assistance from organizations to establish two new ethnicity/languages every two years and strengthen existing ethnically-based Community Health Work (CHW) programs. Establish racially and ethnically representative community oversight of Community Health Worker programming.

Adriana read the priority.

Lore said the training for speakers of Arabic was successful this year. She asked if we are ready to advocate for additional languages. It was confirmed that the Multnomah County Capacitation Program did this training without additional funding. Natalya said she talked with Russian interpreter and explained the program. Natalya said the interpreter would like to be a CWH and Natalya asked if she would like to get others to get trained. Both feel that there is a need for a training in Russian. Galena said she also talked with her people, and she will change her plan for this year and will help organize the Russian CWH training. There was a discussion of what and how we would advocate for the additional languages. It was decided to keep this Strategic Priority. Adriana said this is good because the Russian community is united and we should support them.

Natalya referred to her grant in Russian about housing and lead poison prevention. She referred to Action item "HD.2.4: Expand community non-profit home repair and rehabilitation assistance programs to cover greater number of households", and asked that Civic Engagement advocate for this

as a Strategic Priority. She said that she would take the lead on this active advocacy. Natalya also talked about educating homebuyers on environmental concerns, such as lead. Naimah said that sometimes the lead is in the soil, not just in house paint. She learned that in Lents, businesses that have closed have left this behind, but there is no communication to future homeowners. This was her experience and resulted in her young daughter having lead poisoning. She said we should add the soil testing also. There was some discussion on who we would advocate with and it was suggested the City of Portland Bureau of Housing and Development Services and organizations that help low-income homeowners to include training on these issues. Galena asked about lead and testing, so there was a discussion of this issue. It was suggested as a Strategic Priority “to advocate to low income home buyers be informed about environmental assessment on new property and expand education on assistance.” There was a discussion on the Housing Sub-committee being assigned the Strategic Priority as an extension of their priority for minority homeownership. Adriana said it is important for EPAP Housing Subcommittee to do. Frieda said she understands what is needed, but she feels Housing may not have the capacity to do it, plus she felt that the EPAP Housing Subcommittee should have the opportunity to discuss this before an addition to their recommended Strategic Priority be expanded to include this issue.

ACTION: There was consensus to add HD.2.4 to the Civic Engagement Subcommittee’s recommendation for Strategic Priorities, with a commitment to advocate.

Lore said that process wise, someone from Civic Engagement would need to make the recommendation for expansion of the Housing Subcommittee minority homeownership Strategic Priority during the July 27th general EPAP meeting when consensus is being sought for the recommended Strategic Priorities. There was further discussion on who would best assume advocacy and responsibility to take on this Strategic Priority. Lore asked if we wanted to make a specific priority on educating new homeowners on environmental issues. Adriana feels we should because we need to protect our children. Natalya said we need to have someone to advocate if we want to add. Someone suggested we integrate it with the HD.2.4 Strategic Priority. Layla suggested we leave it off the Strategic Priority list, but just work on it. Adriana said she would rather have 2 separate Strategic Priorities versus one Priority, so we do it right. Adriana feels she should do it because even though she isn’t buying a house her

children might buy one. Layla said she will work with Adriana to lead the advocacy. Frieda suggested the Civic Engagement Subcommittee might want to discuss this with Housing and ask for their support on the Priorities. Frieda said we might want to get someone to educate us to understand what the new laws for sellers and realtors before we begin advocacy.

ACTION: There was consensus with a commitment to advocate to add HD.2.3 +4 to the Civic Engagement Subcommittee's recommendation for Strategic Priorities: "Educate first-time homeowners to require environmental hazard assessments on property to be purchased."

EPAP Grants Criteria Changes or separating Civic Engagement Grants from General Grants Dialogue with EPAP Grants Review Committee Members:

Lore gave the background that the Civic Engagement Subcommittee identified changes to the criteria during meetings in the recent past, because the committee found that the race, ethnic, language and cultural - specific grants were underfunded by \$10,000. She provided a sheet with the Civic Engagement Subcommittee suggested changes. Natalya explained what the Civic Engagement grants were in the past to Naimah Layla, and Kate who are on the EPAP Grant Review Committee. Natalya explained that the Civic Engagement Subcommittee recommended changes in the criteria points, to address the committee's concerns. In the last review, even though some of the race, ethnic, language and cultural – specific grants scored high, they were not funded fully because the Grants Review Committee chose to spread the funds around to different things. The Civic Engagement Subcommittee wants to know if the criteria are changed, will this result in applicants being funded based on score or should the grants be separated again. Natalya said we had to worry about the time it involves, due to staffing. Lore said it turns out to not save time as they thought it should, in fact, it was a bit overwhelming and there was a fair amount of confusion generated.

Lore shared that Grant Review Committee Co-Chair Roger Anthony supports separating the grants again. Naimah said she supports the separation and thinks if worked better for the Grant Review Committee.

Galena said she supports the separation of EPAP General Grants and Civic Engagement Grants. Galena said her group is growing and she has questions of the Grants Review Committee. She wants to know if they understand the cultural specific grants and groups. She talked about the Slavic Festival and the need for funding and this made her question the Grants Review Committee and their assessing of the grant applicants. She asked the Committee representatives to be more attentive of the request of the community. Lore said they have funded the Slavic Festival more than most grants. Layla said there are other grants in the community for Galena to seek.

Layla, a member of the Grant Review Committee and Civic Engagement Subcommittee, expressed that she perceived projects identified as serving “people of color” to be for African American peoples and that this fit the concept of race, ethnic, language and cultural - specific. Everyone else in the room disagreed with this definition and said “people of color” is multicultural not race, ethnic, language and cultural – specific. Adriana said that she is a person of color and she is not African American. Lore suggested that if Layla wants to elevate multiculturalism, she can make that suggestion to the Grant Review Committee when recommend this year’s EPAP General Grant criteria.

Adriana said she wants to support separating the General and Civic Engagement Subcommittee Grants, but we want to make sure we think about it because we are not the ones doing the work. If we do separate, we don’t want to do it just because someone has advocated for their project. Kate said she supports returning to the separation.

Lore asked do we want to separate the grants back to how they were, or institute changes in criteria.

ACTION: There was consensus, with Natalya, Galena, Frieda, Kate, Naimah, and Adriana supporting returning to separating the EPAP Civic Engagement and General grants and Layla abstaining.

Announcements:

Frieda announced there will be a public meeting to discuss the future use of the property where the Hansen Building is located. The meeting will be on June 26th from 5:30 to 7:30pm at the EPAP office.

Natalya said that the Russian community EPAP Grant funded Community Energy Project Lents home repair program still has openings and you should contact her.

Kate announced Saturday is Taste of Parkrose at Rossi Farms from 10am to 4pm.

Layla said Festival of Nation will be on Sunday Sept 16th.

Somali Association of Oregon is having an Open House for their new office this Saturday from 5pm-7pm at 1511 SE 112nd.

Adjourned 8:35 pm.

- Next meeting: **July 17, 2018**
If you want to be on the agenda or need childcare or interpretation, please contact lore at: 503.823.4035 or lore.wintergreen@portlandoregon.gov

East Portland Action Plan (EPAP) Strategic Priorities

Fiscal Year 2016-18

- E.** Engage ethnic communities in neighborhood activities; provide overhead funding for translation/language and childcare services to remove barriers and improve messaging and invitations. (CB.1.2)
- F.** 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

أدوات توصية لخطوة 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 polices 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.