

East Portland Action Plan Civic Engagement Subcommittee Meeting

September 18, 2018

Meeting began at 6:34 pm.

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: lore wintergreen, Frieda Christopher, Layla Assem, Galena Nekrasova, Zinah Mudhafar, Natalya Sobolevskaya, Adam Bidema, Clare Adamsick, Adrianna Govea, Pei-ru Wong, Teresa Campos, Maher Lazeg, and Judy Low

Galena welcomed everyone and each attendee introduced themselves.

Next month's (October 16th) meeting:

Facilitator: Layla

Notes: Frieda

Food: Zinah

General EPAP Report: Frieda and Adriana

Advocacy Planning for Strategic Priorities:

D: Engage ethnic communities in neighborhood activities; provide overhead funding for translation/language services to remove barriers and improve messaging and invitations. Lore explained what funds were in the City's budget and there was just \$75k we were told would fund a study of City-wide overhead funding. Lore explained that Andrew Scott, then Director of the City Budget Office, said that there shouldn't be special funding and that each bureau should be providing the services. At a previous EPAP Civic Engagement meeting with Andrea Valderrama, Andrea said that the overhead funding was going forward and would be managed by the Office of Equity and Human Rights (OEHR). Commissioner Fritz is now in-charge of OEHR.

Lore introduced Clair Adamsick, who said interpretation and translation is something that the community shouldn't have to worry about. Clair said that she is in attendance to listen and learn. She said Andrea is the point person on the budget process for the Mayor's office now. Clair said she talked with Koffi Dessou, Interim Director of OEHR, and they are a small bureau and are not as flexible or staffed to handle the funds. Lore said we are asking for overhead funding and Clair was told each bureau needs to set aside funds for interpretations, translation, etc. Lore said her experience is that bureaus don't have designated/restricted funds for these needs and when staff ask, they are told that there is no available money. Lore proceeded to explain what we had done so far. Galena said we have discussed and worked on this issue for several years. She said we are pleased if we could have someone that really does things and we would like Clair to continue to work in this direction. Galina asked others say how necessary these services are.

Adrianna is passionate about all languages. She said East Portland is the most diverse and that the only organization that has helped and supported us has been EPAP. She stated that she is coming to the realization that it is not any good to keep asking for help and support because instead of giving us help they take funds away. She said her community is lucky because it is easy to get Spanish interpretation, whereas the other language-specific communities (Burmese, Somali, Arabic, etc.) are not so lucky. It is as if these community members don't exist. When they do want us is when they want our votes. She is wondering what we need to do to get something done. She feels the electeds say we are a great organization, but when we need the support they are not there. She asked Clair to educate us on how to talk with the elected, so we can get things done.

Zinah said last time she met with the Mayor, she told him that the interpretation made the communication easier. There are many immigrants in this city and about 90% of the immigrants do not speak English. For the small communities it is difficult to communicate and connect with other communities without interpretation. Here we can talk with each other.

Maher said the interpreters are important especially in trainings.

Galena said she had worked in the past with Commissioner Fritz and she has been helpful. She is hoping we can work together on this.

Clair thanked everyone, and she said had the experience of being first-language English when living in Germany. Having the funds to provide the service is very important.

Testimony from Community Health Worker (CHW) training graduates from Arabic-language class.

Mayer, who speaks both Russian and Arabic, said the Russian community is one of the largest and this training is very important. He went through the CHW training with the Arabic community and he felt it was very important. They started with 20 and they ended with 20 because the information is important and they interactive way of the workshop is engaging. He knows of 3 that have received jobs with this certification. Galena said she thought he was a good speaker and she was glad to hear the words. Zinah said she was part of the CHW training. She felt she learned a lot from Pei-ru and Theresa, who led the training, and they had a really easy way of teaching the attendees. It was very active learning and the time just flew. She said since attendees came from many countries they were able to connect with other Arabic-language communities and make new friends. She would like to do another training with Mid-East House.

E. 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 (CHW) programs. Establish racially and ethnically representative community oversight of Community Health Worker programming.

Galena feels the Multnomah County program is very effective. Galena said Natalya and she are preparing for a good ride. Lore provided background on what we had done regarding learning about the CHW program. Lore introduced and explained that Pei-ru was an active member of EPAP Civic Engagement when she worked with IRCO.

Pei-ru said that Multnomah County is prepared to work with the Russian-language community on the next training. This, like the Arabic-language training will include many different communities who share the Russian language.

Pei-ru explained changes in that the program is now part of the Community Partnerships and Capacity Building unit of Multnomah County and the CHW training is under this unit and Teresa Rios is the supervisor. There are several other programs within the unit. Teresa said they have adapted the training to different cultures such as Native American, African-American

Pacific Islander, and Asian when working with the partners. What we are doing is passing the training to 8 organizations that are doing the training in the community, but we got assurance that Multnomah County will still do training.

The timeline for the Arabic training included a scheduling recognition of Ramadan, but the process is how they work with the communities that want to be partners in developing a training. She said first they have an introductory meeting and they create a steering committee to help them to make sure the training is culturally specific. Then the steering committee recruits the facilitators from the community. Zinah explained how the group worked. The Steering Committee arranged for the food, water, etc. through the community. Teresa said it is a collaborative process and they work closely and what would be needed is a Russian Steering Committee. Natalya asked if the training is free for participants and Pei-ru said, "yes". Natalya and Galena will be working with Theresa and they will arrange a time for to meet and begin the process.

ACTION: We have commitment from Multnomah County Health Department to work on a CHW training with the Russian-language community and EPAP has connected Teresa and Pei-ru with Galina and Natalya to get the steering committee started. **SUCCESS.**

Dina mica: Galena led us in movement and dance around the room.

F: Educate first-time homeowners to require environmental hazard assessments on property to be purchased, and

Adriana lead the discussion and said she does not know how to approach advocacy on this topic. She expressed that she just knows that members of her community are first time home buyers and they are the most impacted. They want to buy a house and they do not check it over, they just take the opportunity to sign the papers in the excitement of owning a home. We don't ask about lead or chemicals in the soil and over the years the children end-up in the hospital. She told a story of a small girl who was impacted by the chemicals in the house that killed her. She said in her research there are no laws that check on chemicals in houses.

Lore said State House Representative Keny-Guyer could be someone to talk with, or perhaps her staff, Kathy Wai, who used to be a member of the Civic Engagement Subcommittee. Lore also mentioned the City Housing Bureau and the Bureau of Development Services (BDS). She said that a

seller only need to disclose (tell people) what they know, so most don't try to find such information.

Clair said the City Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) has a process for scoring energy efficiency and they might be able to work on developing something regarding environmental issues with a home.

Frieda suggested they get this as part of the new-homeowner workshops that are being done in the community.

Galena said there are real estate agents with a book on what needs to be checked, but the problem is that the book is in English. There was further discussion on the issues in real estate.

ACTION: lore will schedule a meeting with Kathy and Adriana to look further into possibilities.

G: Expand community non-profit home repair and rehabilitation assistance programs to cover a greater number of households.

Advocacy Planning for anti-displacement:

Natalya said there are programs to help fund home repair. She said there are bureaus such as Portland Housing Bureau, Prosper Portland, and Bureau of Environmental Services they can possibly help us. She wants to invite the representatives from the bureaus to come to our meeting. It was suggested to invite maybe two bureaus at a time. Lore will send Natalya the names and contact information for the bureau related people on the EPAP Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

ACTION: lore will send Natalya the TAC contact information and Natalya will arrange for participation at the next Civic Engagement Subcommittee.

Announcements:

Frieda announced that David Douglas School District had 14 applicants for the newly vacated School Board position. This is the most candidates the District has ever had for an opening. There were very qualified residents of color who applied. She said it would difficult to just pick one.

Lore announced that Dave Potter with Leach Botanical Gardens said construction has started on the bridge. They also had several classes this past summer.

Lore also said the EPAP transition from the Office of Community & Civic Life to the City Commissioner position #4 is proceeding and Winta is the

liaison to the Commissioner's office. Winta asked if anyone from Civic Engagement will assist in voter registration. They know East Portland has low voter turn-out (they are doing studying data to show which areas have low voter participation). Lore handed out a sign-up sheet for those that want to help, and she sent this to Winta.

Jessica Dover announced Bright.md is giving Amazon gift cards if Spanish-language people will try their online survey.

Layla announced the Jim Pepper Native Arts Festival on September 29 & 30th from 11:00 AM - dusk on Saturday and 10:00 AM -2:00 PM on Sunday at Parkrose High School (it is around back, so you will not see it from the front of the school).

Judy said they just announced that the Feds are lowering the number of people allowed to immigrate to the U.S.A. She encouraged everyone to register to vote.

Next Meeting: October 16, 2018 at 6:30pm
East Portland Action Plan office, 1017 NE 117th Ave.
To schedule childcare, interpretation, or other
accommodation, contact Lore at: 503.823.4035 or
lore.wintergreen@portlandoregon.gov .

Adjourned 8:33 pm.

East Portland Action Plan (EPAP)
Strategic Priorities *Fiscal Year 2018-20*
Government Partner references in bold

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)

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)

City Housing Bureau and State of Oregon Legislature: Educate first-time homeowners to require environmental hazard assessments on property to be purchased. (HD.2.3 + 2.4)

Community Development Corporations and Bureau of Housing, Prosper Portland, and Bureau of Development Services: Expand community non-profit home repair and rehabilitation assistance programs to cover a greater number of households. (HD.2.4)

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:

Предупреждение вынужденного переселения граждан Рекомендации для Восточного района Портленда_Recommendations in Russian.pdf: <http://tinyurl.com/Recommendations-in-Russian>

Prevención del desplazamiento involuntario Recomendaciones para el este de Portland_Spanish_Recommendations inSpanish.pdf: <http://tinyurl.com/Recommendations-in-Spanish>

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.