

East Portland Action Plan

Civic Engagement Subcommittee Meeting

October 16, 2018

Meeting began at 6:32 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: Aneesah Furqan, Darrell Smith, Alexander Kibara, Michelle Traver, lore wintergreen, Frieda Christopher, Layla Assem, Galena Nekrasova, Zinah Mudhafar, and Natalya Sobolevskaya.

Next month's (November 20th) meeting:

Facilitator: Natalya

Notes: Layla

Food: lore

General EPAP Report: Layla and Zinah

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 said Clare could not be here tonight for follow-up from Commissioner Fritz's Office that oversees the Office of Equity and Human Rights (OEHR). Lore presented an email from Winta Yohannes with Commissioner Eudaly's Office. She said the \$75,000 for accommodations in the City budget is being administered by the Office of Community and Civic Life. Winta's email states the following "I've learned from Civic Life and OEHR that for the first 6 months (until January), they are prioritizing "community requests," meaning groups whose programs are not City funded. This means groups like EPAP, which receive city funding, should wait until January to make requests. This was in recognition of the limited amount of funds this year. Simultaneously, OEHR has asked budget analysts in

various bureaus to collect data on how the different bureaus are funding accommodations.”

Lore followed-up to ask what groups could request funds and was told those that were city partners. She asked what made a group a partner. She was not given an answer; she could not get a definition of “partner”. Lore encouraged organizations to request funding. She said to go www.portlandonline.gov, then search for “accommodation funds” or click on the following: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/civic/74155>. There is a simple application that can be filled-out.

Frieda thought the money was to be used for a study. Lore said Clare expressed that the study is seeing how the accommodations fund is used, despite the limitations.

Zinah asked if our group could consider the fund and do other organizations need a fiscal sponsor. Lore said that EPAP can only apply after January. She doesn’t know if a group must have a fiscal sponsor, but the request needs to be for interpretation, translation, child care and transportation. Natalya asked if her group had a conference, could they put in a request for child care etc. Lore said they should. There was additional discussion on applying for the funds.

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

Lore provided background information on what is already defined in law. There is a 2017 ORS 105.464 saying a seller shall deliver a property disclosure statement to each buyer who presents a written offer. The disclosure covers many areas:

- Are there any government studies, surveys or zoning related to the property?
- Is there an easement to a water source?
- Has there been a pest or dry rot structural and inspection done in last 3 years?
- Is there any water or moisture problem with the house?
- Does the property contain fill?
- is there any material damage to the property from natural disaster, etc.?
- Is the property a flood plain or slide zone or geological zone?
- Has any of the property been tested for a list of environmental problems?

- Are there any underground storage tanks?
- Has the property ever been used as an illegal drug manufacturer and gotten a certificate of fitness?

This oversight appears to apply to single-family and duplex housing. You do not have to inform people about something that has not proven to be a problem.

There was a discussion on whether we needed to change any law. Lore sent out emails to find out what exists as relates to the City. She was informed that regarding flood plains the State Representative Reardon is trying to have the process changed to have buyers notified earlier. The Bureau of Environmental Services is also looking at a new City ordinance to require the notification be earlier.

Elizabeth Edwards with City Government Relations said they found out they could look at making changes at the city level. Lore suggested Jeremy O'Leary, who chairs the City Hazardous Mitigation Plan and is a former EPAP chair, attend our next meeting. Lore said Portland Housing Bureau works with buyer education and they provided a list of agencies that do this work. It was suggested by a staff at the City Bureau of Environmental Services that the best way would be to have the City require the agencies funded by the City to provide environmental information to new buyers.

ACTION: Lore will speak with Adriana, the lead on this Strategic Priority, about following-up with Jeremy and the Portland Housing Bureau to come to the next Civic Engagement Subcommittee meeting.

Dinámica: Layla led us in movement around the room.

Input on Tri-Met Art Project at the SE 122nd Max Station. (Michelle Traver)

Michelle said some eastside transit stations are being refurbished and a small portion of the budget is to add art to the station areas. She is working on the SE 122nd Max Station and she wanted our input. She is suggesting a mural on the cement wall along the sidewalk that goes around the parking area. She wanted to know what she could do to reach community.

Natalya said there are a lot of Russian speaking people in the area and could one section of the mural be focused on Russian. Layla said it would be good to have sections done for each ethnic community that lives in the area. Frieda suggested using high school students to work with painting the wall, both David Douglas and Parkrose. Both schools have art programs and some very talented artists. Lore said Kris Bella with Free Arts Northwest, an art program with youth, has a company called Arte Solé on 122nd. Mustafah is working with youth in New Avenues for Youth on the art on garbage cans project led by Alfredo Gonzalez with the City Bureau of Planning & Sustainability. Galena agreed with Natalya. She shared that in Russia there is a beautiful subway that is well decorated. It was suggested that the students in David Douglas and Parkrose could help design the mural for the station. Galina recommended that the students be paid for doing it. Michelle spoke of another mural where languages and cultures blended together; Natalya thought that this would be good. Zinah recommended that it be made a contest for the students. Lore mentioned Sabina Hague's projects and showed work EPAP funded of her murals that have a political message. Lore suggested discussing a theme.

Frieda asked why Rockwood gets so much more in the area of art. Michelle said it was funded by the City of Gresham. Lore suggested getting extra funding from Regional Arts and Cultural Council (RACC), because they want to do work in East Portland.

Michelle asked if there was something we wanted to let people know about the community. Zinah said it is one city and by putting something about the ethnic communities it makes them feel as if they belong. Frieda suggested looking at the statements David Douglas High School (DDHS) student leadership group came up referencing that we are united as a diverse community.

It was asked if there are other transit line station areas being considered and Michelle said there is the rapid transit on SE Division and one on the SW corridor. Galena encouraged involving a sculpture. Michelle said that at this time, they are discussing a mural because of the limited funds and station area surface. Frieda asked about the Gateway area. Michelle said they are looking at changes in the future. Frieda suggested that this would be a place to put a sculpture. Michelle referenced a sculpture in the area. Lore said with the improvements on Division, Tri-met could push the City to do art along the roadway to slow the traffic. Michelle thanked the committee.

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

Natalya thinks a lot of low-income people do not know of the programs available to them for home repair and rehabilitation. We could put some efforts to share the information with different communities so more people could benefit. The organizations seem to serve the same groups of people that receive the service. She feels there are many more low-income homeowners that could benefit from the programs. Lore said such programs are often is under-utilized.

Natalya said sometimes residents think the government will come back to take the house or they will have to pay back the funds, so they are scared to utilize the program. Natalya said we need to break the fear. Frieda explained that Portland Housing Bureau put additional funds for the home repairs for low-income homeowners into this fiscal-year budget and that a preference was given to East Portland. Galena thought it might not be easy to do this year because the President says anyone who gets government help would not get their green card renewed. Layla said maybe we need to get the information translated into other languages. Natalya explained how the Oregon Energy Project works and how the same person came back each year for different small repairs. Natalya said to call her for more information on the program. Frieda will send Natalya Michelle DePass' information to get the contact for the homeownership repair program. Natalya asked if they could use the accommodation funds and lore encouraged her to try. Natalya said she will try to apply.

Update on Community Health Worker Training:

Natalya said Galena and she have already met with County Health Department Community Health Workers and they shared a curriculum. Natalya said she and Galina need to get a co-facilitator and recruit participants. On November 4th, Natalya is meeting with Pei-ru to get flyers and get additional information. On December 4th, they will have the big meeting to get interested participates to come to hear about the program. Natalya feels the most difficult thing will be to get the co-facilitator, because they need to know some of the curriculum and speak Russian.

Announcements:

Frieda said the City budget process is changing and it will focus on 3 areas: community engagement, strategic priorities established by City Council,

and a focus on the strategic priorities and programs within each bureau. She said the community engagement process will take a couple of years to take effect. A consultant did a review on last fiscal year's process and provided a report with around 26 recommendations. The Mayor selected 3 recommendations to focus on this first year. The budget process for 2019-2020 will not include budget cut and add packages, as they have done in the past. Instead City Council will focus on the strategic priorities, programs within the base budget of each bureau and with a directive of a 1% cut by bureaus in their base budget.

Lore read about immigration status and the threat if receiving government funds. She said the current law is if you receive supplement security, food stamps, or TANIF, you are not able to get permanent residence. Now U.S. President Trump wants the law to be applied to receiving any government assistance. There was further discussion on this issue of immigration and what assistance is proposed to trigger restrictions.

Frieda shared the work she is doing on a preference policy affordable by design housing for East Portland. It is to be used as an anti-displacement tool. She is in the beginning stages of researching the feasibility of having the City establish such a policy that would give priority to those living in East Portland to access affordable housing in East Portland.

Next Meeting: **November 20, 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 8:40 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.