



East Portland Action Plan (EPAP)

Transition Dialogue

The EPAP is an ongoing group charged with providing leadership and guidance to strategically allocate resources to address community-identified livability improvements and displacement prevention as specifically described in the adopted *East Portland Action Plan, a guide for improving livability in outer East Portland* (adopted by the Portland City Council in February 2009 and Multnomah County Commission in July 2010).

EPAP was originally funded as a special project of Mayor Adams. Ever sense EPAP program oversight was moved to the Office of Neighborhood Involvement, EPAP members have directed that EPAP should be placed elsewhere within the City (see below Background for more information about options pursued).

BACKGROUND

- East Portland Action Plan has always been a predominantly City funded entity.
- \$500,000 was allocated for the Action Plan that was adopted by the City of Portland in February 2009. Budgeting the money was informed by the East Portland Action Plan Advisory Committee and \$200,000 was invested in continuing EPAP by funding operations and an EPAP Advocate position. Those that were on City Advisory Committee reconstituted as an open group, East Portland Action Plan (EPAP), and developed an operating “Structures” document that established how the new group would function.
- For about 4 years, EPAP was a one-time general funded special project (\$350,000) in Mayor Adams’ Office, with supervision for the program and staff assigned to East Portland Neighborhood Office (EPNO)/ONI. To paraphrase a staff member in that Office: EPAP is a

City program, but they think they work for the community. EPAP has functioned in a unique and unprecedented way within the City construct. Due to the outstanding advocacy of EPAP members and supporters, EPAP continued to receive one-time general funding.

- When Mayor Adam's left, the City of Portland Office of Management and Finance moved EPAP as a one-time (now four-time) general funded project, to the budget and oversight of the Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI). EPAP was not notified and the Directors of EPNO and ONI said that they did not become aware of this move until the EPAP Advocate raised the issue during the Budget Hearing season. Once aware of the move, EPAP came to full consensus that ONI was not the appropriate placement for the program. At this point, the EPAP Advocate and Co-Chairs were directed to seek a new placement for EPAP, with preference expressed for placement in the City of Portland Auditor's Office.
- The Auditor's Office was performing an audit of EPAP and we were told that it would not be appropriate to be placed within the Auditor's Office while being audited. We waited for a year and the audit was quite complementary of the work of EPAP, but the Auditor decided that it would not be appropriate for EPAP to be placed in the Auditor's Office.
- EPAP again came to full consensus at a general meeting directing the EPAP Advocate and Co-Chairs to seek an alternative to ONI placement for EPAP. In late 2014, the newly elected Auditor decided that EPAP was not to be placed in the Auditor's Office.
- City of Portland Commissioner Fritz welcomed EPAP to stay with ONI, but again, by full consensus of the general EPAP, it re-established that EPAP should be placed elsewhere within the City.
- At the suggestion of Commissioner Fritz, EPAP sought placement with the City of Portland Budget Office and the Office of Management and Finance. Neither approved EPAP to be moved into their authority. EPAP did not choose to pursue placement with the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability.
- In December 2017, EPAP Operations re-emphasized the direction to find an alternative placement for EPAP within the City of Portland.
- The EPAP Advocate, lore wintergreen, found that the "Portland Children's Levy" is a program assigned to a City Commissioner **position** (not a specific person, but a position held by a City Commissioner). While Commissioner **positions have titles**, the titles

have no significance in terms of authority and oversight. This differs from being a “special project” of an elected individual, being placed within the Commissioner position establishes the program placement to exist beyond an elected individual. It is not a common practice.

- With the support of the EPAP Co-Chairs and Operations Committee members, we pursued placement with the City of Portland “Administration & Finance position” (held by the Mayor). This was discussed at our annual one-on-one meeting with the Mayor and he shared that he was not looking to assume more responsibilities, but if legally appropriate, he would support such a transition. As the 2018 – 19 Fiscal Year Budget approached, Kyle Chisek, with the Mayor’s office, shared a DRAFT Budget Note that would require EPAP to significantly change our structure to comply with City constructs for Advisory Committees. While only a draft, this Note made it clear that there was limited understanding of EPAP and our operational structure in the Mayor’s office.

- City of Portland Commissioner Eudaly has offered, with the support of the Mayor’s Office, to place EPAP within City Council Commissioner “Position 4” (currently held by Commissioner Eudaly). In June 2018, this opportunity was presented as a proposal and approved at the general EPAP meeting by full consensus.

- Since making that decision, new information and stipulations have been raised (additional \$19,000 annually needed for administrative oversight, reverting the EPAP Advocate position back to a 1 Full Time Equivalency staff position, and when transferred, changing the staff position from a civil employment position to a Commissioner Eudaly at-will staff position). At the October 2018 general EPAP meeting it was decided that further discussion of options was necessary.

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EAST PORTLAND ACTION PLAN

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