



## **EAST PORTLAND ACTION PLAN**

## **Youth Subcommittee Meeting Notes**

**March 17<sup>th</sup>**, 4:00 - 6:00 pm

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays, monthly

East Portland Community Center

740 Southeast 106th Avenue

Portland, OR 97216-3102

(503) 823-3450

The mission of the Youth Subcommittee is to bring the voice of youth into the advocacy process, while advocating for East Portland's fair share of resources and support for our young people, schools, and providers.

### **Present**

Jessica C, Randy S, Susan P, Mark W, Jenny G, Marie D, Nancy M, Kris B

### **Charter Commission**

Mark White, Steering Committee for the Charter Commission (thanks Mark, for reviewing these for accuracy)

***What is the Charter?*** The Charter is essentially the Constitution of the City — it defines how we do business as a city; in 2007 the voters approved a new charter commission - happens every 10 years; broad demographic was mandated by previous commission; we have 1 youth already, but Mark would like to see more; community application process was also mandated, but the city was not sure how to legally ensure broad demographic representation and picked people who were already sitting on existing City Boards and Commissions so they would 'know' that they had a broad demographic - this was done in December 2010.

How can they make the Charter and the process of revision understandable/meaningful for ordinary people?

***What is the Charter Commission?*** This is the first time the charter commission has been done by a voter approved citizen-driven Commission. Except for the immediately previous Charter Commission, all other reviews have been done internally, by the City; There are 20 people on the first commission (see later notes about 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Commission). The Commission is working on providing a mechanism for the city to use in the future to ensure the community can apply and the demographic groups are represented properly.

City Council has divided the commission into two separate commissions. 1<sup>st</sup> commission is to look at housekeeping (example: removing issues that have become irrelevant, outdated, or discriminatory), identifying how to get a broad group legally, coming up with topic areas for Commission #2 to address. It's important to note that once the Charter Commission was approved, they have the authority to do what they want. This was intentionally done by the previous Commission who are responsible for Portland now having a citizen driven Charter Commission.

***What are topic areas?*** Topic areas could include police oversight; city involvement in education; form of government (Should we change the form of government? Strong mayor? Public funding? How commissioners are elected or appointed.

Need to prioritize topics - trying to get as much public input as possible, checking in with groups for now; topics will be prioritized by the larger community - the more people are interested in a topic, the more likely it is to be addressed by the commission. Outreach to the public will likely be largely the charge of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Commission. The 1<sup>st</sup> Commission, however, is working on a communications strategy.

***How long does the charter commission exist?*** Up to the individual group - they can (basically) do whatever they want in terms of their existence. Why 10 years? That seems a long time. Set by previous group; probably don't want to amend the charter too frequently because it's like a constitution - don't want a charter that changes every few years; Might be good to have the charter reviewed every five years?

***What about proposed changes?*** Changes will be brought to the voters - how will this work? Will we vote for "all" changes or individual changes? Because we want the most possible people to vote, should charter votes be brought only during general election years? It seems likely that some housekeeping issues would be brought to the vote during the 2012 primaries

***What's the timeline for selecting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Commission?*** Don't know; 6 month timeline given by City (i.e. be done with the review by June 2011) is unrealistic; no guarantee that people on the 1<sup>st</sup> commission will be the same people on the 2<sup>nd</sup> commission; City did this in order to allow for the Portland Plan to be completed because they're assuming that will inform decisions made by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Commission

***Request to the Youth Subcommittee:*** Get as many youth involved as possible in the public meetings as soon as they begin; next Commission meeting is 4<sup>th</sup> Monday at 6:30 in the Rose Room (City Hall), haven't gotten to the point of holding community meetings yet - also don't have their internet presence ready yet, working through Commissioner Fritz' website; hoping to have the website up later this week, with a signup for notifications of future events

## **Introductory Letter**

- Submit to general EPAP membership for approval at April meeting? That timeline puts us too close to the end of the school year - need to get the Operations Committee to take a look earlier; Marie will email out to the Committee sometime in the next week
- Signed by Subcommittee co-chairs, with contact emails; also include Lore's information
- Mention the list of projects to general EPAP - see if anyone else has a youth-ready project we might include
- List of projects could have an action-oriented introduction; is it okay for us to send youth directly to the organizations? Yes - we want to make it as easy as possible for them to get involved

## **Website & other communications**

- Randy to take over the website project - needs to coordinate training with EPNO office
- Want to include videos of city council presentations? Other videos?
- Can we do a youth-oriented brochure or flyer? Invite Communications subcommittee member to discuss more youth-oriented materials - Marie will contact Amy

## **Overall Goals**

Our goal as a group - are we trying to direct youth to projects or to engage them in EPAP? Are we trying to get them into the advocacy process or into EPAP? Both, but our focus now is connecting with educators & service providers so they can help us recruit ☺