

East Portland Neighborhood Office – Advisory Committee

Friday, May 29, 2015, 9 – 11 AM

Ride Connection, 9955 NE Glisan Street

Attendance: Alesia Reese, Annette Stanhope, Arlene Kimura, Bridget Bayer, Carrie Goble, Cristina Palacios, Hongsa Chanthavong, Joyce Ley, Kathi Holmes, Lori Boisen, Mary Nelson, Mingus Mapps, Natalia Sanchez, Polo Catalani, Richard Kiely, Rick Paul, Ron Glanville, Tom Badrick, Tom Lewis, Violet Pascoe.

Staff: David Ashton, Eliza Lindsay, Kari Koch, Ashley Horne, Jeri Williams, Paul Leistner, Richard Bixby

Proposal for direct funding support of community activities

- This will create two different funds; current groups fund and community activities fund
- The intent is to open funds to other community groups beyond neighborhood associations
- The proposal will also require more reporting for transparency and accountability
- The proposal creates “break-points” to allow funds to be shifted to other uses if they are not being used by the assigned group
- Editing error on flow-chart on the proposal page; “if not used or committed by March 1” applies to both current groups and community activities funds.
- Reminder, the first decision is on the structure of the fund; then the decision on amounts of funds and where it comes from

Comments:

Get more funding

- What is the formula used to divide funding among coalitions; is it equitable for East Portland?
- Look for other funding beyond City funding; do marketing and fundraising
- Ask for additional money from the City to fund this new program that builds diverse involvement
- Concern that if we do same work for less money, it will become expected
- There are many needs in the community; a lot of languages spoken at schools; inadequate bus service; we need to raise our voice at City Council with people that look like East Portland
- Advisory Committee could advocate for increased EPNO budget next year

Neighborhood associations getting less

- Concern about existing groups getting less money; while there is a need for funding for diverse groups
- The proposal doesn't help neighborhood associations; we may be doing harm to the community involvement system that Portland has spent decades building
- Concern about the timeline to develop a budget by Sept 30
- The money gets smaller and the tasks get larger; neighborhood associations and volunteers do not get the needed staff support
- Concern about the neighborhood associations that don't have the capacity to meet the budgeting and reporting requirements

Staffing & program questions

- How will EPNO staff this additional process and more groups that will be included?
- Concern about the reporting requirements for every little money
- The same requirements should be applied to all groups for transparency and accountability

Program needs

- The community activities fund is needed, support is needed for more outreach, translation, transit for renters

- Neighborhood associations are great, but cannot do the whole job; being inclusive means sharing the money

Look at the whole before deciding

- We need to look at the whole budget before deciding on this proposal

Building strength through collaboration

- This advisory group in East Portland represents many groups, not just neighborhood associations, that is our strength; East Portland is doing a new thing
- Sharing is about making an investment in building community
- Making connections in the community is about time not money
- A group of people with a common message can get heard downtown
- If we are not doing outreach, then new voices are not going to be included

Suggest changes

- This proposal asks us to discriminate, it asks us not to share, it asks for division
- Modify the proposal; current groups that lost funding would be eligible for the community activities fund
- Bring simpler proposals to the Advisory Committee
- Why not fix the problem of diverse participation in the neighborhood associations?

Straw polls

- Are you willing to share the funds with other community groups; yes with 4 maybe: Annette S, Rick P, Richard K, Mingus M
- Should the current groups be required to plan, budget and report on their expenditures received; yes with 3 maybe: Lori B, Mary N, Tom L
- If there are no plans for expenditure of money, should it become available for other groups; yes with 2 maybe: Mingus M, Rick P

Create small group to refine the proposal to bring back to the next Advisory Committee meeting

- Include everyone who raised a yellow card (maybe) during the straw polls
- Other volunteers for the small group; Bridget B; Ron G, Violet P, Arlene K

Proposal for Cleanup program

- This is a Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS) program which provides funding for the neighborhood cleanups
- The first good news is that there is more money to do this program
- The second good news is that BPS wants to do pilot program to support other organizations beyond neighborhood associations in doing cleanups
- The reporting and application would be the same for all groups
- All groups can partner on events, neighborhood associations and community groups
- This provides a good opportunity to forge partnerships with groups in your neighborhood
- All clean-ups are required to include a reuse and recycle activity
- This will provide more money for neighborhood associations to do cleanups and more money for others groups to do cleanups
- There was consensus support on the written proposal

List of items for future agendas – please look them over and contact EPNO if you have something to add

Announcements:

- Richard K – A lot of groups worked together to organize the 82nd Avenue of the Roses parade and community fair – about 6000 attended
- Polo – First time event on NE 82nd Avenue at Glenhaven Park the same day, Lao new years - about 5500 attended
- Mingus - Parkrose is organizing Taste of Parkrose, fun run and food, June 13 at 106th & Sandy
- Cristina – Community Alliance of Tenants is having a fundraiser next Friday – will send out an email invitation to the Advisory Committee
- Thank you to Ron for the upgrade in the EPNO community room furniture
- Hongsa - Marketfest is happening a week from Sunday – to promote Lao businesses in the area. There will be food and music
- Eliza – Parkrose SUN school Celebration is happening next Thursday
- The Zomi Association of United States is holding their 6th annual election tomorrow
- The Summer Free-For-All schedule is coming out in 7 languages. Several Advisory Members are responsible for making this happen.
- Alesia – Portland Parks and Recreation is having a meeting June 4, at 7 pm, to discuss funding of master plans for developing East Portland parks
- David – The Lents International Farmers' Market is starting on Sunday
- Deadline for articles for the East Portland Neighborhood Association News is next Monday

For next meeting, contact Richard or Eliza if you have ideas. A doodle poll will be sent to find a date.

Submitted by Richard Bixby