

East Portland Neighborhood Office Advisory Committee  
Special meeting on budget advocacy  
Friday, December 18, 2015, 9 am – 11:00 am  
East Portland Neighborhood Office, 1017 NE 117<sup>th</sup> Ave

Attendance: Arlene Kimura, Lori Boisen, Mary Nelson, Tom Badrick, Tom Lewis, Rick Paul  
Staff: Eliza Lindsay, Kari Koch, Richard Bixby

Goals of the meeting is to develop a high-level plan for advocacy, and the message to go with it,

- Debrief 1<sup>st</sup> ONI BAC meeting
- Propose required cut package
- Practice telling our story

### **Debrief December 14, ONI BAC meeting**

- Staff workshop prior to meeting, used to develop initial proposals for cuts, demonstrated using privilege to maintain privilege (positional power and insider knowledge), rather than to support those who lack privilege. Set up to fail building a unified group.
- It is good that Commissioner Fritz will be at all the BAC meetings
- Good to know why we need to propose cuts, and that we can state that these cuts are not right for ONI
- Verbal statements supporting East were made, but not documented in handouts
- Talk about more funds, no path to get there
- No community member on the ONI BAC Steering Committee
- Time to be creative about where to seek funding?
- Audit ONI programming
- Was a typical ONI BAC meeting
- Challenge to deal with complex material in a large and diverse group

### **Response to first ONI BAC meeting**

- Lori will write a letter, as a first-time attendee, about message the ONI staff retreat prior to the meeting sent regarding the unimportance of community members at the table
- BAC should finish the cut proposal and start working on budget adds.
- Suggest cutting management in direct portion to program cuts, if there is less program, there is less need for management (same would be true of adding program dollars, add to management); Also equity issue as management tend to be highest paid employees
- Richard will write up group's points and proposed cuts and send out. Short turn-around for any feedback. All BAC members can send in the suggestions to Amy Archer, cc Amalia, with the proposed cuts.
- Proposed cuts
  - Graffiti Removal - \$150,000 – suggest increasing volunteer cleanup
  - Vacant Crime Prevention position - \$80,000
  - 5% cut to administration - \$20,000
  - Resolutions Northwest contract - \$163,000
- Suggest meeting again before next meeting

**Other thoughts:**

- Need to do 2 year planning cycles
- ONI strategy is set up to fail
- Showing up matters, build partnerships
- Need audit to show evidence of equity in program
- Look for dollars for Community Activities Fund elsewhere
- Arlene – in other bureau advisory committees, staff propose cuts and community members evaluate them. In ONI the community proposes cuts
- Think about who we serve and how we serve the community. All ONI programs serve a small number of people because of our funding level.
- Need transparency and accountability about how funds are used
- Will extra funds given to DCL partners be spend in East?
- Rough comparisons of funding level; DCL are at about 40%, EPNO is about 60%

**Next Steps:**

- Develop and practice advocacy stories

Submitted by Richard Bixby