

East Portland Neighborhood Office Advisory Committee  
Special meeting on budget advocacy  
Friday, February 12, 2016, 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, Jill Erickson, Joyce Ley, Mingus Mapps, Ron Glanville  
Staff: Eliza Lindsay, Kari Koch, Richard Bixby

Before we can plan a strategy for the next one to two years, we need to step back and look, not only at our common interests, but also what other projects are being done, and what is the additional capacity of staff and community members.

### **Debrief ONI BAC meetings**

- It was a good decision to shorten this budget cycle to 4 meetings
- For first time attendee, it was educational, good to hear city-wide perspectives, concern about low staffing levels of partners
- For first time attendee, enlightening how other coalitions operate, how ONI operates, its structure, the decision-making process
- Concern ONI gets additional duties (ie Marijuana) dumped on them.

Lori talked with Amalia, ONI Director, and expressed concern about lack of including community in workshop prior to the meeting cycle; and the lack of strategy for add packages. It was a positive conversation.

- Add packages that were forwarded to the Mayor
  - 1<sup>st</sup> – Not take any cuts to ongoing funds
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> – Retain 3 current positions and use overhead funding
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> – One-time additional funding for grants, small, youth, Diversity and Civic Leadership
  - 4<sup>th</sup> – Restore accessibility fund for interpretation, child care, transportation
  - 5<sup>th</sup> – Adding about 5 positions for various programs
  - 6<sup>th</sup> – Pilot engagement around housing emergency
  - 7<sup>th</sup> – Strategic planning process for ONI budget
- Next at ONI BAC – advocacy for add requests to City Council, emails, testimony at forums and hearing
- Rest of year, one-off reviews of policy changes from various programs, work on CNIC program equity. Many meetings are cancelled. The value in participation would be building relationships with other ONI partners.
- Don't forget about the Spring & Fall BuMPs

**Recommendation: EPNO Advisory Committee invest time this spring advocating to City Council with emails and phone calls, and attending budget forums and hearings.**

Mixed feelings about how much advocacy effort to put into ONI BAC until next budget cycle.

### **Program Summary, What we are already doing;**

- Staff support for ongoing programs; support for neighborhood associations, cleanup programs, small grants program, newsletter, website, email announcements, database, social media, projects like Mobile Playgrounds
- Community members; all have other groups and projects you are involved in besides those connected to EPNO programming
- New program components added by Advisory Committee; Community Activities Fund, expanding the cleanups, and advocacy work
- The EPNO program will also be impacted by City budget decisions for next year
- EPNO program is changing, it takes time to change
- Upcoming changes
  - Two staff changes, EPNO Director, EPAP Grant Advocate; will take time to hire, orient, and train new staff
  - EPN may be changing to be more inclusive, will take a look at purpose and operation; it will be an effort that takes time
  - EPAP & EPNO relationship; programs have operated independently from beginning, made sense at the beginning, changes that indicate it is time to reexamine how we work together:
    - New staff in both programs
    - EPAP now has ongoing ONI funding
    - Up until now, EPAP has been visible, EPNO in the background; for successful advocacy EPNO needs to be more visible
  - Confusion in community about EPAP – EPNO – EPN

### **New possible advocacy projects:** How can we leverage the project for advocacy?

- Houselessness project; big issue with the City, will need to respond anyway, develop pro-active process acknowledging unique situations; Drivers: Community interest, Advisory Committee suggestion, Mayor's Plan
- All suggestions below are infrastructure projects; continue to advance as opportunities arise
  - Pursue multiple funding sources / crowd-funding, etc, for projects; would expand funding capacity and would help tell our story
  - Planting seeds and telling our story; no new projects
  - Support community events and meetings as a foundation for other activities
  - Support small grants – ONI funds or other funding

### **Recommendations:**

- **Make houselessness project a priority; and use it for advocacy and asking for more funds.**
- **Continue infrastructure development, including planting seeds and planning for projects and partnerships, particularly planning around funding from multiple sources.**

These recommendations will be crafted and taken to Advisory Committee by Tom Badrick & Richard Bixby.

### **Other thoughts**

- Don't forget campaigns for City Council positions this year; an opportunity to tell story

- Telling our story should be part of routine work of EPNO
- Remain flexible and responsive – take advantage of opportunities

Tentative next meeting at Friday, April 1, 9 am

Parking Lot:

- Uniqueness of East Portland about Houselessness issue
- East Portland Neighbors – opportunities for expansion
- Consider forming political PAC
- Continue as advocacy team, or change to another role

Submitted by Richard Bixby