



Land Use and Transportation Committee
Wednesday, May 27, 2015, 7:00pm–9:00pm
Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods Office
4815 NE 7th Avenue, Portland, OR
APPROVED Minutes

Meeting Attendees:

Leigh Rappaport - Eliot
Madison Weakley - At - Large
Anjala Ehelebe - Woodlawn
Rachel Lee - Sabin
Brooks Koehnig - King
Garlynn Woodsong – Concordia, Co-Chair
Dave sen - Alameda, Co-Chair
Andy Sheie - At-Large
Grant Morehead (a neighbor 5 blocks away) - PBOT, Transportation Planner
Sara Long - Eliot
Nan Stark - BPS
Jim Howell - Eliot
Paul VanOrden - Eliot

Meeting comes to order at 7:06pm. Garlynn counted a quorum.

We need to read through the entire 300+ Climate Action Plan, but none of us have made it through. We'll trust this version of the CAP is good, and respond directly to the council.

Moved by Garlynn to approve April Minutes, Madison seconds, minutes approved with Anjala E abstaining because she wasn't at the April Meeting.

Introductions.

Andy Sheie talked about the "For Every Kid" campaign (www.ourhealthystreets.org/foreverykid) that asks Metro to use RTO funds to create safe routes to school. This campaign asks Metro to fully fund their portion of this program. City Council today fully funded their portion of the Safe Routes to School. Garlynn said he wrote in to Metro supporting this, Metro replied thanks Garlynn, and they're glad to support it. **We recommend to NECN that NECN supports the Safe route to school program. Garlynn motions in favor, Andy abstains, Madison seconds, all in favor.**

Garlynn says the PBOT Budget Advisory Committee will now be going year round. He is the current NECN representative and is willing to continue. Paul asks Is David Sweet on this committee? Yes, he is representing Cully. It meets monthly, for 2 hours. He thinks the first meeting is June 11th. Madison says she would be interested in making the commitment to being the 2nd member. AE motions that Garlynn and Madison be recommended to the NECN Board as NECN's representative and alternate. Leigh seconded. Discussion: Rachel says the reps should be equal status unless there's an official difference in status. **Andy is also interested in serving on this. AE amends her motion so that Andy and Madison will be our representatives (of whatever status) Leigh seconds, all in favor.**

Grant introduces himself and talks about the Parking Study. It is follow-up to the City Council's 2-years-ago decision on minimum parking requirements for apartments. They created 5 study areas, and did 24-hour studies of parking. They have found that, in general, there is adequate



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parking with the exception of Mississippi Avenue, and this finding is contrary to popular opinion. They have a stakeholder committee that will meet tomorrow night, held at Multco building, public welcome. They are hosting a symposium, Monday, June 29, 1-6 pm. Portland Building Auditorium, 1120 SW 5th Ave. RSVP PDXparking@portlandoregon.gov or 503 823-5282. There will be a developer panel, an expert panel, and a neighborhood panel. See Handout. Google “Portland Parking Study” and the Hollywood report will show up. The other three reports are being final drafted. They study finds that residents of apartments with no parking often have cars that they park on the street. Someone says “in Japan, folks aren’t allowed to have a car unless they can prove they have a parking spot”. Jim asks if there is any 4-hour parking? Yes, in parts of NW, but the meters may not be installed yet. There needs to be allowances for employees who work in neighborhoods to have 8-hr. parking permits.

Grant says they want to have a system in place where neighborhoods can pick and choose how to handle their specialized parking needs.

Grant says driveway rental is not legal in residential areas. But, people are doing it anyway. It’s like AirBnB is coming to your driveway. Don’t want homeowners to park on the street and be renting their driveways. BUT! It Could reduce circling blocks looking for parking. Garlynn asks what if the numbers say that there is more demand than supply? You need a double majority neighborhood vote to establish parking permits in neighborhoods.

Opened the floor for questions. Garlynn asks if Commissioner Novick’s plan for citywide street parking fee is likely to succeed. Grant says the similar idea in Chicago was focused on revenue generation based on a “wheel fee”, not parking availability. At the moment it wouldn’t be legal to do this unless the State legislature changed the laws.

Anjala mentioned the neighbor who blocks off space to park with traffic cones because they have no driveway or garage and their street is near several popular restaurants. Is that legal? No, A street block face it is a public right of way, but there may be a way to reserve space on a block face.

City of Portland charges \$65 for an annual permit in neighborhoods with permit systems. Leigh asks where that money goes: it recovers the cost of the staffer who runs this. Grant says they’ve wondered if they charged more than just cost recovery, maybe the excess could be used for fixing streetlights and so forth. [With no further questions, Grant leaves.]

Garlynn says this committee has a \$500 discretionary budget that must be used for events where the NECN LUTC is represented as such. Last year the funds were used for the plants beautifying the NECN front and side, he thinks. Not spent on LUTC items. These dollars must be spent by June 30. Maybe we can use it on the (two neighborhood, PSU intern) alley improvement project. OR we could host an event, and one or two of us could be there. Alley naming project/contest is a suggestion. Madison asks if this alley project was part of the VBC? Not sure. Rachel said this item came up at the NECN Board two weeks ago, and there is uncertainty if there is an actual amount in the budget.

Madison suggests creating a subcommittee empowered to make a proposal to the NECN for the use of the (hypothetical) dollars. Discussion. If the money is not there, no harm done.



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Madison, Garlynn, Sara Long all volunteer. **Garlynn makes it an official motion that he, Madison and Sara be a subcommittee with authority to create an item to spend the \$500 on, first priority to spend it on the alley project or something similar, Andy seconds.**
Discussion. Unanimous approval.

Garlynn reads out the email from Mikah Meskel about Pembina because Mikah couldn't attend. [include here] Suggests that we use the draft resolution that N. Portland created. Mikah says that it would be an important step for the NECN LUTC.

Paul talks to us about city process that end up with city staffers going far beyond their authorities. e.g. racquetball club in Eastmoreland being given the right to override the environmental overlay to allow developing parking on the site. (Bowing to developer's wishes over Development bureau staffers following laws). Passes around an email printout from Amanda showing a concerning level of dissatisfaction among BDS staff. Wants us to support Amanda eventually, being most supportive of staff who say no to developers. Eventually he wants to find funds for a neighborhood-based attorney who can take on city attorneys/staffers.

[Andy leaves.]

Sara "totally" backs up what Paul says. The head of SE Uplift is the same guy who is involved in the Eastmoreland racquetball club. She is going to every LUTC she can because the folks at BDS are being torn by conflicting priorities. Local folks are hiring an attorney.

Garlynn says he's been hearing that BDS staff have been making mistakes. He wonders when this bureau was last independently audited. Perhaps we should form a subcommittee to collect more information that would justify an independent audit. Let's put this on a future agenda.

Procedural item, Garlynn says: in June, we need to re-up everybody who is on the LUTC. Should have staff support by then.

Neighborhood Updates

Garlynn asks Dave if they (Alameda) have taken any action about the diverter issue on the proposed 28th bikeway 28th at 32nd Regents and Ainsworth, and Dave says, not yet. Dave says their top priority is reducing the speed on Fremont to 25 mph. Paul says Eliot has been pushing the city back on the diverters on Rodney Ave. and Ivy St. and the city made an innovative change that improves the situation.

Garlynn asks if we ever asked the city about reducing the speed on Killingsworth to 25 also. No, not yet.

Leigh says they have a development south of Two Plum park proposing to take out a really large willow tree and they're trying to save it. Having an arborist look at it. Writing directly to Commissioner Fritz. It overhangs the park but is on property south of the park. Same person wants to take it out who destroyed the old church on 7th. Asked for a stay on the demolition address. 4023 NE 7th. Madison now works for Urban Forestry and says there's a maximum fee of \$1,200 to remove any tree.



Sara updates the committee about proposed development on 633 NE Thompson, there are big huge technical issues about the proposed redevelopment on this property. The city accordingly is putting the LU case through a second time even though they had a final plat, and this is unprecedented.

They have slopes but the developers say there are none

Tests of water depth show too rapid infiltration, 8 inches per hour when it should be maybe 1/2 inch an hour due to clay soils

Test pit supposed to be 8 feet deep, but no drill was used, the digger used a shovel. Obvious lies.

(Developer also made up the arborist report.)

She took this to the city, and they said their faith is in the developer's handyman who did the tests. (The handyman is not a licensed geotech.) She wasn't told by the city to get her own geotech to challenge and has since been told that she exhausted her challenges.

She also says the dates on some buildings in Portland maps are incorrect, she knows of two houses built in 1850s misdated as 1890s. In Oregon we have no historical architects to protect historic properties. Wants us to support a measure (statewide) to have licensed architects review structures. There is no protection for historic houses whatsoever. Could the committee consider support for old structures (settlement era structures) with uncertain title trails or proof of age being reviewed by architectural historians? U of O has a really good program for this. If they have to be demolished, get good records of what they were, says Sara. No, probably not. Rachel and Madison don't think this is a worthwhile use of our political capital.

Garlynn asks: is there an effort to update the City historic inventory? Nan says, no, it didn't get funded.

Garlynn asks: last month, did we draft a letter about demolition for the Board? Not finished. This issue could also be in the letter. Sara, Ted, Andy were the folks drafting that letter. Rachel will help with the drafting of this to present to the Board next month.

Garlynn makes the motion, seconded by Madison, that the NECN Board sign on to the Anti-Pembina letter to the council. Rachel abstains, all others in favor. Madison leaves at 9 pm.

Would the NECN LUTC be willing to appeal this LU decision, asks Sara? Dave thinks there was an expectation from the NECN board that the NECN LUTC recommend an appeal on this. He says we could file an appeal if the neighborhood association was having problems meeting the quorum and a demolition order was filed. It seems that the Eliot LUTC is unwilling to take an action.

Garlynn asks, what is the goal? Sara says she thinks the area may not be developable beyond what is on it now because the soil is so clayey, and the trees are irreplaceable in handling stormwaters. She hasn't been able to meet with the developer.



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Sara says the cost in Portland of saving/disassembling/moving an old house, and then the house then being brought up to code is prohibitive. That's why most old homes get demolished.

Garlynn says we need a game plan that is achievable. Is it saving the trees on this lot? Is it developing housing units that are affordable? Sara says she doesn't have a game plan. Suggested having someone else reach out to the developer. Also talk to the NA about filing an appeal once that becomes an option. Sara, please write up a one page summary of this issue with attachments describing the appeals process and rules that pertain to it, asks Rachel.

Adjourn at 9:14