

CLACKAMAS REGIONAL CENTER COMMITTEE
MINUTES: June 20, 2012

Committee members present: Doug Bean, Dennis Curtis, Anna Geller, Jennifer Harding, Joe Krumm, Bill Monahan, Shelly Parini and Jason Tuck.

Committee members not in attendance: Matt Ellington, Jim Gersbach, Patricia Holloway, Susan Lehr, Cyndi Lewis-Wolfram and Martha Waldemar.

Guests present: Commissioner Bernard, Commissioner Savas and Joe Marek.

Staff: Dan Johnson, David Queener and Lori Phillips

Minutes by: Lori Phillips

Dan Johnson called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

1. Review Agenda, Previous Minutes, and Correspondence

The Agenda was approved as presented. The previous minutes (5/30/12) were approved as written.

There was no correspondence.

2. Purpose and Protocol; and 3. Discussion of Schedule

There are various plans that overlap in the Town Center area. The plans share common goals, i.e. healthy and vibrant communities; however, each plan has a specific purpose and criteria to meet those goals.

Commissioner Bernard asked if the group could look at the list of remaining projects and agree on one to start right away because there is a need to get people back to work now.

Dan said that he was working on the Report Card/Summary of the Urban Renewal District and will hand out a summary of completed projects to date under agenda item 4. At the July meeting, we will share the benefits and growth assessment.

An updated Operating Principles was handed out. Pages 3-5 were added to address some of the comments made at our May meeting.

There was continued discussion about public comment and what that means. The committee wanted clarification as to what they were supposed to do with the public comment and when the public comment would take place. Discussion then went back to whether the group was an Advisory committee or a Working Group. Several committee members look at this committee as a Working Group, not a decision making body or taking public comment. The majority saw their involvement in this group as bringing their knowledge and experience into the discussion that would help form recommendations to be forwarded to the commissioners.

If public input is included in this process then:

- How do people know about this meeting?
- How do they get notice?
- What is their input, and what does this group do with the input?

Some thought it might be acceptable if citizens want to submit written testimony for the group to review, but they are not comfortable sitting and listening to public testimony. Bill Monahan and Jason Tuck felt that if public testimony was the direction of this committee/group, then they, as staff people, are probably not the correct people to sit on this committee to represent their Cities. They look at this group as a working group, discussing things and then taking recommendations to the commissioners, where they would make the decisions and take public comment.

There was discussion that maybe Open Houses that are led by the County could be held at different steps along the way so the public could be involved and provide input.

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Dan addressed the question as to how people currently know about these meetings. He specifically asked for representation from the local CPO's so that they could share the information with their membership. Business representatives would also be asked to share information with their counterparts.

Jason commented that without having a place for public comment, it may undermine the process. If 10 minutes at beginning of meeting is set aside for public comment, then you would have to advertise.

Dan informed the committee that this is "their" committee and we will do whatever the committee is comfortable with. He does believe that the opportunity for comment should be provided, but that could be in either in written or verbal format. He does like the open house component, at a time when the committee is ready to put forth a recommendation to the commissioners, and that might be the time for public input.

Commissioner Savas commented that future use of urban renewal is going to be difficult and with the Town Center District ending, it is important that it ends on a positive note. There is a negative perception of urban renewal. It needs to be a showcase of the success that urban renewal can have. He did not realize the committee would be populated as it is and reinforced the importance of having strong business representation, big and small.

Commissioner Bernard thinks an Open House would be a good way to show the community the many successes within the District and outline the committee's recommended next steps. The committee could then take that feedback and make decisions, with the final Open House being the one to show the Final Plan. The Board would then hold a hearing to adopt the plan. He does not feel there is a need for public testimony during committee meetings. He reinforced the need to get things moving and not create unnecessary bureaucracy.

Others think the Open House is a good learning opportunity for the community. It's a time for them understand everything that has been completed to date and to review the work of this committee and the recommendations they are making. Open Houses are transparent.

Commissioner Bernard stated that if the committee is considering projects in a specific area, then maybe a commissioner could attend the local CPO meeting to bring information to that group. Commissioner Savas commented that he's been to those CPO meetings and that their attendance is not very large.

By a show of hands it was determined that there was support to craft protocol around eliminating verbal testimony during meetings, taking only written testimony and holding Open Houses at various stages throughout the process.

Dan stated that he wants to make sure that the committee's protocol is in place before we start notification of these meetings. There are many ways we typically notify the public of meetings and events such as fliers and notices on the County webpage. We will investigate options for leaving comments on the web page.

There was continued discussion about the proper venue and methods to involve the public and receive their input.

Commissioner Savas felt an Open House should not be the only place for public comment. There could be a 2nd public involvement process or plan parallel to this one.

Commissioner Bernard stated that there would be 3-4 town hall meetings, written testimony, web page minutes, and notice of meeting can be done on the BCC webpage, calendar

Joe Krumm commented that any committee appointed by the School Board is a public meeting.

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Jason stated that his belief was that this is not a recognized committee with the County, but rather a working group. If you want an Advisory committee, then you change things and fill your committee through application, interviews, etc.

Commissioner Savas asked for a show of hands of who wants this to be a working group or an advisory committee. He stated that when the commissioners decided to form this group it was desired to be an Advisory committee to bring back a list of recommended projects.

Bill Monahan stated if it is an Advisory Group, then he would feel more comfortable with the County asking the City for representation on the committee.

Dan stated that the interest was to get this group together from various interests and discuss what the needs of the area are. His understanding of this group was that they would be advising and proposing, not making a decision on if every project, but prioritizing areas.

Vote results: Working Group – 8; Advisory Committee – 0
Dan will follow up with the commissioners.

Commissioner Savas said that he will come back with a public involvement plan for this process. Commissioner Bernard felt this is a working group and public input will be received through Open Houses and written comment.

Dan summarized that this committee is a “Working Group” and is charged with disseminating information back and forth to your areas of representation. The Commissioners will probably go out and meet with the community groups.

Dennis Curtis said that this group is similar to the one he was involved with in Salem. They were a stakeholder group and the public process took place when staff went to the Urban Renewal board and where public testimony was given.

Dan concurred with the process Dennis described, but at a few times throughout our process we will hold Open Houses to share the information with the public. The County will do that part. Any written testimony will be circulated through staff and then shared with this Group. We will create some type of informational flier that lets people know this group exists. If someone wants to come and present some information or talk with the group, then we can schedule some time specifically for that.

There was discussion on how the information gets out to the businesses. Dan stated that we are working with the Chamber and also by word of mouth. Everything is based on relationships and who you know.

4. CRC History

Dan and Joe Marek gave a PowerPoint presentation on the history of the Clackamas Regional Center.

The next steps of this group are to begin reviewing uncompleted projects within the plan. We will need to provide some education on UR funding, i.e. what is available and what the limitations are. We can outline the programs and project categories. Dan said some projects within the UR plan are more specific than others.

Based on feedback from a number of committee members, there is a concern with getting into the project level discussion. As an alternative, we will be looking at establishing and prioritizing measures, geographic areas of concern, and project type priorities. From these staff will develop a work program based on the criteria and the UR plan, for discussion with committee.

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Anna thought the information provided at this meeting was useful. She would like to make herself available to the public to help them understand the positive impact Urban Renewal has had on the Town Center area. The problem in the County is messaging and positive discussion.

Dennis Curtis said that the State of Washington would love to have Urban Renewal, but Oregon and the public is dead set against it. He feels more needs to be done to educate the public on the benefits of Urban Renewal. When he was in Salem, the public was filled with nay-sayers but the Convention Center is operating in the positive and doing well for the City.

Jason Tuck commented that all the improvements in the town center area would have taken much longer without Urban Renewal.

5. Agency 2012-13 Budget

Dan shared the Agency's proposed budget and the projects currently listed. Funding for specific projects is not final. It just gives the authority to advance discussions.

A comment was made that there are gaps in multi-modal transportation in the Regional Core. People are not comfortable walking from the Promenade to the Town Center or from the light rail station to Kaiser. There are some options to assist with this, but it will require public and private partnerships, going across public and private property.

Joe Krumm commented that it is important that whatever is proposed will actually solve the problem and that people will use it. Are there other things that might work better if it is available?

It is important to incorporate recommendations from the bike/ped Committee as they spent a lot of time and energy prioritizing and analyzing all of the information.

Next meeting is July 25th at 8:00 am at the Aquatic Park.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.