

## **SE Uplift Board Meeting Minutes**

**October 2, 2017**

### Attendance

*Paul Willey (attendance needs to be updated from sign-in sheet)*

### Mayor Ted Wheeler

I want to get to your questions as the primary focus of the meeting today but I want to start by talking about my priority list as mayor and where we as a city are going.

#### Top 3 Priorities:

1. Addressing the humanitarian crisis on the streets with regards to homelessness.
2. Question of housing affordability for workforce and lower income 80% household mean income so we don't become San Francisco
3. Interest in public safety. Reform needs to happen here. Good things are happening at the Portland Police Bureau yet there are many things that can be done to reconnect them with the community that they serve.
4. <SNEAK IN/ surprise 4th item> We have withering infrastructure and needs are great. Build Portland. As tax financing is available we are going to attempt to use these resources to invest in transportation and civic/parks infrastructure 600 million in funding without increasing taxes. Discipline on the council is up for grabs but that is the hope/intention.

#### Rules for questions covered by Terry

- When called upon state your name and ORG/Neighborhood and give your question
- Questions will be taken from board members first then from community members as written before the meeting

#### **Terry Dublinski-Milton - Visual Aid:**

Map illustrating the projects that SE Uplift has been supporting / working on.

#### **Terry Dublinski-Milton - Question:**

Opiate crisis / needle been found everywhere. Many neighborhoods have mentioned this as an issue Has the city been looking into safe injection sites like they have in other cities on the west coast like in Vancouver B.C.?

#### **Answer:**

Yes. As Multnomah County chair I was a champion for this. It was extremely controversial. I visited these sites recently (about 10-11 months ago) and toured the program. One of the thrusts of the visit was to see if a safe injection site was a feasible option here in Portland. I am not opposed to it. The first goal is to get people in the door to avoid these ending up on the streets. I am increasing funding to improve collection for sharps (the bottom of the foodchain). What we are completely missing in this conversation is the upstream problem. We are an addicted nation and that we don;t adin that. This crisis is very real and unique to us and we must solve it. It is the gateway to heroin which leads to other issues we see on the street. As a municipal org we will do a bottom up and support great work of other orgs. We could

spend the entire city budget on this issue and not solve it in Portland. We need a marshal-esk plan for addiction and mental health to address this. We must go up the food chain. This is an important issue and addresses drives other issues we see.

**Question (Robber McCullough):**

We were the only city that did not have environmental controls on asbestos and lead paint. Asbestos is done, can we do the same for lead paint?

**Answer:**

Yes! I could not believe that there were no standards in place regarding rules for demolition. Described as a face-palm. Well plaid examples of pre-schools next door to a construction sight and I support strategies to regulate this. This issue calls out for regulation.

**Question Iris Hodge:**

We have thousands of companies in PDX. Can you comment on Amazon?

**Answer:**

Amazon is opening a distribution center on Swan Island and a business downtown with many high-paying jobs. 10 years ago if Amazon said 'we will create 50,000 jobs and spend millions in your city' there is not very much interest. Portland's is interested in the conversation but not in competing against other communities over employment opportunities. We don't have very much money to pay to play like Boston or Denver would be able to. We welcome companies that want to come to the community but we have standards. We have expectations for inclusion and diversity. We need to talk to what their contributions to transportation and housing will be. At the end of the day we are putting in our proposal but if they state all their criteria accurately Portland is poised to do quite well on many factors. Amazon will locate here if there is a business imperative to do so.

**Carol Hannah - Question:**

Last tuesday the Portland Tribune posted an article that the NA system is broken. What do you think and what is your direction

The headline rarely matches the substance of the article. Reporters don't write headlines. I see incredible headlines all the time. I don't think that NA's are in the past. I lived in the Boston area for ~10 years and came to the conclusion that home was better; more comfortable here. I ran a NA in Boston for the Beacon Hill civic association. There is an important role for the district commissioner position there. They count on the NA's for input. There is a huge value for them in Boston. The same can be said for here in Portland. There are, however, opportunities to strengthen this system. SE Uplift is a strong example but among the dozens of hoods this is not uniform. Some are not as engaged. People have read too much into the 2035 plan because community groups are going to be included and renters are more of a factor in Portland Neighborhood associations will need to involve. More of an effort will need to be made to make things more inclusive. I can't be in 97 different area's so I rely on the coalitions for feedback information and the ability to share information. Before it disappeared in Seattle I asked the mayor about eliminating the NA structure and he had very different reasons that what we are looking at here in Portland. There will be changes and I hope that SE Uplift leads this.

**Gale Hoffnagle - Questions:**

My experience has been that the city has rolled over the NA's. In the past the city listened to them and now they don't which complicates things. Sellwood-Moreland has many homes that were demolished a

much more expensive home was built leading to many problems. Transit issues, apartments and other issues are being realized in the area and SMILE is having to fight for anything that they need. Parking, transportation and affordable housing.

**Answer:**

I view myself as a transitional Mayor in so far as someone who grew up here. The Portland I grew up in I don't recognize. In some ways I'm glad for that and in others I really do miss things. Since 2000 80,000 people have moved here. 29 thousand new households in our small city. Whether we like it or not people like it here. On 60 minutes they interviewed us to find out why Portland is such an amazing destination? I told her we have a housing crisis, homeless crisis and other difficult issues. Here is what I think will happen. If you have ever been to large global cities (Seattle, New York, London, San Francisco) those cities have changed over the decades where the idea of owning a car is ludicrous. Portland is caught in a vice. This transition is happening so fast that our transportation infrastructure is largely static. We have lots of people interested in making expansions on transit options they are far behind the curve. We will get to the point where it will make sense to invest in alternative modes of transportation. I believe that we can be thoughtful like do district parking in structures that can be re-purposed. Tri-Met should do more. If there was a contest between parking and affordable housing is the major issues.

**Alan Kessler - Question:**

Portland is in trimet's way. We can't improve bus transportation until we get the cars out of the way.

**Answer:**

Dedicated bus lanes and other ideas have been successful in other cities. The pull-out strategy looks like it could make things more attractive as an alternative. Taking more buses and adding them to the already congested streets is not going to incentivise Bus's.

**Unknown Board Member - Question:**

Are you committed to continuing the Kenton Tiny house village for women as an investment? How can we help to smooth that path as an organization?

**Answer:**

There was a conference today about Economic prosperity. One of the things that I am most concerned about when the housing crisis ends we can not keep these options open unless we change the laws. I am really happy that these groups are seeking residence. Also it's working and the community is supporting the initiatives. I hope that this process continues beyond this and I am asking business leaders for land for this and other such communities. Overlook has had an issue. The chair of the NA is saying that the community in question is a threat. Some of those arguments are valid. Most of the issues have everything to do with the lack of groundwork and community integration done. It was a discussion about them without them.

**Robert McCullough - Question:**

There are millions of dollars available if the city would take the steps like what San Antonio and Salt Lake took. We have the funding to do something more. The city sits on huge plots of land that can be used to realize a vision that helps thousands. How do we kickstart a broader vision?

**Answer:**

I want to be very clear that a tiny-house village is not a solution. I support larger scale visions. San Antonio is not without its problems. The part that I liked that is lacking here is data. They have a great deal of information about these people and their needs. Also the service providers as available as possible. We are working on finding a large more inclusive vision. We have the data on the way but a full report on the current demographics and information about homeless populations is still pending.

**Jessica Engelman - Question:**

I would like to ask about Vision Zero and how we're going the opposite direction. There is a housing affordability crisis. Most of the multi-family properties are ghettoized along major streets. This has impact on the physical health of residents. Given that it is impossible for all but the upper classes to buy a home how do we justify the existence of Single family housing zoning. The one to two argument for housing ratio is an issue. Building 6 where one use to be makes more sense.

**Answer:**

The 2035 plan will lead to more infill opportunities and that is up for discussion in city council. Skinny houses and skinny lots are not what people want to see. There are incentives for people to build more than one adjoining house on a property. The plan strikes a good balance. ADU strategy, transit oriented corridor and town centers have increases in density. For every person who thinks we should go more dense there are also people that want less density. It is my intention that we will invest heavily in the area of transportation. I don't know why funds are locked up and not moving forward. I will get you information about that.

**\*\*Community Member - Question:**

Not only are we continuing the investment in bike infrastructure. Does the bond measure increase funding for pot-holes in bike lanes? Bike lanes need more maintenance.

**Answer:**

I was complaining to a reporter this morning. That this job feels like anything but the job of being Mayor. We have a city in crisis in so many ways that Washington can level us as a community. I feel like all these big social issues coming at us (sanctuary cities, FEMA, DOCA, Social Security) I am talking about everything but pot-holes. We have had decades of disinvestment, poor policies and bad funding on this issue. Deferred maintenance backlogs on potholes is an issue. We are patching holes on streets that need to be rebuilt. We must rebuild streets that have appropriate engineering from the ground up that addresses everything. We need to think about a larger strategy. PBOT says we need way more that we have coming. Hope springs eternal.

**\*\*NOTE:** Many of the community questions were answered in the course of the board member questions and were therefore determined redundant and un-asked.

Thank you for your time -- Mayor Wheeler

8:10 p.m. - **Reviewed minutes** from September's SE Uplift Board Meeting.

Brenda motioned to approve, Nadine 2nd

Questioned "Other names I can't read"; Molly will insert names

All approved (none opposed, no abstentions)

## **Announcements**

**Habitate Building Management** - Molly did research on the SE Uplift building as an asset; SE Uplift owns the building; only money owed is \$20K repayment of roof loan

Building is excessively vacant; has some evening rental use

Offer low rental rates; below market value; existing tenants pay \$369/mo

Have 2 nonprofit tenants - Oregon Prison Project, and Thriving Life; both have been here about 6 years

Comment regarding not raising rates to market value, and to prioritize current renters (avoid displacement), comments about types of leases, emphasis that professional management company will be using their expertise

Consider models of offsetting cost; ex. renting organization could offer SE Uplift a free training

Executive Committee hired Sydney Mead of Habitate Community Management, who worked on Tabor Commons Building on SE Division; SE Uplift also owns that building and rents it to Vibe; Sydney will assist with property management, assessing market value, contracts, building recommendations

Plan is for Sydney to manage for 2 years, then manage internally

Vibe charged 10-20% under market value

Every lease could be negotiated differently

All welcome to share your ideas for tenants and selection criteria

Terry talked to Marty Stockton about long term zoning

Conditional use permit; Main St building required to keep 12 parking spaces; unsure if parking spaces could be rented

Consider stability of long term vs. short term; month-to-month can be bad for small businesses

## **Q&A**

Q: What about previous discussions about selling both the SE Uplift property on Main St and the Tabor Commons space on Division and moving elsewhere?

A: On the backburner. Proposed plan doesn't preclude that. People who were researching this are no longer on the SE Uplift Board. Marty Stockton suggested selling the Main St building and operating on Division

## **Committee formed to determine:**

Should we rent out vacant offices for 1) financial support (and to diversify income sources), and 2) align with mission of creating/enlivening community

Rent to who? Reach out to displaced? Any organizations can come in - 501C3s or businesses aligned (though with businesses we would need to pay share of taxes); perhaps prioritize 501C3s? Consider incubator model?

Develop selection criteria (nonprofits aligned with mission?) and application process

Consider desk sharing by 2 nonprofits?

Committee members - Yashar (lead), Brenda, Cat, Susan, Nadine, Iris

Terry to discuss options with Marty Stockton; perhaps submit testimony at Oct 24 planning committee meeting

## **Treasurer Election**

Executive Committee lost their treasurer; please consider running for this position

Meetings held 3rd Wednesday of the month from 7-9pm (dates may be flexible); next meeting Oct. 18

Role requires working on annual budget, reporting back, working with Molly; SE Uplift has an accounting firm

Taizoon volunteered - has business background (accounting, financial planning, feasibility); he serves as treasurer for Outside In; does not see the role as a burden

Terry made a motion to nominate Taizoon

Brenda 2nd

All in favor (none opposed, no abstentions)

### **Community Announcements**

**Terry** - testified 3x to City Council; about growing transit (shared map with the mayor); City Council adopted unanimously; no funding yet

Transportation System Plan - Reedway Crossing & 60s bikeway; went well; may be on Metro bond for SW corridor project

Saw Leah Treat's presentation; went well

**Jessica** - Sent an email to the board; on the 3rd Tues Hosford Abernethy will have presenters from Union Pacific Railroad and TriMet at a meeting to address problematic intersections at SE 8th/11th/12th between Division and Powell; all welcome

Consider Division transportation project

Overpass would likely need to be prioritized quickly, before tall buildings are built

**Tina** - Tues 24th Mt Tabor Yard Community Meeting, 6-8pm (presentation from 6:30-7:30), ad in SE Examiner

**Iris** - Workshop offered to small business owners (or aspiring); Oct 16; \$30 (fundraiser for Main St Alliance); 90-minutes; how to write a business plan; email Iris if interested

**Scott** - Moshe Lenske no longer a SE Uplift Board member; Moshe has been around forever; consider making him an honorary/lifetime board member?

Reuben introduced Mark, newest board member from Brooklyn neighborhood

**Mark** - Elected a month ago; happy to be here to listen

At Brooklyn meeting on Wednesday had speakers including Marty Stockton from BPS (Bureau of Planning & Sustainability) and TriMet to discuss lots on 17th

**Courtney** - none

**Nadine** - This Sat will be a neighborhood cleanup from 10-2 at SE 28 Pl & Holgate at Tucker Maxon School; bring your junk; collaboration between Reed and Creston Kenilworth

**Toma** - First houseless board member elected to Overlook

Dignity Village (by airport); area currently has a defunct NA, but working with ONI to take up a NA

**Taizoon** - none

**Susan** - none

**Cat** - interested in looking at neighborhood needs assessment

She got info from Paul Leistner/ONI

if interested, get in touch with Cat; she may email the board as well

**Brenda** - none

**Gail** - Sellwood did a questionnaire a few years ago; got 700 responses; has given direction to the board; assess needs of neighborhood

**Kerry** - Please email me your bio and photo

Foster-Powell will have a Village Coalition conversation sometime in the next few months

Kerry may submit a small grant application for a mural project (a collaboration with a Vietnamese church); if anyone has experience organizing a mural project, please let her know

Reuben recommended reaching out to Kelly at SE Uplift

**Allen** (Richmond) - Meeting next week; BPS & TriMet will be there; Neighborhood Contact Program

**Molly** - Checked each board member's email settings; all should be able to post; let her know of any problems

Attended Terry's bike ride; thanks

Thank you for attending the retreat; please take survey

Check with your board buddy; Mark assigned to be Scott's board buddy (a trio!)

**John Carr** - Division Transit Project meeting, Oct 19 @ PCC SE, 6:00-7:30 p.m.; discuss 30% design milestone (all stop locations determined)

May be presentation at next LUTC meeting

Report on electric buses - findings in November

Unsure of deadline for feedback

**Reuben** - none

**Yashar** - There was a shooting on SE 28th near where NA meetings are held, and near homes of immigrants and refugees; shooting started at Safari, then McDonald's; victim was running by

Meeting agenda scrapped, instead brought in translators and safety officers

Meeting started with tension but ended upbeat

Multiple committees formed to report back

Great meeting; proud

Meeting adjourned (. . . on time!)