



*****DRAFT*****

**District and Community Services Meeting Minutes
Wednesday February 8, 2017 at 2:00pm
549 Congress St.**

Board members present: Josh Benthien (Northland Enterprises), Ken Cianchette (Portland Properties), Mike McDonald (North River Co), Brad McCurtain (Maine Securities/Others!), David Packard (Frederick, Quinlan & Tupper)

Guests: Rich Bianculli, City of Portland Neighborhood Prosecutor

Others: Matt Stone (Portland Science Center), Megan Doane (Portland Stage), Bill Daly (Westin Portland Harborview Hotel)

Staff present: Amy Geren, Casey Gilbert, Taffy Eaton

Minute 1. Josh Benthien welcomed everyone and asked for introductions.

Minute 2. Rich Bianculli, Neighborhood Prosecutor - Josh asked Rich to let the committee know about the Graffiti Ordinance and how it currently operates.

- Rich said that technically there is no real enforcement from him but he will summons a property owner to remove graffiti within 10 days. The ordinance can be cleaned up with Portland Downtown's help. He has not had to take anyone to court yet so changing the ordinance is not a priority.
- Rich gave an overview of the artists: juvenile high school kids, going out between 1:00 and – 4:00am and are often high. One repeat offender is in jail for a year. They get a thrill at not being caught because the cameras don't get clear enough pictures. Rich knows the tags, not necessarily which artists does which one. There are fewer than 30 within the city. Prompt removal truly is the best deterrent. Dummy cameras work, don't buy a real camera.
- The See Click Fix app brings many reports in
- The City has been paying Learning Works and the Portland Police Department still has funds allocated to Learning Works. Rich will look further into this.

Discussion:

- Is there an alternative to Learning Works? Maybe do a pilot program with an organization?
- Maybe offer a reward within the graffiti community?
- The former contract with Learning Works allowed work to be done on City property and private property. Learning Works should be accountable for the \$45,000 from Boulos.
- Casey Gilbert is preparing a memo to the City to re-establish a contract with Learning Works. The Restorative Justice component of the Learning Works program was attractive to the Portland Downtown Board and the public/private relationship worked well before. Amy is looking at a mural initiative program downtown and hopes to present it to the City Manager this week.
- How many offenders are caught and prosecuted? Rich replied that we need to understand who the offenders are. Currently the victims are being penalized.
- The Graffiti Wall at the Waste Management Station is the only legal place for graffiti artists to paint. An indoor place might be an option.
- There is a Public Art conference upcoming in June
- Do a daily sweep through downtown looking at high use areas

- Casey will edit the current waiver, share it with Rich and report back to the DCS Committee after the memo is sent to Jon Jennings

Minute 3. On a motion by Ken Cianchette and seconded by Mike McDonald, the committee unanimously accepted the January 12th meeting minutes.

Minute 3. Panhandling Ad hoc meeting update: Ken said the reason for the ad hoc committee is to address downtown safety.

- Have 12 members on the committee with 7 or 8 regularly attending
- The committee identified 11 cities they will connect with. The cities all have some similarities to Downtown Portland.
- The committee identified organizations to contact with 8-10 common questions. They will meet in groups of social services, legal entities and economic groups.
- The committee would like to hold a public forum within 60 days. The DCS Committee needs to take this motion to the Board for a vote. Brad made a motion for Josh to request the Board approve holding an information gathering public forum. Mike McDonald seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Minute 4. Supplemental Services Agreement update: The DCS Committee recommended the changes Josh, Brad and Denine made to the Board (Denine will forward the changes to the Board). The Board will vote on sending the new SSA wording to City for inclusion in the 2017-2018 agreement.

Minute 5. Tree planning: Amy is waiting to hear back from Jeff Tarling. A request was made to ask him to consult with property owners when there will be tree changes near their property. Jeff has been told that there are a lot of property owners who would like to be involved. Casey added that she meets with Public Works monthly and will express this to Chris Branch.

Minute 6. Three 2017 Committee Goals submissions

- a) Panhandling Advocacy
- b) Graffiti Removal Solution
- c) Possible:
 - a. Direct/work with the City to develop capital improvement projections. Perhaps bring Chris Branch into the DCS meeting in May or June. How will the City roll out tree and lighting plans? Should the plans be added to the SSA? We have to prioritize – how can Portland Downtown influence City priorities?
 - b. Cigarette butts – further develop the City’s Work Fair program or implement a new program. It has been successful in other cities. Integrate Work Fair with the Public Works department?
 - c. GIS mapping – banners, trees, lights. Ask Jeff to do a downtown map of trees.

Other business:

- Hoop signs status? The pilot project on Franklin Street went well, now all the hoop signs are being phased in.

Josh adjourned the meeting at 3:10

Respectfully submitted,
Taffy Eaton, recorder

Update from your Downtown Experience Liaison

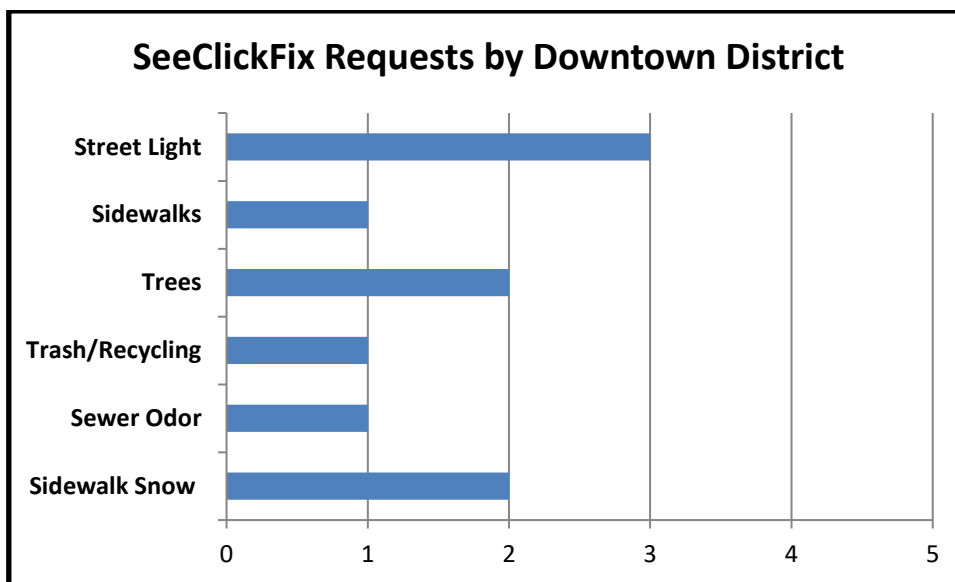
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Cadet Program

- The posting for the 2017 cadet job opportunity will be available on the City of Portland's website soon. I saw Dakota Farris, one of last season's cadets, at the police awards breakfast and he indicated he would be submitting an application for the opportunity again this year. His experience gained last season will assure his is a mentor to first time cadets. He is a full-time college student locally and will be available for the extended season.

SeeClickFix Report

- The neighborhood prosecutor with the police department and I had a call with SeeClickFix to discuss the collaborative use of the application. He and I will be writing a guest blog post for the organization pending the City's reestablishment of the relationship with LearningWorks.
- SeeClickFix Requests by incident in the downtown district include only ten for the month of January. There were two requests for sidewalk snow and ice, three requests for broken street lights, and two requests for downed tree limbs to be removed. The single sidewalk request is in reference to a parking sign several blocks from the parking lot, and the trash request is in reference to an overfull Butt Butler.



Graffiti

- The neighborhood prosecutor with the police department will join us at the February meeting to discuss common questions and concerns around how the City of Portland manages graffiti vandalism.

Supplemental Services Data Collection

- Data collection from the downtown public works crew is going smoothly. I provided a fun graphic for the crew to assure we are utilizing the data to show progress.

Downtown Supplemental Service Provision Hours: January

2017

