

Executive Director's Report July 2017

As we move into year three of the 5-year strategic plan, I have found it helpful to look back at all that we've accomplished over the past two years. In addition to repairing fractured relationships (LearningWorks/Graffiti Busters), and forging new partnerships (co-management of the Visitor Information Booth in Tommy's Park with Visit Portland), we have also maintained long-standing partnerships (Police Cadets/Portland Police Department) that serve our stakeholders well. Amy Geren continues to add a new level of transparency and accountability to our Supplemental Services Agreement, by tracking Downtown Public Works data, See, Click, Fix reports, and engaging in continuous communication with the Department of Public Works with regard to major projects and improvements (paving, sidewalk repair, etc). Adam has kept our rebranding alive and continued to attract more followers and traffic across all of our digital platforms. Our monthly newsletters, facebook posts, and stakeholder outreach ensure consistent engagement and awareness of all of our programs, services, and events. Taffy manages all of the demands of our regular committees, as well as ad-hoc committees, bookkeeping duties, ensuring that all of our documents in order - and keeps the organization running like clockwork. It is truly a team effort. As well, it was such a joy to have two interns: Faith Buckley and Ethan Campbell, on-site with us over the spring and summer months. We continue to attract new volunteers and the addition of the volunteer appreciation party will ensure that we keep them! Our event and sponsorship revenues grew exponentially and I am proud to say that we did not use one single dollar of supplemental tax revenue to support our events. In fact, the events have provided a small stream of revenue to support the wide array of programs and services that Portland Downtown offers. I am excited to provide support to two new ad-hoc committees: Old Port Festival And Growth, which were a result of our board retreat. Every day at Portland Downtown is filled with challenges and opportunities. It has been a pleasure serving the board and I am eagerly anticipating another year of transformation and accomplishment. Thanks to the board and the work of the committees - we simply could not have such a grand vision and drive without your support. Here's to an outstanding FY18!

Casey T Gilbert

Committee Cliff Notes

District & Community Services: Amy Geren, Portland Downtown's Downtown Experience Liaison, provided her monthly report, which included updates on the cadets, See, Click, Fix, and Supplemental Services. Additional discussions included the installation of new trash receptacles, which include a recycling component, newspaper boxes, the panhandling advocacy letter, the Portland Opportunity Crew, and potential beautification projects.

Marketing & Events: Casey and Adam provided updates on the partnership with Visit Portland around the co-management of the Visitor Information Booth in Tommy's Park. Adam opened up a committee discussion around Google Analytics and upcoming events.

Merchant: The Merchant Committee did not meet in July.

NLOC: reviewed calls for service and liquor license renewals. The committee also discussed concerns around outside dining, sidewalk closures, defining 'shared streets', criminal mischief in the area of Fox Court, Wharf Street maintenance and repair concerns, and the cold storage project.

Parking & Transportation: Amy Geren provided a Park & Work program update. Casey provided updates on potential beautification projects, and the parking study.

Advocacy Issues

Panhandling: The Chamber of Commerce has recently become interested in joining the conversation around panhandling and safety concerns in downtown. I have met with the CEO, Quincy Hentzel, and we will be planning a meeting with Councilors Belinda Ray and Spencer Thibodeau. We will also be reaching out the Bayside Neighborhood Association to see how we can all work together towards common goals and to amplify our advocacy position.

Parking & Transportation: The final draft of the parking study should be in-hand by the end of August. I will share with the Parking & Transportation Committee as well as the full board as soon as I receive it from the City.

The multi-modal marketing RFP is expected to go out during the second-half of August. Joining the campaign as financial partners are: Greater Portland METRO,

Visit Portland, the Portland International Jetport, and Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority. The total budget for the campaign, which will include (1) research and (2) collateral design, is \$30,000.

Sound: I continue to attend the Sound Oversight Committee and am following upcoming agendas for HHS Committee, in anticipation of further discussions around this advocacy issue.

Notes of interest

In July, I: met with Mary Eschelmann, Portland Downtown's bookkeeper, to review monthly financials; met with Erik Urbanek to collaborate on the monthly Treasurer's report; attended a presentation by Fort Hill Associates of the parking study at City Hall; met with Jenn from Portland Buy Local to discuss upcoming fiscal year partnerships (Portland Buy Local Awards and Downtown Worker Appreciation Day); welcomed new board members Michael Erickson and Peter Tousignant; accompanied Amy on our bi-weekly inspection walk; met with Amy Gallant of AARP to discuss Merry Madness sponsorship; hosted meetings at Portland Downtown to discuss banner rental and trash storage on public property policies with City of Portland staff; met with Randy Billing of the Portland Press Herald to discuss the Panhandling AdHoc Committee recommendations; conducted Q4 staff reviews; attended press conference at City Hall regarding C-Spans 2017 Cities Tour; met with mayor Ethan Strimling to discuss Panhandling AdHoc Committee Recommendations; met with Suzie Rephan and Bob Leeman of Cruise Portland Maine to discuss adding downtown to tour bus stops when they come back from excursions; hosted Public Services meeting at Portland Downtown (a monthly conversation with the Public Works Director, Chris Branch, and District 1 Manager, Marc Spiller); met with Councilor Pious Ali; met with Julia Trujillo, Director of the City of Portland's Office of Economic Opportunity) to discuss Welcoming Week; met with Steve Bromage of Maine historical Society and Ed Gardiner of Ocean gate Realty to discuss ongoing safety concerns on Congress Street; attended City Council meeting on 7/24; met with Tom Handel of CTN5 to discuss membership and the potential of a community access show; met with City Manager Jon Jennings to discuss Portland Downtown concerns and possible beautification projects; attended tour of Spurwink with Kim Volk; attended presentation by Civic Moxie at Creative Portland regarding Cultural Plan; and attended and spoke at the Grand Opening/reception of the Greater Portland Immigrant Welcome Center.