

PDC

PORTLAND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

DATE: April 23, 2009

TO: Board of Commissioners

FROM: Bruce A. Warner, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Report Number 09-42
Restructuring the Lents Town Center Urban Renewal Advisory
Committee's membership

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED

Adopt Resolution No. 6686

ACTION SUMMARY

This Resolution authorizes a change in the composition of the Lents Town Center Urban Renewal Advisory Committee ("LTC URAC") through the reduction of three (3) positions from its roster. The LTC URAC was originally established by the Board of Commissioners ("Board") on June 14, 2006 (Resolution No. 6367) with eighteen (18) members. The Board has since added four (4) new positions: two (2) Taxing Jurisdiction Partner organizations, Multnomah County (Resolution No. 6582) and Portland Public Schools (Resolution No. 6611); and two (2) Organization Members, the Foster-Powell Neighborhood Association (Resolution No. 6649) and the Mt. Scott-Arleta Neighborhood Association (Resolution No. 6660).

The LTC URAC members have requested the reduction of two (2) positions in order to have a more manageable and better-functioning URAC that would also meet the quorum requirement more easily. The two positions proposed by the LTC URAC to be eliminated are in the Community Partner Organization Member category: HOST Development and Portland Impact. These positions are currently vacant due to resignation of the organizations' representatives.

Staff is also requesting the elimination of one (1) of the positions assigned to the Foster-Powell Neighborhood Association because it has been vacant for almost two years. The Foster-Powell Neighborhood Association will retain one (1) position on the LTC URAC.

The new composition of the LTC URAC would have nineteen (19) member positions.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Meaningful public participation helps promote democracy and civic engagement, builds public trust in government and enhances the Commission's credibility within the community.

Effective public participation can improve the quality and effectiveness of Board plans and decisions.

This action will support the following PDC goals:

- Sustainability and Social Equity
- Healthy Neighborhoods
- A Vibrant Central City
- Strong Economic Growth and Competitive Region
- Effective Stewardship over our Resources and Operations, and Employee Investment

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND FEEDBACK

LTC URAC leaders were the originators of the request to eliminate the two (2) Community Organization Partner positions. The URAC members were consulted and they officially recommended the recomposition of the URAC.

PDC staff identified one (1) additional unfilled seat assigned to the Foster-Powell Neighborhood Association (“FPNA”) that could also be eliminated. Staff consulted with the FPNA Chair and she agreed with the recommendation of eliminating this empty seat.

COMPLIANCE WITH ADOPTED PLANS AND POLICIES

This action complies with the Urban Renewal Advisory Committee Policy as revised by the Board on July 9, 2008 (Resolution No. 6614) that states that “The PDC Board retains the sole authority to establish, recompose or disband a URAC.”

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no significant financial impact as a result of this action.

RISK ASSESSMENT

There are no significant legal, financial or operational risks resulting from this action.

WORK LOAD IMPACT

The major workload associated with the recomposition of a URAC is communicating the decisions to the URAC and other stakeholders. These activities are coordinated by Public Participation staff, and included in existing work plans.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS

Per Board established policy, there is no alternative process for recomposing a URAC.

CONCURRENCE

The Lents Town Center URAC members passed a recommendation to the PDC Board on November 17, 2008 requesting the re-composition of their committee. The vote was twelve (12) in favor of the recomposition, and one (1) opposed.

PDC staff consulted with the FPNA Chair regarding the elimination of one (1) seat assigned to this neighborhood association, which has been unfilled for almost two years. Erica Bjerning, Chair of the FPNA, concurred with the elimination of this seat from the Lents Town Center URAC roster.

BACKGROUND

On September 14, 2005, the Board adopted Resolution No. 6293 which established a formal policy regarding the composition and operations of URACs. This policy was adopted in response to the Board's desire to ensure consistency in the procedures for creating and operating URACs and to emphasize the agency's commitment to public participation and involvement. This Policy was most recently revised by the Board on July 9, 2008 (Resolution No. 6614).

Pursuant to that Policy, the Board has established the following URACs:

1. Lents Town Center
2. Central Eastside
3. Interstate Corridor
4. Gateway Regional Center
5. Oregon Convention Center
6. North Macadam
7. River District

The Board retains sole authority to establish, re-compose or disband a URAC. Among the elements under the discretion of the Board is the determination of the number of members and the combination of member-types that each URAC shall have.

Acting upon the recommendation made by the LTC URAC, staff is requesting consideration of the adoption of a new composition for this URAC. The new roster eliminates two (2) Community Partner Organization Member positions identified by the LTC URAC, which are currently vacant due to resignation of their previous member representatives: HOST Development and Human Solutions. Staff is also requesting the elimination of one (1) position assigned to the Foster-Powell Neighborhood Association because it has been vacant for almost two years. The new composition of the LTC URAC would have nineteen (19) member positions.