



**MINUTES**  
**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**MARCH 24, 2010**

A meeting of the Portland City Council's Community Development Committee (CDC) was held on Wednesday, March 24, 2010, at 5:00 p.m. in Room 209 on the second floor of Portland City Hall. Present from the CDC was its Chair Councilor Cheryl Leeman and members Councilors John Anton and Dory Richards-Waxman. Present from the City staff were Associate Corporation Counsel Ann Freeman, Economic Development Director Greg Mitchell, and Senior Executive Assistant Lori Paulette. City Manager Joe Gray joined the meeting as noted in the Minutes.

**Item #1: Review and accept Minutes of previous meeting held on February 10, 2010.**

On motion made and seconded, the Committee voted unanimously to accept the Minutes as published.

**Item #2: Google Fiber for Communities Project – (5 Minutes).**

- a. **Action Requested: Update regarding the Google Fiber Project Opportunity – No action requested. See Enclosed:**
  - i. **Copy of Power Point Presentation; and,**
  - ii. **Frequently Asked Questions.**

Mr. Mitchell updated the Committee saying that the City will be applying for Google's Pilot project to bring ultra high speed fiber optic systems focused on Portland's residential segment, eventually expanding to the commercial areas. The application is due May 26, and the competition will be there with over 100 communities estimated to apply across the United States. Together with Nelle Hanig in his office putting the

application document together online, this involves interaction with many City Departments as well as with FairPoint, CMP, and Time Warner. He will keep the Committee apprised of the process.

Councilor Anton noted that TechMaine is submitting an application, and he asked if there was any outreach/partnership, and Mr. Mitchell indicated that Portland was submitting the application on its own.

Chair Leeman asked if there was any public comment on this item. There being none, the public comment session was closed.

Chair Leeman thanked Mr. Mitchell for the update and for the City to take the effort in making the application.

**Item #3: Creative Portland Corporation Activity Update (10 Minutes)**

**b. Action Requested: Update regarding progress of the Creative Portland Corporation – presentation at meeting. No action requested.**

Mr. Mitchell said that the City Council created the Creative Portland Corporation (CPC) in November 2008 as a non-profit quasi-municipal corporation focused on strengthening Portland's creative economy. The Council also created the Creative Portland Development and Arts TIF District to assist in funding the start of the CPC. He noted two display boards highlighting the CPC's mission and the other highlighting the economic impact of creative economy businesses. He then introduced Patrick Costin of Harriman Architects, a member of the CPC Board for a further update.

Mr. Costin said that the CPC is a volunteer organization, whose 13-member Board of Directors was filled in October 2009, and meets on a regular monthly basis, with its subcommittees meeting in the interim. It receives assistance from City staff, including Greg Mitchell, Alex Jaegerman, and Lori Paulette, together with Councilor Marshall on

its Board, and thanks the City for this help. Mr. Costin also noted that both Councilor Marshall and Greg Mitchell are ex officio members of the CPC Board of Directors.

Projects going on right now for the CPC include the “Live/Work Portland Maine” initiative, with a mission to brand Portland nationally. To do this work, the CPC has received major inkind contributions, including initiation of a marketing campaign which has now led to the design, creation, and programming of the LiveWork website featuring audio/visual presentations of successful creative entrepreneurs in Portland. The CPC has a listing of 30 or so now to start with. The website launch is expected next month and will bring Portland’s creative economy to life. The creative economy definition is very broad, and Mr. Costin noted that it can be anything from creating intellectual property to a single artist.

Mr. Costin said that the CPC has also hired, in addition to inkind contributors, for assistance in photography, website content, and marketing.

Another project underway is to research ways to retain artists in the community and particularly in the downtown. The focus is on studio space on Congress Street. The CPC is working with a group of community people, including real estate brokers/developers, to focus on a method to make this feasible. A model example is being developed for this feasibility analysis which involves the purchase of a piece of real estate and transforming it into studio space.

Mr. Costin that the CPC is also focusing on fund-raising. With \$30,000 in TIF funds, its goal is to raise an additional \$50,000 through private and inkind contributions. Another subcommittee is focusing on this project and this will be ongoing. The CPC would request TIF assistance for FY11 be at the same level as FY10.

The CPC has been working with the Portland Arts and Cultural Alliance (PACA) and now PACA's Board has agreed to reorganize as a subsidiary of the CPC. This should be finalized in April or May, in time for the new fiscal year beginning in July.

Mr. Costin said that the CPC is in the process of drafting a Memorandum of Understanding with Portland's Downtown District to coordinate efforts.

Councilor Waxman said that this work is great for the City and looks forward to viewing the website.

Chair Leeman agreed and thanked the CPC for its efforts to date. She then opened the meeting for public comment. There being none, the public comment session was closed.

Chair Leeman said that the CPC website will help various businesses market Portland as a place to do business and relocate, and then thanked Mr. Costin for the update.

**Item #4: State Bond Issue to Create Access to Dental Care Throughout Maine (10 Minutes)**

**a. Action Requested: See enclosure LD 1798. Consider directing staff to prepare a Resolution, for City Council action, to support this bond issue.**

Mr. Mitchell said that the Committee has a copy of LD1798 for a \$7 Million Bond Issue, of which \$5 Million would be targeted for the creation of a teaching dental clinic in Maine, and \$2 Million in clinic grants to underserved communities that have a demonstrated need for dental care.

(Joe Gray joined the meeting at this time.)

Mr. Mitchell introduced Bill Chance of the University of New England (UNE). UNE is interested in this LD since it has been in the process for the past 2-3 years to fundraise and plan for a new dental college on its Portland campus.

Mr. Mitchell said that this is brought to the CDC for its consideration and possibly recommendation for a City Council Resolution in support of the LD.

Chair Leeman asked if there was any public comment on this item.

Mr. Chance said that UNE has been planning and fundraising for a dental school as Mr. Mitchell has indicated. Should this LD pass, there would be a competitive process to obtain the funding, which, for UNE, would be crucial in moving the dental school forward. He thanked the Committee for its time.

Chair Leeman asked if there was any further public comment. There being none, the public comment session was then closed.

It was the consensus of the Committee that, at this time, although it generally supports the LD, a formal resolution from the City Council would not be recommended, as there are many other projects and budget constraints at this time, both locally and at the State level. If this does get through at the State now, which may be known by the end of next week, that would be great. If not, there would be another round in January.

**Item #5: Executive Session to Discuss Use and Acquisition of City-Owned Real Estate Located on Portland's Peninsula (45 minutes)**

- a. **Action requested: Pursuant 1 M.R.S.A. 405(6)(C), the Committee will be going into executive session to discuss and give guidance to City staff regarding the use and sale of City-owned property.**

On motion made and seconded, the Committee then voted unanimously approximately 5:40 p.m. to go into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 405(6)(C) to discuss and give guidance to City staff regarding the use and sale of City-owned property. At approximately 6:25, the Committee came out of executive session and the meeting then adjourned.

Respectfully,

Lori Paulette