



MINUTES

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

JUNE 9, 2010

A meeting of the Portland City Council's Community Development Committee (CDC) was held on Wednesday, June 9, 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, Parking Manager John Peverada, and Senior Executive Assistant Lori Paulette.

Item #1: Review and accept Minutes of previous meetings held on April 6, April 14, and May 12, 2010.

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

Item #2: Presentation on Portland Community Chamber Economic Scorecard – Portland Community Chamber Representatives

a. Action Requested: Presentation for your feedback regarding future updates.

Chris O'Neil of Drummond Woodsum addressed the Committee as his client is the Chamber and introduced Jim Damichis of Policy One Research who is a partner in this Economic Scorecard project. This Scorecard project came out of the Chamber's White Paper and is intended to be a snapshot of the state of Portland's economy that can be easily updated on a yearly basis. The Chamber wanted to update this Committee on the

project with no vote being requested. The Scorecard should be out within the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Damicis said that the Scorecard is intended to track how Portland's economy is doing, both in terms of weaknesses and strengths. The project started out with 100 indicators, and it has been narrowed to 29 areas of measurements to make the brochure useful. The first ten indicators are the primary economic indicators; next ten are population and education indicators; and the remaining nine regard housing, tax rates, technology, visitors, and regional costs based on cost of living indicators.

As part of the Scorecard brochure, Mr. Damicis said that each indicator will have a graph showing the change over one, five, and ten years, together with data information and a tachometer showing Portland's standing. It will also have a "target" for where Portland should be annually as compared to 27 similar cities across the U.S. For Portland indicators, it will use the Portland MSA for comparison purposes.

Mr. Damicis continued saying the Portland is different from Maine. Portland is doing better than the rest of Maine, particularly in education, science, and technology.

Councilor Anton said that one indicator he would be interested in would be Portland's entrepreneurial climate with associated opportunities highlighted.

Mr. Damicis said that this is touched upon in the technology indicator with startups but would look into how the entrepreneurial climate could fit in.

Councilor Anton suggested CFED and its focus on assets versus income, which is a better measure of success.

Mr. Damicis said that these indicators need to be able to provide the ability to compare it to other regions on a yearly basis. He would look into this to see if there could be an indicator for this comparison yearly.

Chair Leeman said that an historical perspective on how Portland has been doing might be an interesting piece of information to include – from the 80s to now.

Mr. O’Neil thanked the Committee for the opportunity to present the project. This is a dynamic process and it is intended to keep the Scorecard fresh and up-to-date yearly. It is a compliment to the current effort underway with the Economic Development Division and the formation of the Economic Development Plan.

Chair Leeman said that she looked forward to seeing the final product and thanked the presenters for their time and information.

Item #3: Executive Session to Discuss Negotiations related to Real Estate Located on Portland’s Peninsula

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.

On motion made and seconded, the Committee voted unanimously at approximately 5:30 p.m. to go into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. 405(6)(C) to discuss negotiations related to real estate located on Portland’s peninsula and give guidance to City staff. At approximately 6:10 p.m., the Committee came out of executive session and the meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Paulette