



Brooklyn Action Corps Neighborhood Association
PO Box 42341 Portland OR 97242-0341
board@brooklyn-neighborhood.org
June 8, 2022

BAC September 2022 General Meeting agenda & minutes

BAC September 2022 General Meeting agenda & minutes	1
Day-of-meeting administrative items	2
Date	2
Attendees	2
Board Members Guests	2
Zoom and in-Person Photos	2
Introduction	2
Land Acknowledgement	2



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Day-of-meeting administrative items

Date

9/28/2022

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88923518669?pwd=eUJmck1Ndzg4WHN1VDB6QUxXSGVJUT09>

Attendees

Board Members Guests

From [electronic](#) and paper sign-in sheet.

Zoom and in-Person Photos

Please ask for permission to take photos prior.

Introduction

We read the statement of purpose aloud:

Everyone is here out of the goodness of their heart. Everyone is here to keep the neighborhood strong and to make it better. It's important that we listen to every voice and to give every voice its due. In that spirit we thank everyone for respecting each other at this table, for giving them the space to express themselves, and for devoting ourselves to paying close attention to each voice.

Land Acknowledgement

Likewise, read aloud

We start this event by acknowledging that Multnomah County is geographically located on the ancestral homelands of the Indigenous tribes of the Multnomah,



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Kathlamet, Clackamas, Tumwater, Watlala bands of the Chinook, the Tualatin Kalapuya and many other Indigenous nations of the Columbia River. We recognize that Indigenous/Native American communities still exist today despite intentional attempts of genocide, displacement, and assimilation by white supremacy culture and systems.

While land acknowledgements are important in helping us frame a sense of place and history, we recognize that they are only the first step towards reconciliation.

City Charter Update

Amira Streeter - City Charter reform coalition

You can look at the Charter Review Commission website:

<https://www.portland.gov/omf/charter-review-commission> and also check out the Measure website:

<https://portlandunitedforchange.com/#:~:text=Vote%20YES%20on%20Measure%2026,comprehensive%20change%20to%20Portland's%20government>

PowerPoint Slide Show - 9-14 Presentation on Charter Commission - PowerPoint

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Desired Outcomes for Charter Reform

- Participatory and growing democracy
- Reflective representation
- Government that is:
 - ❖ Accountable (93% of voters surveyed)*
 - ❖ Transparent (90%)
 - ❖ Effective (89%)
 - ❖ Responsive (86%)
 - ❖ Represents all areas of the city (84%)
 - ❖ Equitable (74%)

*FM3 research survey of 558 Portlanders, conducted 2/27-3/15/2020

2



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Current Governmental Structure

Adopted in 1913; Portland population 200,000

- Four City Councilors + Mayor double as bureau commissioners
- All elected at large in winner-take-all primary/general election
- Problems with current system
 - Bureaucratic siloization, infighting, and inefficiency
 - Lack of bureau expertise—rapid turnover
 - Inability to address multifaceted, long-term issues
 - Too few representatives for 650,000 people
 - No local representation, knowledge, or accountability
 - Primaries get minimal and skewed voter turnout
 - Advantage to wealthy or powerfully-backed candidates

3

PowerPoint Slide Show - 9-14 Presentation on Charter Commission - PowerPoint

Proposed Form of Government

Mayor-Council system with clear separation of powers, enhanced representation, and professional management

- Mayor—Chief executive
 - Proposes and carries out policy; proposes budget; tie-breaking vote
 - Oversees running of city; nominates city administrator, police chief
- City Council—Legislative body
 - Develops and legislates policy; **represents district electorate**
 - Amends and approves budget; confirms city administrator
- City Administrator—Manages operations
 - Appoints and oversees bureau directors
 - Reports to mayor

4



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Enhanced Representation

12-Member City Council

- Effectively represents diverse city of 650,000
- Accountable and responsive to local electorate vs. to bureaus

Four geographically compact districts

- Drawn by independent citizen commission by Sep 2023
- Equal in population; retains communities of common interest
- Equitably and transparently represented by 3 councilors each
- Able to interact with constituents, focus on multiplicity of issues

Single election with ranked choice voting

- Results fairly reflect voice of entire community
- Gives voters more choice; increased participation in election

5

Polling Results

- 77% support complete overhaul or major governmental change ⁽³⁾
- 75% believe district representation is fairer and more accountable ⁽³⁾
- 73% support enlarged city council with multi-member districts ⁽²⁾
- 72% support ranked-choice voting ^{(1) (2)}
- 68% support city manager ⁽²⁾
- Support grows with single measure ⁽¹⁾
 - Mayor-council form: 51%
 - Plus ranked-choice voting: 56%
 - Plus rcv and bigger district-based council: 59%

<https://www.sightline.org/2022/09/22/when-cities-switch-to-one-winner-council-districts-housing-growth-plummets/>

Terry Harris - Common Sense PDX

- Served on Charter Commission in Baltimore MD
 - Moved to Portland 2 years ago
- Charged with getting rid of multimember districts
 - Challenges - bad for responsiveness and accountability
 - Changed to single member districts - adopted by 2:1 majority vote
- No Campaign does agree with specific reforms put forth by the charter commission
 - Dispense with commission form of government
 - Rank Choice voting
 - Role of Mayor and Legislation (Executive and legislative branch)
 - Expansion of city council



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- Major motivation for “No” campaign
 - Against multimember districts
 - Concerns
 - District representatives have political motivation to run against each other; found that blame was deflected;
 - Potential for backroom dealing and/or open bickering
 - No single accountable representative
 - Districts are too large and will not be neighborhood focused
- Major question
 - Are the benefits of marginal increases in representation more than the
- “We need to vote “No” to get to a better “Yes””
- Anticipating Commissioner Mapps proposal within 1 week

Community Questions

- How long would it be if we vote no to try to change the government?
 - Terry - unsure about timeline
 - Amira - we cannot afford to wait to pass this reform
- Concern about heterogeneity of voters and single representative districts
 - Terry- notes that the districts were small enough were able get to know well the many issues and concerns of their districts
 - Amira - Geographic districts help represent areas; Notes Baltimore had a different system and look towards Cambridge MA and European cities that use multimember districts; single member districts can hinder reforms
- Concern about having mayor become too powerful
 - Amira- This proposal would make the City Administrator to look over the bureaus and Mayor would be representative of the city; city council would be check on Mayor
 - Terry- Would like to see Mayor have veto power
- To Amira - Can you expand on any information on cost for the expansion of the council and plan for creating the districts
 - Amira - districts will be created based on population; cost- ranges at this time but approximately ~1% of city discretionary funds
- To Terry - Can you discuss the community engagement and outreach completed by the “No” campaign
 - Terry notes that he attended all charter committee meetings and provided many different sources of resources

Bloom Club Presentation

Presentation by Bloom Club - SE Cora and 9th Street (across from Ross Island Gravel)



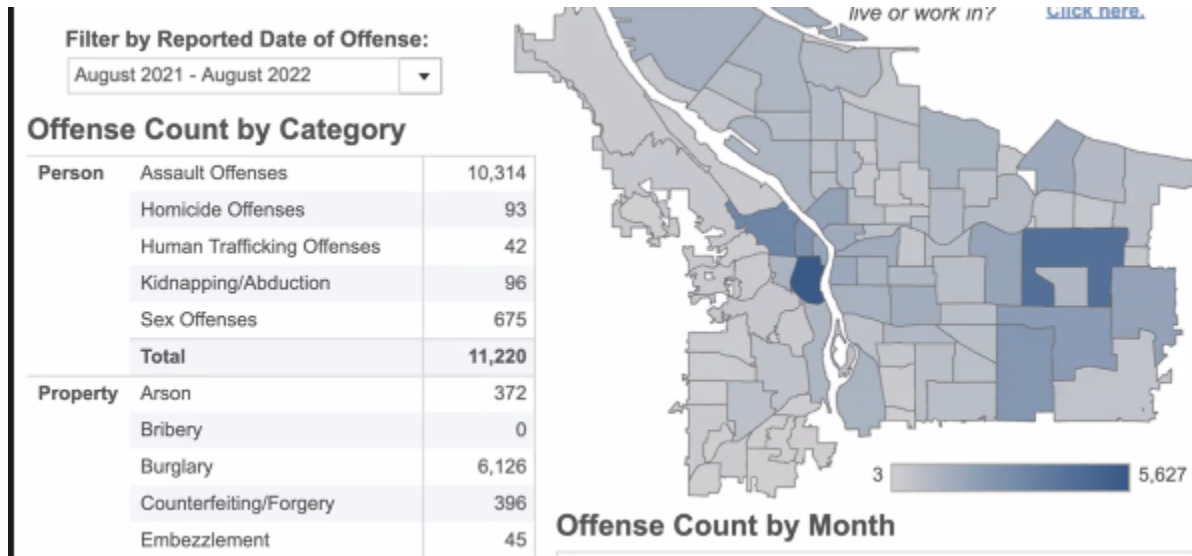
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Kimberléa Ruffu and the ESJ- creating a Community Garden

- Land currently owned by ODOT
- Vision- create ADA, free and accessible learning garden
- Would like to expand access to growing their own food in the neighborhood
- Could be utilized for community board and food pantry
- City and ODOT are interested; SEUL and other grant agencies are interested in
- Questions
 - Questions about cost of the project and liability with relation to BAC - Kimberléa notes that this would be considered
 - Questions about coordination with current Active Brooklyn Community Garden
 - Kimberléa - this would be a garden focused on low barrier access to learn how to grow food rather than a pay for plot garden
 - How would sharing and ownership of the food work?
 - Kimberléa - will need to continue to work on details about prioritization
 - Question about cost of keeping area clean, weeding
 - Kimberléa - purpose would be for the land to maintained by community members and be supported financially by grants
- Next steps
 - Acquiring the land from ODOT

Community Safety

Kirsten Lampi- introduces Home Security Tips and recommendations



Overall concept is Prevent! Report! and Be Neighborly!



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Reporting for non-emergency issues is currently Pdxreporter.org and in the future will be linked into 311

- All phone numbers for specific reporting lines are in the new neighbor welcome packet - <https://brooklyn-neighborhood.org/welcome-to-brooklyn/>

Volunteer Appreciation - Kimberléa

- **Reimbursement question - resolved**
- **ESJ volunteer reimbursement - \$99.75 - 3 gift cards for 3 ESJ members and cards; \$30 gift card for ESJ member**
 - **Total \$129.75 and request is \$29.75 above originally requested amount previously established in 2022 budget**
 - **Plan for this to be used from previously budgeted ESJ Miscellaneous funds**
- **We note that these gifts were helpful to build inclusivity and intersectionality**
- **Consensus would be to support this year's appreciation and in the future clarify policy in the future to prioritize group appreciation events**

Announcements

Adopt a block - Kathy Orton

- Information on Adopt a block is available on the table
- Group clean up 10/1 10a-2p

Trimet Update from LUTC

TriMet announced a "draft service concept" today: <https://trimet.org/forward/>

It's **not** an exact proposal, or a recommendation. It's more of an overall idea to get people talking about what's good & bad about it. As they say:

> Please note that the service changes described in the Draft Service Concept will be adjusted — potentially quite a bit — based on feedback from riders and the community.

A feedback survey is open until Oct 31: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FT_English

It's definitely worth taking their survey and giving feedback, about what you like or don't like. Based on past concept maps and eventual service changes, public response at this phase really does impact what goes forward and what gets canned. Folks can also attend our next Brooklyn LUTC meeting on Wed Oct 19th where we will discuss it.

There's a lot going on in there, but to two things worth calling out for Brooklyn & nearby:



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- * Changes to the #19 which would add frequent service on Milwaukie Ave and connect more directly to Lents
- * Changing the #70 route to avoid ground zero for train blockages at 11th/12th/Division, taking over part of the old #10 route; also consolidating on 13th Ave in Sellwood (instead of alternating 13th/17th)