

CITY OF CORVALLIS
Public Participation Task Force Minutes
May 15, 2014 _____

Members Present:	Kent Daniels, Chair; Annette Mills, Vice Chair; Emily Bowling; Lee Eckroth; Becky Goslow; Rocio Munoz; Brenda VanDevelder; Richard Hervey; Penny York
Members Absent:	George Brown
Staff:	Mary Beth Altmann Hughes, Human Resources Director; Terry Nix, Scribe
Visitors:	BA Beierle

<u><i>Agenda Item</i></u>	<u><i>Key Discussion Points</i></u>	<u><i>Action or Information Only</i></u>
1. Check in, introductions, ground rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting began at 11:05 a.m. 	
2. Review today's agenda: changes or additions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes 	
3. Review/approve 4/28/14 public forum draft minutes and 5/1/14 draft minutes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of minutes was held to the next meeting.
4. Continue revising draft recommendations document for May 23 final to staff for inclusion in 6/2/2014 City Council meeting packet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final review and revision of Sections I through V of the draft recommendations document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brenda will make final revisions to sections I through V based on the discussion.
5. Community member comments or suggestions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BA Beierle introduced herself and said she was present to observe. TF members noted that BA is active in the community. She said her interests include historic resources, land use, good government, economic development, and preservation. 	

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Key Discussion Points</u>	<u>Action or Information Only</u>
6. Continue work on draft document (Attachment A)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief review of the Neighborhoods section. Any suggested changes should be submitted prior to the next meeting. • Review and revision of the draft Cost Analysis and Implications text and table. • Richard relayed a concern from a community member that there is no opportunity for input into the budget process prior to department allocations being decided. The TF discussed cost implications of expanding the process. • There is a \$10,000 annual allocation to the MLK Commission for an event. The event is included in the group's charge. The TF will discuss a recommendation at the next meeting. • Review and revision of the Appendices section. • E-mails and background information not included in the Appendices section should be included in the archives section of the City's website. • The recommendations document should include links to the survey raw data as well as some reference to the archives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emily will submit recommended changes for the Neighborhoods section for final review at the next meeting. • Brenda will verify some of the figures used and make revisions to the Cost Analysis and Implications section for final review at the next meeting. • Mary Beth will forward copies of e-mails and background info used by the TF to Carla for inclusion in the permanent record (Attachment B). • Emily/Brenda will rework the Appendices section for final review at the next meeting. • Penny will email a template for discussion point minutes for the Appendices.

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Key Discussion Points</u>	<u>Action or Information Only</u>
7. Timeline, responsibilities and roles for PPTF and others for critical path from April 29 to December 31, 2014		
8. Check-out: Time well used? Everyone prepared? Everyone heard? Meeting process okay? What can be done better? Next meeting agenda items?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The recommendations document will be presented to the City Council on June 2. The presentation should be about 10 minutes in length. Kent and Annette will do the opening and TTF members will briefly discuss the sections they worked on. It is important that all or most of the TF members have a role in the presentation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The next meeting will be held on May 22, 2014, 11:00 a.m., at the Madison Avenue Meeting Room. The agenda will focus on final review of the Cost Analysis, Neighborhoods and Appendices sections of the recommendation document. A social event for TF members was tentatively scheduled for June 8. The meeting ended at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Kent Daniels, Chair

Next Meeting: May 22, 2014

City of Corvallis Public Participation Task Force

(DRAFT) Recommendations

May 12, 2014

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TASK FORCE

Community member volunteers:

Kent Daniels, Chair
Annette Mills, Vice Chair
Emily Bowling
George Brown
Lee Eckroth
Becki Goslow
Rocio Muñoz
Brenda VanDevelder

City Council volunteers:

Councilor Penny York
Councilor Richard Hervey

Staff volunteer:

Mary Beth Altmann-Hughes

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APPENDICES:

I. Neighborhood Connections Process

II. Neighborhood Groups Survey Results

III. Benefits document (Lake Oswego)

IV. Research process

V. Discussion point minutes example

VI. Board/Commission changes: Options Chart

**VII. Recipient list for draft PPTF recommendations, and
Notes from April 28, 2014 public meeting**

**VIII. Draft Template, Board/Commission Annual Report
and Proposed Work Plan**

IX. Parking Lot

**X. Other: Councilor Brown's chart; other communications to
PPTF (e.g., docs from City Manager and Department Heads)**

I. DEFINITIONS

Advisory Board—A standing committee of community residents, appointed by the Mayor, to provide advice and information to the City Council on a specific topic of city relevance

City Council Liaison—(see City of Corvallis, Council Policy Manual 2.08.010.) A City Councilor appointed by the Mayor to serve as a liaison to a City advisory board, commission, or task force for a specific time period. Council liaisons serve to establish two-way communication conduits between the full City Council and the groups. In most cases, liaisons are not voting members but information-sharers for the City Council.

City Council Standing Committee—one of three permanent committees that address the range of issues coming to the City Council for consideration. The committees are the Administrative Services, Human Services, and Urban Services Committees, and consist of three Councilors each.

Commission—A standing committee to which the City Council has delegated decision-making authority, such as the Planning Commission and Historic Resources Commission.

Community Involvement and Diversity Advisory Board (CIDAB)—A potential advisory board, recommended in response to City Council Charges 1b, 1c, 1d, 7, and 8. Would include functions of current Committee for Citizen Involvement, responsibilities to work with neighborhoods and other duties.

Department Advisory Committee—An ongoing administrative or technical committee appointed by City department directors (with Council approval) to work with city staff on matters involving specialized expertise or a very specific area of concern. (See detailed explanation on page 21.)

Registered Neighborhood Group (RNG)—an organized group of neighbors, including but not limited to neighborhood associations, that shares interest in their neighborhood's quality of life. RNGs would be officially registered with the City, meets certain minimum requirements for recognition, and be eligible to apply for benefits the City offers only to RNGs, such as meeting space.

Sunsetting—the process by which the City Council reviews advisory boards to ascertain whether or not they should continue to function (occurs every five years).

Task Force—A committee formed to achieve a particular goal with a specific charge, usually serving for a limited time. Often established by City Council resolution, usually appointed by the Mayor, but sometimes established and appointed by department heads or staff.

ACRONYMS

PPTF
RNG
CIDAB
ACC
BPAC
CACOT

II. CITY COUNCIL'S GOAL AND CHARGE TO THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TASK FORCE (PPTF)

GOAL: *“By December 2014, the Council will revise its processes and structures in to a more effective and efficient citizen engagement program to develop diverse future leaders, enhance communication between citizens and the Council, help connect citizens to each other to strengthen community and neighborhoods, and utilize the expertise of citizen volunteers in solving community problems.”*

CHARGE TO TASK FORCE:

“Issues to be studied and deliberated:

1. Number and scope of boards and commissions
 - a. Identify areas of duplication between existing boards and commissions.
 - b. Identify boards and commissions whose areas of study are so small or narrow that they could be incorporated into another related group or community organization.
 - c. Identify significant areas of City Council responsibility where the Council doesn't receive systematic citizen advice. Include gaps in the board and commission system that would benefit from a change in the scope of a current group or the formation of a new group.
 - d. Suggest how to combine, divide or otherwise reorganize these groups so that they are as effective and efficient as possible.
2. The formation, evaluation, revision and sunset process
 - a. What criteria should the City Council use to determine if a new board or commission should be created?
 - b. Consider how best to define and evaluate effective board and commission operations and outcomes.
 - c. Consider how to balance the roles of boards and commissions as well-informed and neutral advisors to the Council as opposed to advocates for a particular point of view.
 - d. What criteria should the Council use to make significant changes in one or more boards or commissions?
 - e. Consider revising the process and/or developing criteria to guide Council decisions about ending boards and commissions.
 - f. How should the effectiveness of staff support be evaluated?
3. Relationship with City operating departments
 - a. The relationships between individual boards and commissions and the related operating department vary greatly. What should the relationships be?
4. Council liaison role
 - a. What should the role of the City Council liaison be?

5. Opportunities to advise the City Council

- a. Is access available to all citizens to give thoughtful input and advice to the City Council through the board and commission system? If not, are there ways to improve the board and commission system for better access?
- b. Is there adequate access to citizens to advise the Council through means other than the board and commission system? If not, suggest methods of improvement.

6. Cost factors

- a. It is important to ensure that decisions are timely; citizens feel that their efforts are meaningful, and city resources are used well. Identify ways to streamline or reduce the use of staff support.
- b. Identify ways to maximize the use of citizen volunteers.

7. Committee for Citizen Involvement

- a. Is the current configuration of this group the most effective means of addressing the Oregon Land Use System Goal One? If not, how might this goal be better met?

8. Neighborhood associations

- a. Neighborhood associations provide opportunities to build community and address issues that affect residents of particular geographical areas of the city. Does the City's public participation system adequately encourage neighborhood engagement and neighborliness? If not, identify methods for improvement."

COMMENT ON THE CHARGE:

Throughout our recommendations, we refer to the impact on effectiveness and efficiency according to the definition provided by City Council:

- **'Effectiveness'** means improved communication between residents and appointees with the Council and staff in ways that result in better, more informed decision making.
- **'Efficiency'** means purposeful and limited use of city resources, including staff time, volunteer time and other direct costs.

From the outset, our focus has remained resolutely on our charge, on the formal channels of engaging community members early in the decision-making process, and on strengthening the existing board and commission system. We endeavored to provide alternative options to strengthen public participation in eight specific areas. For the most part, this draft document will address each area sequentially by number.

The Public Participation Task Force is comprised of eight community members, two city council members, and one staff representative from the City. We want to emphasize our respect for all the community volunteers currently serving on City boards and commissions, and our appreciation for the importance of the work they do. We believe our recommendations can both heighten and support that work and enhance community members' involvement in city planning and decision-making processes.

Additionally, we recognize the City Council's priority of creating a sustainable budget and note that City Council must prioritize recommendations and the use of resources for public participation effectiveness.

III. GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The Corvallis 2020 vision document includes the following statements about our community:

- “Boards, commissions, and task forces are the primary working groups that evaluate, draft, and recommend plans and legislation to the city council.”
- “In 2020, Corvallis will be...a highly livable city which employs local benchmarks to measure progress in areas such as housing, economic vitality, educational quality, environmental quality, and overall quality of life; ...blessed with an involved citizenry that actively participates in public policy and decision making; a community that honors diversity...”

Members of advisory boards, commissions, and task forces provide an invaluable service to our city. These groups advise the City Council on a wide variety of subjects.

Serving on an advisory board, commission, or task force can be a rewarding experience for community service-minded residents. It is a productive way to participate in the functioning of local government and assists City Council members in understanding the values of their constituents. The role of these committees is to provide input to city staff and advice and recommendations City Council. The expertise and work of community groups often serve as a catalyst for innovative city programs and improved services.

To address the language both in our Corvallis vision document and in Charge 5 from the City Council, we recommend that the City adopt the following guiding principles and display them on the City website and other appropriate documents.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. **Collaborative Democracy** - Enhance and support community-driven democracy in city government. Ensure that all participants listen and attempt to understand different viewpoints.
2. **Diversity** – Seek input from all viewpoints, backgrounds, and philosophies. Treat each person with dignity, fairness, and respect.
3. **Openness and Respect** - Promote fair, open and respectful processes that allow all who are interested or affected to have an equal opportunity to participate.
4. **Inclusiveness** - Create a variety of ways for community members to participate and influence decisions.
5. **Accountability** - Use decision-making processes that are transparent and that create decisions that can be tracked with clearly defined responsibilities.

PRINCIPIOS FUNDAMENTALES

1. **Trabajo colaborativo en la Democracia** – mejorar y apoyar una democracia gubernamental dirigida por la comunidad. Asegurarse todos los participantes escuchen e intenten comprender diferentes puntos de vista.
2. **Diversidad** – solicitar opiniones desde todas las perspectivas, orígenes y filosofías. Tratar a cada persona con dignidad, igualdad y respeto.
3. **Transparencia y respeto** - Promover procesos justos, abiertos y respetuosos que permiten a aquellos interesados o afectados a tener una oportunidad para participar.
4. **Integración** – Crear una variedad de maneras para que miembros de la comunidad participen e influyan las decisiones.
5. **Obligación** – Usar procesos para hacer decisiones responsables y que sean transparentes.

IV. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

The task force was charged by the City Council with reviewing existing citizen advisory boards and commissions to address portions of the charge related to their number and scope. This element of work for the PPTF was the most challenging, as we acknowledge the contributions and expertise provided by community volunteers currently serving.

Corvallis has benefited immeasurably over the years from the involvement of its citizens in public decision-making. Task forces have worked with city staff, consultants, the general public, and multiple City Councils to tackle difficult issues and help build support for solutions that benefit the entire community, such as the Riverfront Task Force, the Combined Sewer Overflow Project, and the Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan. Boards and commissions composed of dedicated volunteers do much of the heavy lifting and detail work in their roles to advise the Council about developments in and support for a wide range of City services and functions.

In a comparative review of other Oregon and Pacific Northwest cities, we noted that a larger city (Bend) operates with 13 advisory boards and commissions; a smaller city (Ashland) operates with 15; and Bellingham, Washington, a somewhat larger university city similar to Corvallis, has 21. Corvallis currently supports 22 advisory boards and commissions. In general, we believe broader categories are more desirable for efficient operations.

We have endeavored to provide alternative pathways to greater effectiveness and efficiency. We encourage existing boards and commissions to review annual goals and the current level of public engagement with their committee to determine if their issue area would be more comprehensively addressed if united in a more broadly defined advisory board. At the same time, however, we remain very supportive of the Corvallis 2020 Vision statement that “boards, commissions and task forces are the primary working groups that evaluate, draft and recommend plans and legislation to the city council.”

Charge 1a: *“Identify areas of duplication between existing boards and commissions.”*

No recommendation: Although there are some areas of overlap, we did not identify any significant duplication of responsibilities in the current board and commission system. Therefore we offer no recommendation in that regard.

Charge 1b: *“Identify boards and commissions whose areas of study are so small or narrow that they could be incorporated into another related group or community organization.”*

Recommendation: We identified 13 boards or commissions (listed below) where the scope is specialized or technical enough that some may benefit either by changing them

to Departmental Advisory Committees (detailed on p. 20) or by incorporation into another committee or community organization to increase the effectiveness and efficiency in the board and commission system. The chart in Appendix VI indicates possible options, including no changes.

- Airport Commission
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission
- Board of Appeals
- Capital Improvement Program Commission
- Citizens Advisory Commission on Transit
- Commission for Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Commission on Civic Beautification and Urban Forestry
- Committee for Citizen Involvement
- Community Police Review Board
- Downtown Commission
- Downtown Parking Commission
- Public Art Selection Commission
- Watershed Management Advisory Commission

Charge 1c: *“Identify significant areas of City Council responsibility where the Council doesn’t receive systematic citizen advice. Include gaps in the board and commission system that would benefit from a change in the scope of a current group or the formation of a new group.”*

Recommendation: We identified four significant areas of City Council responsibility where the Council doesn’t receive systematic community member advice or recommendations. We believe new or modified advisory boards would increase effectiveness of the city by addressing the gaps in the following areas:

- Community Involvement and Diversity
- Transportation systems planning and decisions
- Water systems planning and decisions.
- Public safety

See further discussion at Recommendation B, below.

Charge 1d: *“Suggest how to combine, divide, or otherwise reorganize these groups so that they are as effective and efficient as possible.”*

Recommendation A: After reviewing current board and commission activities and charges, we recommend that the following advisory board interest areas could more effectively provide comprehensive input to City Council with a change of scope, organization, or responsibilities. Committees are listed in alphabetical order.

- **Airport Commission (AC).** After review of current activities, we note that there are two distinct areas of oversight including highly technical aviation input and economic development activity reports.
OPTION A: Change to Department Advisory Committee for aviation concerns, with economic development activities transitioned to the Economic Development Commission.
OPTION B: Continue as an advisory board, with a liaison from the Airport Advisory Board to the Economic Development Advisory Board.
- **Arts and Culture Commission (ACC).** This committee is charged with advising City Council on all matters relating to arts and culture. City-supported arts organizations include the Majestic Theater and the Arts Center, and to some extent Visit Corvallis.
RECOMMENDATIONS: Strengthen the formal communications related to city-funded arts and culture related entities by requiring annual reporting to this committee. Move the responsibilities of the Public Art Selection Commission to this body, and have the ACC use a subcommittee process to add persons as required for art selection work/decisions.
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC).** This commission has very effectively advocated for bike and pedestrian interests in Corvallis for many years. In other communities (e.g., Ashland, OR and Bellingham, WA), a Transportation Advisory Board was created to comprehensively address multi-modal transportation issues and provide advice and recommendations on transportation system policy and investment choices.
OPTION A: Create a Multimodal Transportation Advisory Board, with subcommittees for specific segments of the transportation system. Properly structured, this could strengthen and increase the voices for multimodal transportation.
OPTION B: Continue as an advisory board.
- **Board of Appeals (BA).** Our only suggestion is to change the name to “Appeals Commission,” if there are no legal obstacles to doing so (see Charge 3, Recommendation B1, on p.20.)
- **Budget Commission (BC).** This commission includes City Council and community members and is currently limited to reviewing the proposed annual budget. Based on our review of the budget processes in the City of Eugene and other municipalities, we believe there are changes that would improve the effectiveness of this commission.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Expand the scope to include study of financial issues facing the City, development of recommendations for the Council, and review of fund forecasts. Have community members work with staff and Council on the budget before formal unveiling in February. Have subcommittees hold public meetings in the early fall to obtain community member input and suggestions for the next year's budget, perhaps done collaboratively with the Capital Improvement Program.

- **Capital Improvement Program Commission (CIP)**
RECOMMENDATIONS: Change scope to that of a Departmental Advisory Committee. Change the membership so that the body is made up mostly of representatives from other boards and commissions, including Planning, Budget, Multimodal Transportation, Water, and Parks, Natural Areas, and Recreation Boards, plus two or three community members with relevant technical knowledge or experience.
- **Citizens Advisory Commission on Transit (CACOT).** This commission serves to provide input on the City's public transit system. Greater efficiencies could be achieved through a more comprehensive approach to multi-modal transportation with the formation of a Multimodal Transportation Advisory Board, which would assume the current responsibilities of this advisory commission.
OPTION A: Create a new Multimodal Transportation Advisory Board with a subcommittee structure.
OPTION B: Continue as an advisory board.
- **Commission for Martin Luther King Jr. (MLKC)** . This commission was established in 1987 to create a community celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. and to "advise Council on matters pertaining to the holiday." We value the work of Dr. King and the holiday in his honor, and the dedicated work of current and past Commission members over the last 27 years.

We do believe there is a greater opportunity to advise the City Council on inclusion and diversity issue that align with fostering awareness of principles and practices championed by Dr. King, in addition to the January event honoring his work and memory.

RECOMMENDATION: City Council work with the advisory board to: 1) broaden its scope, goals, and responsibilities to address relevant diversity issues and events in our community throughout the year; 2) work much more collaboratively with the university, Benton County, and the school district and the proposed Citizen Involvement and Diversity Advisory Board; and 3) explore the feasibility of a future county, university, and city advisory body.

- **Commission on Civic Beautification and Urban Forestry (CBUF)** This commission focuses primarily on street trees and beautification projects with the City. This active commission may be more efficient and cost-effective as a Departmental Advisory Committee.
RECOMMENDATION: Change this body from a commission to a Departmental Advisory Committee.
- **Committee for Citizen Involvement (CCI)** This committee was established as a means of addressing the Oregon Land Use System Goal One. We noted that there appears to have been no activity in this committee since December 2012, and, prior to that time, meetings were held on a quarterly basis. Educating community members about land use planning is an important piece of engaging the community. Additional resources may be generated and supported by incorporating the CCI charge in a newly formed Community Involvement and Diversity Advisory Board (see page 15).
RECOMMENDATION: Sunset the current CCI and create a new Community Involvement and Diversity Advisory Board.
- **Community Police Review Board (CPRB)**. This board deals specifically with community member complaints. We have identified an opportunity for greater public participation in all matters related to public safety.
RECOMMENDATION: Do further research on increasing the scope of this board or including its responsibilities with the establishment of a Public Safety Advisory Board.
- **Downtown Commission (DC)**. This commission was created in 2008 to develop a strategic plan and to implement an urban renewal program which was subsequently not supported by voters. The charge is to support a vibrant hub of business and cultural activity through streetscape and signage projects, redevelopment and housing projects, and accessibility and public parking.
OPTION A: Continue with current responsibilities as is.
OPTION B: Include the Downtown Commission as part of the Economic Development Commission's responsibility.
OPTION C: Maintain this commission and incorporate the Downtown Parking Commission as a subcommittee.
- **Downtown Parking Commission**. This commission is narrowly focused on downtown parking and promoting multi-modal transportation. Two members of the Downtown Commission serve on this committee, with some evidence that it may be operating as a subcommittee of the Downtown Commission.

OPTION A: Incorporate its responsibilities into the Downtown Commission and cease listing it as a separate board.

OPTION B: Incorporate its responsibilities as part of the recommended Multi-modal Transportation Advisory Board.

- **Economic Development Commission (EDC).** This commission is charged to develop and recommend economic development policy and strategy for the City to implement. The current strategic plan does not include the economic development activities of the airport or downtown core, or other economic development interests in Corvallis.

OPTION A: Continue with current responsibilities as is.

OPTION B: Incorporate the responsibilities of the Downtown Commission.

OPTION C: Move the economic development-related matters of the Airport Commission to this committee

OPTION D: Add a liaison from the Airport Advisory Board to this committee.

- **Historic Resources Commission (HRC) and Planning Commission (PC).** Both of these commissions are quasi-judicial.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Increase collaborative work by scheduling periodic work sessions with each other for goal and Comprehensive Plan development; and with the recommended new Community Involvement and Diversity Advisory Board regarding Land Use Goal 1 requirements, issues, and improvements.

- **Land Development Hearings Board (LDHB).** This board is currently, in effect, a subcommittee of the Planning Commission.

RECOMMENDATION: Codify that fact and cease listing it as a separate board.

- **Public Art Selection Commission (PASC).** This commission provides expertise in the review and approval of public art installations. One member of the Arts and Culture Commission serves on this commission.

RECOMMENDATION: Have the Arts and Culture Advisory Board assume this committee's responsibilities, with a subcommittee to carry out the duties of public art selection.

- **Watershed Management Advisory Commission (WMAC).** This commission is focused primarily on the forest and streams of the city's Rock Creek Watershed. It is a primarily a technical committee that may be more cost-effectively organized.

OPTION A: Include this commission's charge as part of a more broadly scoped Water Systems Advisory Board, or

OPTION B: Change this body from a commission to a Department Advisory Committee, and add "Rock Creek" to its name.

Charge 1c: *“Identify significant areas of City Council responsibility where the Council doesn’t receive systematic citizen advice. Include gaps in the board and commission system that would benefit from a change in the scope of a current group or the formation of a new group.”*

Recommendation B: The City has significant gaps in the current City board and commission system, and may wish to consider four new advisory boards (in prioritized order) to increase effectiveness of community member input and decision making. We suggest a membership of 11-12 persons to these new, more broadly scoped boards both to increase community involvement and to accommodate the wider range of issues.

- Citizen Involvement and Diversity Advisory Board (CIDAB)

This board would assume the Goal One responsibility of the current Committee for Citizen Involvement (recommended for sunseting) but would have a broader scope and responsibilities, including:

- o Use of a subcommittee to work with members of the Planning Commission and the Historic Resources Commission regarding changes and improvements to address the Land Use Goal 1, Citizen Involvement.
- o Diversity and inclusion, making sure this group is bringing in all parts of our community
- o Access to city government, including community member primer on public participation, testimony, and the land use planning process,
- o Development of board and commission trainings and orientation recommendations,
- o Outreach to and liaison with Registered Neighborhood Groups,
- o Implementation or further work on PPTF recommendations, as recommended by the City Council,
- o Ongoing responsibility for the review and improvement of the Board and Commission system and other public participation practices

The PPTF gave serious consideration to having the CIDAB assume the responsibilities of the Martin Luther King Jr. Commission. Although there could be future consideration of that, we believe doing so now would overburden the CIDAB, as a new board, with too many expectations and responsibilities.

- Multimodal Transportation Advisory Board (MTAB)

Transportation issues exist in our community that would benefit from community input on comprehensive issues in a broader way. While some of these impact only small numbers of individuals directly, we are all affected because these issues

affect our ability to access areas of our community, our city budget and other services, and housing issues. Examples include the fact that many areas in our city are not developed to city standards, lacking sidewalks, adequate roads, or adequate drainage; the growing impact of OSU overflow parking; and emergency response to weather issues.

The MTAB would assume the current responsibilities of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and the Citizens' Advisory Committee on Transit. This will align Corvallis with the multimodal approach already taken by both the Corvallis Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). It will be important to ensure that the needs and issues of the users and advocates of pedestrian travel, bicycles, and transit continue to have a strong voice on this advisory board and in this community.

This board would both advise the City Council and Planning Commission on transportation-related issues, and work with city staff to plan for a transportation system that enhances Corvallis's livability, character, and natural environment. The work of this board would relate to safety, planning, funding, and advocacy for an effective multimodal transportation system of streets as well as sidewalks and trails. This focus will enable people to move easily through the city as pedestrians or using bicycles, transit, or other vehicles and allow us to create a less auto-dependent community.

Specific areas of work will include:

- o Involvement in and review of multimodal transportation planning (public transit, vehicle, bicycle, pedestrian, trails), such as the Transportation Master Plan, parking plans, and Capital Improvement Plan transportation projects
- o Review of individual transportation projects while being developed and prior to inclusion in the CIP, proposals going before the Planning Commission, or individual projects required on a fast-track basis.
- o Review of accessibility issues in the transportation systems for individuals with mobility, visual, or other challenges
- o Use of the Healthy Streets, Healthy Streams Handbook and recommendations
- o Coordination with regional transportation planning
- o Reviewing and advising the City Council on bicyclist and pedestrian issues and ensuring that they are integrated into the overall transportation needs of the community.

- o Reviewing and making recommendations concerning transit, including route changes, service expansion, shelter placement, and funding strategies.

The MTAB may use subcommittees to focus on any of these areas.

- Water Systems Advisory Board

There is currently no board or commission related to the city's three primary water system functions: drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater. The Watershed Management Advisory Commission (WMAC) is the only existing advisory body related to water systems, and its primary duty is to provide advice to the City Council and city staff regarding the Stewardship Plan, which deals primarily with forestry issues in the Rock Creek Watershed basin. WMAC provides no advice regarding watershed issues anywhere else in the city and its other surrounding watersheds, or for the Rock Creek Treatment Facility and infrastructure itself.

Water systems issues—including policy development, existing policy and code interpretations, and planning for drinking water supplies and treatment, wastewater treatment and release, plus watershed and storm water management—have significant long-term effects on the lives of all Corvallis community members. Such a new advisory board would provide clear means for public access, as well as the potential for influencing or being involved in the decision-making process at the critical early phases of policy and design. Such public participation is currently missing in most projects involving drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater. The public needs better access to the decision-making process for policies, programs, and projects being considered, and for costs related to these programs and projects. A Water Systems Advisory Board should provide advice to the City Council and staff in the following areas:

- o Water quality and treatment
- o Waste water treatment and release
- o Storm water management, including piped drainage systems, streams, and mitigation structures built on both public and private lands
- o Watershed protections and functions
- o Input to the Capital Improvement Program for all related potential projects
- o Natural features management and issues that relate to water within the city.

Building maintenance and construction planning should NOT be covered by this board.

- Public Safety Advisory Board

The PPTF identified public safety (police and fire services) as having a significant gap where the council does not receive systematic advice from community members.

However, the task force believes that addressing this gap would be a significant undertaking, and should be done via a separate public process. A Public Safety Advisory Board could provide the council with advice in the following areas:

- o Emergency preparedness (with neighborhood associations)
- o Fire Dept. CIP projects, Police Dept. CIP projects, Fire Department strategic MP
- o Act in an advisory capacity to City Council, the Chief of Police, the Fire Chief, and the City Manager on police and fire policy and resource issues.

Charge 2a : *“What criteria should the City Council use to determine if a new board or commission should be created?”*

Recommendation: Limit the formation of new advisory boards and commissions. In some cities, if a new committee is formed, another is sunsetted. Before a new advisory board is formed, it is important to determine if an alternative solution is viable, such as broadening the scope of an existing advisory board or commission or creating a task force or department advisory committee. Based on our review of comparable cities and the existing number of advisory boards and commissions in Corvallis, we recommend the increased use of task forces, which can be more focused and serve for limited durations.

Charge 2b: *“Consider how best to define and evaluate effective board and commission operations and outcomes.”*

Recommendation: Establish a formal, annual reporting relationship to City Council standing committees.

Require that all advisory boards and commissions and departmental advisory committees develop annual goals and work plans. Create an annual review and report process with their related City Council standing committees to measure effectiveness, reviewing progress on annual work plan and goals.

Charge 2c: *“Consider how to balance the roles of boards and commissions as well-informed and neutral advisors to the Council as opposed to advocates for a particular point of view.”*

Recommendation: Provide orientation for all new advisory board and commission members to create more effective committees.

Members of advisory boards and commissions are well-informed and typically passionate about the volunteer work they do. As part of the new member orientation process, each appointee should be given an overall review of how the City, the relevant department, and the advisory board/commission operate and relate to each other. Orientation should also note the advisory nature of the work and the fact that City Council must weigh multiple factors in determining to accept or reject committee recommendations. It is also recommended that committee chairs and vice chairs receive training relating to running efficient meetings, public meeting laws, and understanding the scope of the work of the committee.

Charge 2d: *“What criteria should the Council use to make significant changes in one or more boards or commissions?”*

Recommendation: Use consistent annual reporting from all advisory boards and commissions to determine if revisions are appropriate.

Once established, advisory boards and commissions are made up of volunteers who commit time and expertise to the work of the committee. The use of annual work plans and an annual review with a City Council standing committee will provide a framework for reviewing possible revisions or changes.

Charge 2e: *“Consider revising the process and/or developing criteria to guide Council decisions about ending boards and commissions.”*

Recommendation: Revise the sunset policy.

It is the City Council’s responsibility to decide if an existing advisory board or commission should continue its work. Each advisory board and commission will be reporting with an annual review and a proposed work plan for the following year, with approval required by the standing committee. Information gathered through that review, including the original charge or ordinance that established the board or commission, should be what informs the start of the process of ending or sunsetting a board or commission.

Charge 2f: *“How should the effectiveness of staff support be evaluated?”*

Recommendation: Evaluate the effectiveness of staff support as part of the annual review of the advisory board or commission.

Staff liaison and support play a critical role for advisory boards and commissions to meet goals or work plans, and that role should be clearly articulated to incoming committee members. The staff liaison should: provide accurate and relevant information for the work of the committee; provide logistical support including meeting space and meeting recorder; assist with annual reporting of activities, or other support that is required. Board, commission, and committee members should be surveyed annually regarding resource support.

Charge 3: *“The relationships between individual boards and commissions and the related operating department vary greatly. What should the relationships be?”*

The related purposes of the following recommendations are to:

- make decision-making in the City more effective;
- build a web of strong interrelationships of committees which can address City planning with efficient use of city resources;
- better coordinate the working plans and activities of committees with annual goals and priorities of City Council; and
- increase adequate and early input by affected stakeholders in all major planning areas.

Recommendation A: Implement consistent practices for all advisory boards and commissions including staff attendance, recorder, and style of minutes to improve efficiencies.

1. Assign one staff liaison and recorder to attend each advisory board, commission, and task force meeting. Being responsive to cost concerns, department directors exercise judgment on +1 staff attendance.
2. Avoid verbatim minutes. Minutes should be taken in a consistent format, including key discussion point minutes for advisory boards and task forces (*see Appendix V*) and detailed minutes for commissions as required by statute.

Recommendation B1: Adopt a policy to use consistent titles of committees.

One of our first areas of agreement (also confirmed in our interviews with department directors) was the importance of the consistent use of language in describing committees. Consistency is especially important as most are advisory only; a limited number of committees have decision-making authority. Consistency will not only help everyone understand the distinction between the types of committees, but also indicate to the majority of existing committees the advisory nature of their work. This policy will create effectiveness in the system, which will both support city operating departments and guide City Council in the naming of committees.

Recommendation B2: We recommend four distinct types of committees: advisory board, commission, task force, and departmental advisory committee.

Any of these committees may consider forming sub-committees. If one board is being merged into another, the continuing board will bear the responsibility for forming a subcommittee and establishing the scope of the subcommittee's work. (i.e., the board being merged does not continue to exist as a subcommittee of the continuing board).

Other limited-duration work groups or technical advisory teams may be formed by the Mayor or city staff for a particular reason. Department directors would continue the practice of bringing together small work or technical groups with particular areas of knowledge to advise them on particular or technical issues. The City Manager is responsible for ensuring that the Mayor and City Councilors are aware of the formation, purpose, duration and membership of such groups or committees.

1. Advisory Board

This type of standing committee is established by City Council resolution and serves in an advisory capacity to the Mayor, City Council and staff. The City Council resolution identifies the charge. The Mayor is responsible for recommending individuals to fill vacancies, for confirmation by the City Council.

2. Commission

A standing committee to which the City Council has delegated decision making authority. The Mayor is responsible for appointing individuals to fill vacancies on the Budget Commission and the Appeals Board. The City Council makes appointments to the Planning Commission and Historic Resources Commission.

3. Task Force

This committee is formed to achieve a particular goal with a specific charge, and is generally active for a limited time. The City Council resolution identifies the term of the committee, the task to be completed, the timeline for completion of the project and other direction as the City Council deems appropriate. The City Council should consider forming a Task Force to address a major initiative, issue, or significant policy change if an existing Commission or Advisory Board does not exist to address that area or does not have the ability to address the topic by itself. The Mayor is usually responsible for appointing individuals to serve on Task Forces.

4. Department Advisory Committee (DAC)

These ongoing committees are administrative or technical in nature and allow for efficient use of community member expertise and staff time. These ongoing committees are appointed by department directors with the approval of the City Council. They advise department staff and the City Council, and provide agility in responding to community issues.

The PPTF recommendations include the options of transitioning the following current boards and commissions to department advisory committees: the Airport Commission, the Commission on Civic Beautification and Urban Forestry; the Capital Improvement Program Commission; and the Watershed Management Advisory Commission.

Characteristics of a Department Advisory Committee would include the following:

- Open, noticed public meetings (such as the Infill Task Force meetings) that allow public feedback/input. Decisions on frequency of meetings to be decided by committee members and staff, with the minimum being quarterly.
- Appointments recommended by the department head to the city council standing committee for approval by the full city council. Department head will be expected to take into account both technical expertise or knowledge and diversity and inclusiveness considerations. Open advertising/recruitment advised.
- Not established by ordinance. Reviewed every year by council standing committee for continuation/revision.
- Minutes taken; will always go to the department's City Council standing committee.
- Number of committee members up to department head, but a range might be five to seven persons. Appointees do not serve terms but may need to have a maximum number of years of service.
- Works with the department staff, but also periodically reports to the City Council standing committee. Can make periodic reports to full council as well.

If adopted, the changes recommended for types of boards, commissions, or committees would result in the following name changes:

1. Airport Commission (AC) to Airport Advisory Board (AAB) or Airport Department Advisory Committee (ADAC)
 2. Arts and Culture Commission (ACC) to Arts and Culture Advisory Board (ACAB)
 3. Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC) to Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board (BPAB)
 4. Board of Appeals (BA) to Appeals Commission (AC)
 5. Capital Improvement Program Commission (CIP) to Capital Improvement Department Advisory Committee (CIDAC)
 6. Citizens Advisory Commission on Transit (CACOT) to Transit Advisory Board (TAB)
 7. Commission for Martin Luther King Jr. to Martin Luther King Jr. Advisory Board
 8. Commission on Civic Beautification and Urban Forestry (CBUF) to Civic Beautification and Urban Forestry Advisory Board, or Civic Beautification and Urban Forestry Department Advisory Committee (CBUFDAC)
 9. Committee for Citizen Involvement (CCI) to Community Involvement and Diversity Advisory Board (CIDAB)
 10. Community Police Review Board (CPRB) to Community Police Review Advisory Board (CPRAB)
 11. Downtown Commission (DC) to Downtown Advisory Board (DAB)
 12. Economic Development Commission (EDC) to Economic Development Advisory Board (EDAB)
 13. Housing and Community Development Commission (HCDC) to Housing and Community Development Advisory Board (HCDAB)
 14. Land Development Hearings Board (LDHB) to Land Development Hearings Commission (LDHC)
 15. Parks, Natural Areas and Recreation Board (PNARB) to Parks, Natural Areas and Recreation Advisory Board (PNARAB)
 16. Watershed Management Advisory Commission (WMAC) to Watershed Management Department Advisory Committee (MDAC)
- The names for the Budget Commission (BC), Corvallis-Benton County Library Board, Historic Resources Commission (HRC), and Planning Commission (PC) would remain the same.

Recommendation C: Conduct an annual meeting for all advisory boards and commissions.

In our research of other communities we learned that some host an annual meeting with all boards and the City council and one assigns the city attorney's office to visit each board or commission once per year. Our recommendation of an annual meeting provides all committees an opportunity to hear the same message from the Mayor and City Council, reduces silos, encourages dialogue, and fosters collaboration among advisory boards and commissions.

Charge 4: “What should the role of the City Council liaison be?”

Recommendation: In researching the liaison role, we noted that one community is in the process of ending the Council liaison duties due to the challenge of keeping up with the meetings of their fifteen advisory boards and commissions. We recognize a similar challenge in Corvallis to an even greater degree. With the formalization of advisory board and commission goal setting and review, and reporting to Standing Committees, the City Council liaison position may in some cases no longer be required.

Charge 5: See Access and Opportunities Section V, p. 22

Charge 6a: “It is important to ensure that decisions are timely; citizens feel that their efforts are meaningful, and city resources are used well. Identify ways to streamline or reduce the use of staff support.”

Charge 6b: “Identify ways to maximize the use of citizen volunteers.”

Recommendation A: Streamlining advisory boards and commissions and their support structure as already recommended will reduce costs in meaningful ways. Additionally, the use of task forces and other committees will increase use of community volunteers.

Recommendation B: Providing enhanced outreach (see Section V, Access and Opportunities) and orientation activities (already recommended) will maximize the effective participation of community member volunteers.

Recommendation C: Increase the use of liaisons from boards or commissions to other boards or commissions, to improve communications and break down the “silo” effect. The Planning Commission, for example, currently has liaison assignments to the HRC, HCDC, CCI, and CIP Commission. Possible new liaison assignments could be from PNARB to CBUF, ACC, and the new CIDAB; from CIDAB to the MLKC, or from the AC to the EDC.

Recommendation D: Expanding board member qualifications to include the option of one non-resident expert as a non-voting member will help maximize the use of community volunteers with special expertise.

Current qualifications limit membership to those living, working, or owning a business within the city or in some cases inside the Urban Growth Boundary.

Charge 7: “Is the current configuration of [the Committee for Citizen Involvement] the most effective means of addressing the Oregon Land Use System Goal One? If not, how might this goal be better met?”

Recommendation: We recommend an immediate sunseting of the CCI, and the transfer of its Goal One responsibility to a new and more broadly focused Community Involvement and Diversity Board (CIDAB).

The current configuration of the Committee for Citizen Involvement limits the work of the committee to addressing Goal One of the Oregon land use system. We believe that goal could be better met as a specific responsibility of a new Community Involvement

and Diversity Board (CIDAB), as described in Recommendation B of Charge 1c (page 15).

Charge 8: See Neighborhoods, Section VI, p. 26

V. ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Charge 5: “Is access available to all citizens to give thoughtful input and advice to the City Council through the board and commission system? If not, are there ways to improve the board and commission system for better access?”

Recommendation: Adopt the Guiding Principles outlined in Section I.

Publish on the city web site and implement the following practices to ensure outreach and authentic engagement of community members, elected and appointed city leadership, and city staff.

We believe that this recommendation is a formalization of what City Council and staff have been attempting to do. It provides a standard to point to when we don't meet our expectations of ourselves. Our intentions are to ensure that all interests are represented in the decision-making process and to genuinely engage diverse community members at an early stage in the process.

Recommendations for Collaborative Democracy:

1. Create community-friendly atmosphere at all public meetings.

Demonstrate that those giving public testimony are being listened to. Make eye contact; ask a question, alert public that an electronic device may be used to capture testimony for future reference.

2. Create a welcoming environment for public testimony and in all ways act respectfully towards people giving testimony.

When the need arises to limit testimony, employ methods that are predictable and discreet. One of the most-repeated negative comments the Task Force received from many persons was dislike for the current timing clock used at City Council meetings to limit testimony. Almost everyone understands the need to have some kind of time limits on testimony, but most would prefer that it be done directly by a person rather than electronically.

The City of Pasadena, CA has a podium with three built-in lights: green, yellow, and red. It is observable by the council and the speaker in a discreet manner. In the city of Falls Church, VA, timing of visitor comment is done by a staff member, who pleasantly but firmly tells speakers they have exceeded time allocations. At Corvallis Planning Commission meetings, the Chair moderates and limits testimony as needed herself, without the use of any electronic devices.

3. Establish protocol for multiple persons who are representing an organization to make a presentation longer than the time allowed for an individual.

Groups should make arrangements in advance with staff and the Mayor or Chair, which set the time allowed, at what point a presentation will occur (e.g., during “Presentations” or “Public hearings”), and other agreements.

4. Have agendas and other relevant documents available for the public at meetings.

Documents should include those being discussed. “Meetings” include those of the City Council, advisory boards, commissions, task forces, and departmental advisory committees.

Recommendations for Diversity:

1. Use the term “community member” instead of “citizen” whenever possible, in all City documents and references. The city of Corvallis includes significant numbers of people living and working here who are not U.S. citizens but are residents and community members. They are eligible to serve as volunteers on boards and commissions and are users of city services.

2. Identify and reach out to diverse sectors of the community.

Take steps to make meetings linguistically and culturally appropriate.

- Create a mechanism within city government to provide translation/interpretation services at public meetings when there is a topic of interest or services are requested.
- Establish a resource service for child care at major meetings (e.g., partner with a non-profit or social service agency that provides such services).
- Consider holding some City Council meetings at other locations periodically.
- Be proactive in seeking feedback from underrepresented groups.

Charge 5b: “Is there adequate access to citizens to advise the Council through means other than the board and commission system? If not, suggest methods of improvement.”

Recommendations for Openness and Respect:

1. Increase access to elected officials and city staff.

- Create reasonable ways for community members to communicate with elected and appointed city leadership and city staff. Provide phone numbers and email addresses that will ensure a response. Include current contact information for board,

commission, committee, and task force chairs, as well as the staff person providing primary support.

- Include a link on the “Mayor and City Council” web page for each councilor to specify what means of contact are available and which for will elicit a response.
- Consider real-time on-line access to city meetings. (Review OSU’s New Media Communications Department)
- Consider alternate locations for forums, special outreach meetings, and government corner.
- Ask the CIDAB to research and recommend ways for the City Council, its three standing committees, and City boards and commissions to involve and obtain feedback from persons or populations for whom testimony at formal meetings is either not possible or is too intimidating.

2. Increase access to city government information.

a. Improve City website user-friendliness

- Make the links on the home page more visible and easier to see/understand for the multiple modes of engagement by community member.
- Have Boards and Commissions and Volunteer Opportunities be a first-page header.
- Review path to finding archives, specifically the method of searching and retrieving documents. Example: City of Eugene website.
- Include a list of acronyms used throughout the website.
- Research software with appropriate design

b. Utilize available traditional and social media outlets.

c. Set standards for city government and advisory boards and commissions to publicize and market their meetings and events, and vacancies to ensure the information is reaching the community.

- Continue and expand Government Corner at library lobby every Saturday; continue sending into the newspaper’s F.Y.I.; attend community groups that traditionally have not interacted with city government.
- Provide Guidelines to advisory boards and commission for consistent communication and outreach to community members.

3. Increase transparency of the appointment process.

Improve awareness of vacancies on advisory boards and commissions and increase the transparency of the appointment process.

- On City website, provide online applications for specific vacancies and steps on how to become involved.
- Actively seek nominees from varied age groups, socioeconomic, racial, and ethnic backgrounds.
- Seek input from current Commission and Advisory Board chairs and department staff for potential nominees to fill vacancy.
- Broadly disseminate Advisory Board and Commission vacancy announcements to community groups and organizations, on the City's website, and via media outlets.
- Establish a Mayoral Advisory Group to meet quarterly for review of vacancies and interested volunteers for Advisory Boards and Commissions.
- For examples visit City of Eugene website: eugene-or.gov/index.aspx?NID=86

Recommendation for Inclusiveness: Involve broad representation of community members in the decision-making process.

- Identify the obstacles to having representation on advisory boards and commissions that matches demographics of the city.
- Engage community members early in the planning and budgeting process
 - Planning: look at Lake Oswego requirements - pre-application conferences with neighbors;
 - Budgeting: look at Pasadena or Eugene- appoint special committees at beginning of process to help gather public opinion.

Recommendation for Accountability: Align the work plans of boards and commissions with City Council standing committees to improve connectivity with long-range planning and the decision-making process in all areas.

VI. NEIGHBORHOODS

City Council Goal: “By December 2014, the Council will revise its processes and structures in to a more effective and efficient citizen engagement program to develop diverse future leaders, enhance communication between citizens and the Council, help connect citizens to each other to strengthen community and neighborhoods, and utilize the expertise of citizen volunteers in solving community problems.”

Charge 8: *“Neighborhood Associations provide opportunities to build community and address issues that affect residents of particular geographical areas of the city. Does the City’s public participation system adequately encourage neighborhood engagement and neighborliness? If not, identify methods for improvement.”*

Introduction

Our observation is that community members, connected to each other and the City, contribute to the quality of life of residents, to the City, and to the quality and effectiveness of community planning. Better connections among neighbors allow community members to solve problems without government involvement, direct neighbors to City government measures already in place to help solve problems, empower neighbors to work with the City to establish improved outcomes, and utilize the substantial expertise of many residents.

Most cities in the Northwest that we studied fostered creation of formal neighborhood associations and neighborhood watch groups as a means to encourage continuity and effectiveness of community engagement with local government. In most cities, neighborhood associations are an outgrowth of Oregon’s land use legislation, which has as its first goal, citizen engagement. The effectiveness of formal neighborhood associations varies from city to city, as do the budgets dedicated to their support. In Corvallis, as in many Oregon cities, the level of community engagement via neighborhood associations rises and falls with specific neighborhood issues or problems, the level of residents’ interest, or the quality of the association’s leadership.

We noted that in addition to City-sponsored groups, there are other groupings of neighbors that have interests in supporting and being supported by the City, such as homeowner associations and neighbors organizing through the county to respond to emergencies.

Focus

Our focus has been on what the City can do to foster and support neighborhood connections that allow neighborhood groups to:

- 1) Sustain themselves continuously,
- 2) Connect neighbors to neighbors, and
- 3) Partner with each other and the City in meeting the needs of their communities and those of the larger City community.

Our hope is that implementation of these recommendations will subsequently lead to greater incentive for neighborhood participation and the eventual expansion of neighborhood groups to include city-wide coverage.

I. Sustaining Active Neighborhoods

Our interviews of leaders and active members of Corvallis neighborhood associations, as well as city staff and community and neighborhood leaders in other cities, revealed the often-cyclical nature of active participation in neighborhood associations. In most cases, involvement rises and falls in response to proposed development in the neighborhood. Only a small portion of the membership stays active in the absence of land use, traffic, road infrastructure, crime, or code enforcement concerns.

In neighborhood organizations that stay active over time, we noted other attributes that provide value to the community and the City, such as:

- Broader and deeper connections between neighbors contributes to the quality of life in the neighborhood beyond land use and traffic concerns
- Neighbors working with each other to prepare for disaster, emergency, and inclement weather response
- Enhanced communication on issues impacting City neighborhoods
- Engagement with the City on a wider range of topics
- A larger pool of potential community leaders and volunteers
- Greater understanding of City processes

Before elaborating on these goals and the recommendations which derive from them, we would like to introduce a new term and the rationale for its use, **Registered Neighborhood Group (RNG)**. As noted above, there exists a range of organizations of neighbors with different specific focus and a shared interest in enhancing the quality of life in their neighborhoods. For the City to expend greater resources to support those organizations, the City needs to know that those organizations have community support and have ongoing viability. We envision certain minimum requirements on membership, training and participation to qualify as Registered Neighborhood Groups and receive certain of the benefits noted in the following recommendations.

We recommend putting in place a set of policies and practices that support ongoing neighborhood connections and provide adequate incentives and resources for RNGs to be more effective and thrive. The goal and stipulation for these practices are that RNGs will engage in continuous service to their neighborhoods and continuous work to improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods.

Primary recommendations:

- 1) Free meeting space

Provide RNGs with free meeting space at as many community locations as

possible such as the Tunison Community Room, Osborn Aquatic Center, Chintimini Senior Center, Madison Avenue Meeting Room, and Corvallis-Benton County Library or have the City coordinate space with other local entities such as the 509J Corvallis School District or Linn Benton Community College. We have heard continuously that lack of adequate meeting space is a barrier for neighborhood groups. There are currently several neighborhood groups that have no access to free meeting space. ***Free meeting space was the most popularly requested resource in our survey of current neighborhood leaders (Appendix II).***

2) Neighborhood Empowerment Grant Program

Re-establish and fund the Neighborhood Empowerment Grant Program for neighborhood improvement grants for RNGs to be administered by the new Community Involvement and Diversity Advisory Board (CIDAB). Funding for the former City of Corvallis program and similar programs in cities such as Lake Oswego, Bend, or Eugene ranges from \$10,000 to \$60,000.

Neighborhood Empowerment grants are one way in which the City can empower RNGs to take on projects outside of land use, proactively increase the livability of both their neighborhood and the community, and further partnerships between the City of Corvallis and its neighborhoods. To be effective, the amount of an individual grant needs to be large enough to spur interest and the number of grants available need to make it plausible for an RNG to receive funding. Survey feedback from current Corvallis neighborhood leaders shows that there is strong interest in reviving this type of program (Appendix II).

a) Suggested grant categories are small capital projects, neighborhood signs, safety and emergency preparedness, neighborhood art and mural projects, neighborhood sustainability, RNG leadership and capacity building, community building, and street tree planting and other neighborhood beautification projects.

b) Lake Oswego has a similar program called the “Neighborhood Enhancement Program” and materials that may be helpful in refining this program including a program guide and application form. See: <http://www.ci.oswego.or.us/planning/neighborhood-enhancement-program>.

c) Previous materials from Corvallis’ Neighborhood Empowerment Grant Program should be consulted in re-launching this program.

3) Annual trainings and orientations for RNG leaders and community members

a) Offer voluntary, interactive “Public Participation 101,” “Land Development Code 101,” and “Community Leadership 101” orientations and

trainings for neighborhood leaders and interested community members on a regular basis. We recommend that this occurs collaboratively between CIDAB and City staff, possibly facilitated by a third party with experience in community leadership training such as Leadership Corvallis. We have heard testimony and feedback which suggests that part of the frustration of advocating for neighborhood needs at the City level arises from community members not understanding the laws, policies, and practices within which the City operates. Many cities we investigated offer trainings for their neighborhood leaders (Bellingham, Eugene, West Linn, Lake Oswego, and others). We propose assigning the CIDAB the task of reviewing and customizing one of those to match Corvallis practices and conduct yearly trainings for RNG leaders and other community members in the city civic process. The “Community Leadership 101” training could include information on effective communication, facilitation, running a meeting, City resources, and other topics requested by RNG leaders to assist in the development of community leaders. This idea received very positive response from current neighborhood association leadership (Appendix II).

b) “Public Participation 101” should cover topics similar to what is included in Lake Oswego’s Citizen Involvement Guidelines. See: http://www.ci.oswego.or.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/planning/webpage/11841/citizen_involvement_guidelines_final_04-06-04.pdf.

c) We suggest looking at offering webinar options for these trainings to increase accessibility to the trainings.

4) Neighborhood engagement pathways

a) Not surprisingly, the neighborhood leader survey revealed that different neighborhoods and different community members have diverse interests and needs. For instance, neighborhoods closer to OSU shared different concerns and interests than those farther away. We recommend that the City and CIDAB provide resources to RNGs so that they are equipped to provide multiple avenues of engagement for their members. Examples are: social event planning, Neighborhood Watch/safety, emergency/disaster response planning, land use, neighborhood art and beautification projects, sustainability promotion (e.g. recycling block captains), neighbor exchanges, promotion of voter education and engagement in local elections. These, as well as others, may help attract diverse membership and produce more robust activity.

b) Work with Police Department and Neighborhood Watch programs to pro-

mote new Neighborhood Watch programs and to have willing Neighborhood Watch leaders convey their contact information to their RNGs. Neighborhood Watch can be one way to be involved in a RNG.

- c) In order to allow for a higher level of accessibility, we recommend that neighborhood groups find ways to allow residents to participate online or electronically in meetings and providing feedback on neighborhood issues.

5) Small RNG budget

As is done in other cities the Task Force contacted, we recommend creation of a small budget for or a reimbursement process to cover incidental costs the active RNGs will incur such as providing dumpsters for neighborhood clean-ups, paying for meeting space rentals (if free space is not available), rental of street barricades for block parties, and printing meeting flyers. We recommend a modest budget be provided for all RNGs and be based on the size or number of households within the RNGs boundaries. If free meeting space cannot be offered or identified, we recommend that each RNG be allocated a budget that covers the expenses of renting meeting space.

Secondary recommendations:

1) RNG manual

Develop and encourage RNGs to actively use an RNG policy manual and resource guide such as the one that exists in Lake Oswego and Eugene. CIDAB can lead in the creation of this resource. We recommend that CIDAB and City staff look for opportunities to have shared resource materials with Commissions and Advisory Boards wherever possible.

a) Suggested topics for inclusion in an RNG manual include: overview of the RNG system, neighborhood leadership, running effective meetings (priority setting, agenda creation, facilitation tips, and decision making strategies), neighborhood communication tools and resources, neighborhood engagement pathways, strategies for recruitment of new membership, neighborhood programs and services, special events and fundraising, neighborhood sustainability, and neighborhood land use. The RNG manual should be a physical manifestation of topics covered in the “Community Leadership 101” and “Public Participation 101” trainings.

b) The Lake Oswego Neighborhood Association Resource Guide may be a helpful example. See example from Lake Oswego here: http://www.ci.oswego.or.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/planning/wepage/11856/na_resource_guidebook.pdf.

c) The Eugene Neighborhood Handbook used during neighborhood trainings is another strong example. See example from Eugene here:

<https://www.eugene-or.gov/index.aspx?NID=102>.

- 2) “Benefits of being an RNG” resource document
Create a resource or statement that lists the benefits of being a city recognized RNG. In all the Cities we contacted, there is recognition that to sustain an active RNG takes time and energy from the RNG leaders. Having a document that points to and reminds RNG members of the value in participating will help them sustain their interest and help them entice new leaders. This resource will need to be updated annually to reflect the current resources available to RNGs. We see this as another CIDAB function. See Appendix III for example from Lake Oswego.
- 3) Resource library
Start building an online library of relevant support information or resources for the functioning and improvement of RNGs and public or community involvement and participation. This will be updated regularly based on suggestions from RNGs and CIDAB. We recommend exploring having a few shelves in the Corvallis-Benton Public Library reserved for print materials serving this purpose as well.

II. Connecting Neighbors to Neighbors

Many of the practices suggested to sustain active neighborhoods also contribute to relationships between neighbors. In our research, we also heard from neighborhoods in which residents contribute to each other’s lives on a weekly basis. In these neighborhoods, the key element appears to be easy communication links between neighbors along with a neighborhood history of helpfulness and community building. Neighbors connected to neighbors solve problems without government involvement, direct neighbors to City government measures already in place to solve their problems, and empower neighbors to work with the City to establish improved measures.

In smaller neighborhoods, the link can be as simple as physical proximity. In larger ones, use of electronic connections may be required. In Corvallis, one neighborhood has a long, successful use of a moderated Google group to communicate; others use email distributions. The Tunison neighborhood is piloting use of NextDoor.com, software to promote neighborhood participation and communication. We believe the key to success is to have a tool that is easy to support, a means of sustainable support, and ease of use (both ongoing and in the initial discovery and sign up).

Electronic connections recommendations

- 1) Listservs or distribution lists
We recommend that the CIDAB provide RNGs and other community groups with information about how to create online groups and email distribution lists.
It is critical that RNGs and neighbors have mechanisms that allow them to communicate effectively with each other. There are free resources available for creating listservs and distribution lists such as

Google groups.

2) Software or social networking sites

We recommend that the CIDAB make available information about a range of possible options for software, so that existing neighborhoods can experiment with the available options and their associated functionalities and features. Longer term we recommend that CIDAB look at the a variety of software options to identify an option that best meets the needs of the Corvallis RNGs and make a recommendation that provides for RNG private use and provides for frequent, ongoing communications between neighbors and their city councilors. Options based on our initial research include:

- I-Neighbors: <https://www.i-neighbors.org/howitworks.php>
- <http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/2004/ineighbors.html>
- Next Door: <https://nextdoor.com/>
- Granicus: <http://www.granicus.com/solutions/citizen-participation/>

III. Partnering With Each Other and The City

Successful and effective RNGs that contribute to enhanced neighborhood livability and community satisfaction depend on positive, mutually beneficial relationships among the RNGs and between RNGs and the city. Our survey responses and interviews provide ample feedback from current community members that they would like additional support from the City and improved communication with the City Council, but want to ensure that RNGs are led by community leaders and function autonomously. This promotes efficient use of City resources and strengthens diverse community leadership and self-reliance. By increasing the number of community members and volunteers who are active in neighborhood groups, an increased and more diverse pool of potential volunteers and future community leaders will be created.

Recommendations:

- 1) City staff support
 - a) Budget adequate for city staff to support recommendations, including being available to answer questions of and provide timely support to CIDAB and RNGs and to attend RNG meetings as requested.
 - b) City staff will provide support in defining boundaries of RNGs and in creation of bylaws for new RNGs.

- 2) RNG leadership meetings

Hold public, quarterly (or biannually) RNG leader roundtable meetings. These meetings will serve as a forum for neighborhood leaders to share ideas, discuss best practices, and collaborate on projects or initiatives. We encourage this forum to also be utilized to for RNG leaders and ac-

tive members to share successes and accomplishments as well as challenges. City staff and elected officials could attend if requested. *Fifty-eight percent of our survey respondents were interested in these meetings (Appendix II).*

3) Annual RNG recognition process

c) We recommend that CIDAB, City staff, and current neighborhood association members develop an annual RNG recognition process to determine which neighborhood groups qualify to be Registered Neighborhood Groups and thus receive the associated benefits. Neighborhood groups will be contacted by City staff or CIDAB and required to submit a short annual report and updated contact information. Information about the recognition process should be available on the City website. Newly formed RNGs would have one year to meet the qualifications and have a one year grace period during start up. We also recommend that RNGs experiencing leadership transition be given more leeway and outreach support from City in training new leadership. CIDAB and staff will use this recognition process to create an annually updated map of RNGs and contact information (name, phone number, email address).

d) Suggested qualifications for RNG status are listed below. We recommend that they be refined by CIDAB with outreach to and engagement with existing neighborhood groups.

i. Size: Establish a flexible number of minimum and maximum households that could be incorporated into a single RNG. We heard reports from other Cities that the ideal maximum size for an RNG was an area which could be contacted by hand delivered flyer; the number of ideal households will vary with geography. Given the council and staff time that we are recommending the City provide, we believe that a lower limit on population is also appropriate.

ii. Activity: If the City is to devote City resources to support RNGs, the City should have assurances that the RNGs are active and representative of their neighborhood. RNGs should host a minimum number of meetings, social events, and community improvement projects annually attended by a set minimum percentage of membership or number of residents.

iii. Communication: Have a communication system in place that allows members to communicate with each other, with RNG leadership, and with potential members. An online, interactive mechanism of communication allows for participation among members who cannot attend meetings.

iv. Elections & Bylaws: New RNGs need to establish bylaws

and should hold elections at least every 2 years to give the opportunity for new leadership; this helps to promote diverse, new community leadership

v. Annual Report: RNGs should submit a short 1–2 page annual report of activity to CIDAB.

vi. Land use recognition: To be eligible to participate in the enhanced Land Use processes (see #8, below), RNGs need to have at least two people who have completed the City's land use training as well as leadership who have completed the City's Public Participation 101 training.

4) City Councilor communication

Assign a city councilor liaison to each RNG for contact and communication. We recommend that this be the City Council for the Ward in which the RNG resides. Ideally each councilor would join the communications network for the RNGs in their ward, so as to convey City information pertinent to the neighborhood to it and to monitor topics that the City may want to become proactive about.

5) RNG updates to City Council

Start inviting individual RNGs to provide annual updates on activity at City Council meetings. This will ideally include an overview of RNG activity and photographs demonstrating activity and/or areas of concern in the community that RNG leaders want to make City Council aware of.

6) Position vacancy circulation

Circulate all advisory board and commission vacancies or other volunteer opportunities to RNGs. RNGs comprise membership that may be ideal for various community leadership and volunteer positions.

7) City website resources for RNGs

b) The City website should feature RNG information more prominently to connect community members to RNGs and provide links to RNG website, contact information, listserv sign-up information, etc. should be provided via the City website.

c) CIDAB should work with staff to develop a web page on the City Website that provides the following resources for RNGs:

- i) An interactive map to connect individuals to their RNG
- ii) Updated brochure on how to form an RNG with the City's assistance
- iii) A listing of free website platforms that RNGs could use to build a simple website or web presence to communicate with membership about meeting times and locations, past meeting agendas and

minutes, board membership and contact information, and other general information about the neighborhood.

- iv) A brochure on how to, with the City's assistance, make their neighborhoods more beautiful (In English and Spanish – examples are available). See example from Salem, Oregon:
<http://www.cityofsalem.net/Departments/CommunityDevelopment/NeighborhoodEnhancementDivision/neighbor/Documents/beautify.pdf>.
- v) A safety brochure, with phone numbers (in English and Spanish). See example from Salem, Oregon:
<http://www.cityofsalem.net/Departments/CommunityDevelopment/NeighborhoodEnhancementDivision/neighbor/Documents/safetybrochure.pdf>.
- vi) A flyer on ways to a better neighborhood (In English and Spanish – examples are available). See example from Salem, Oregon:
<http://www.cityofsalem.net/Departments/CommunityDevelopment/NeighborhoodEnhancementDivision/neighbor/Documents/75%20ways.pdf>
- vii) A who do you call list. See example from Salem, Oregon:
<http://www.cityofsalem.net/Departments/CommunityDevelopment/NeighborhoodEnhancementDivision/neighbor/Documents/Who%20to%20Call.pdf>.
- viii) List of local city and community spaces available for RNG meetings.
- ix) A guide to City departments and services. See example from Salem, Oregon:
<http://www.cityofsalem.net/Departments/CommunityDevelopment/NeighborhoodEnhancementDivision/neighbor/Documents/GuideAug2010.pdf>
- x) Links to relevant Benton County, 509J Corvallis School District, and OSU resources and services
- xi) A link to the City's Land Use education guide
- xii) Templates for meeting agendas and minutes, bylaws, etc.
- xiii) Marketing and outreach strategy suggestions for member recruitment

Examples of the content portion for many of these items are available. We expect that much of the work of pulling these together would be done by CIDAB.

8) Land Development Code and Land Use Regulations

Historically, Corvallis neighborhood associations are most active in response to proposed development in their neighborhoods. Often their involvement in land use issues comes late in the process, after the staff recommendation goes to the Planning Commission or the Historic Resources Commission. We support changes that will educate neighborhood leaders

on land use law and provide for their earlier entrance into the process, with the expected benefits of:

- More relaxed communications between City staff, neighborhood representatives, and the developer
- Fewer requests that are outside what is possible without Comprehensive Plan or Land Development Code changes
- Better informed requests for land development code changes
- Design accommodations by the developer, where possible, occurring early so as to minimize cost impacts
- Adequate time for a neighborhood to become knowledgeable about the proposed plan.

We therefore recommend that:

- a) Annual trainings be offered for RNG leaders in land use process and land development code, “Land Development Code 101,” with focus on qualifying for participating in a pre-application process.
- b) CIDAB and staff work together with the Planning Commission to change the land-use development process so as to require developers to hold pre-development, pre-application meeting with RNGs prior to any applications for minor or major development proposals occurring within a RNG (done in Lake Oswego, Eugene, Bend, and other cities). This will only be effective in a framework in which involved RNG members have been trained in land use and land development code as required to maintain land use RNG recognition.

VII. COST ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS

To be developed and included in final recommendation.

Cost implications:

- Overhead cost of appointing, running, and maintaining considerably lower than for a commission or advisory board.

Costs for re-appointments and ongoing operation would be reduced by not requiring terms and allowing a smaller number of appointees

Appendix I

Overview of Neighborhood Connections Process

This appendix details the process we followed in order to create our recommendations and report.

- Website review and phone interviews to glean best practices and ideas around public participation practices, board and commissions, and neighborhood associations with the following cities: Eugene, Bellingham, West Linn, Salem, Bend, Albany, Lake Oswego, Pasadena, Springfield, Ashland,
 - Phone interview with Justin Finestone, Communications Director with the City of Bend
 - Phone interview with Robyn Christie, City Recorder with the City of Bend (former City Recorder in Lake Oswego)

- Phone calls to all current Corvallis Neighborhood Association leaders that we were able to locate contact information for. Below are the questions that were asked. We found 4 active homeowner's associations, 12 active neighborhood associations, 5 inactive neighborhood associations, and 7 that we could not contact due to lack of activity or accurate contact information.
 - Is your neighborhood association active?
 - How often do you meet?
 - How do you announce/advertise your meetings?
 - What would you like from the City in terms of support?
 - What types of activities do you have?
 - How do you recruit new members?
 - Do you have bylaws?
 - When is the last time you had an election?
 - Do you have a treasurer?
 - Other comments or feedback

- Survey to current board and commission members. 93 total responses were received.

- January 13, 2014 public meeting to obtain feedback from current board and commission members and neighborhood association leaders on strengthening the system, building community, and enhancing communication.
 - Because not all neighborhood association leaders have or check email, all current neighborhood association leaders we had contact information for were called and personally invited to the January 13, 2014 public meeting.

- Survey to current Neighborhood Association leaders and active members on the topics of communication with each other and the city, resources that would be most helpful, and types of activities and issues the groups are interested in (See Appendix II). 135 total responses were received.
- Eugene site visit on January 28, 2014 with Neighborhood Program staff and neighborhood association leaders.
- Attending the February 5, 2014 Corvallis Neighborhood Summit to provide an update about the PPTF's work and encourage attendees to provide feedback via the neighborhood association survey and through testimony at PPTF meetings.

II. Neighborhood Groups Survey Results

To be included with final recommendation

III. Benefits document (Lake Oswego)

Following page.

What are the benefits of becoming a City-recognized neighborhood association?



Neighborhood associations are one of the officially recognized channels for citizen participation in Lake Oswego. These volunteer organizations bring neighbors together to improve the livability of Lake Oswego's neighborhoods. Neighborhood members elect boards to represent their views before the Planning Commission, City Council and other public bodies and to maintain ongoing communications with City government.

Why organize a Neighborhood Association?

City-recognized Neighborhood Associations receive these support services and benefits from the City:

- Receives information from the City on all issues (transportation, development, etc.) that may occur in the neighborhood.
- Land use appeal fees may be waived upon request to the City Manager.
- Can be selected to develop a neighborhood plan with assistance from the City Planning Department.
- Eligible to apply for Neighborhood Enhancement Grants, to accomplish activities or projects not funded under other City programs.
- Neighborhood becomes part of the City network of 22 recognized neighborhood associations that work together to create the type of community it wants.
- Recognized associations may testify at public hearings with additional time limits not given to individuals.
- The City can help with mailings to inform your members about upcoming meetings. The City will provide printing and mailing services for two mailings (postcards or newsletters) each year for recognized associations.
- Up to two members of neighborhood association boards are invited to attend pre-application conferences to review potential development projects in your neighborhood (a brief training session is required in order to attend).
- Eligible to have meetings and events covered under the Neighborhood Coalition of Oswego, Inc. liability insurance at no cost to the association. A simple application must be completed and approved for meetings and events to be covered by the insurance policy.
- Neighborhood associations can receive a free drop box for neighborhood cleanup efforts, through the City's franchise agreement with Allied Waste.
- Opportunity to participate in monthly meetings at City Hall with all neighborhood association chairs (held on Saturday mornings; the City manager leads the meetings and the Mayor attends every other month).

IV. Research Process

In reviewing survey responses, researching other community's practices and hearing from the Mayor, City Manager, and Department Directors, we have identified attributes of an effective and efficient system to provide input to the City from Advisory Boards and Commissions including:

- Organizational structure of advisory boards and commissions that emphasizes broadly scoped committees which leads to greater efficiency;
- Consistent communication channels and annual goal setting and review process for all advisory boards and commissions to improve effectiveness;
- Consistent support for practices among all advisory boards and commissions including note taking, budget, staff support, orientations for new appointees, and training for chair and vice chairs to improve efficiency.

1. Survey feedback from current members of boards and commissions

a. Process and organization

b. Communication

40% of committee members reported that their board or commission does not have strategies for collecting community member input and 51% are unsure if their Council liaison communicates regularly with city Council. Many respondents reported interest in an annual gathering of board and commission members to reduce silos and increase collaborative work and knowledge of each other's work.

2. Feedback from Mayor, City Manager, Department Directors

The Task Force met with and received feedback and ideas from the Mayor and the three Department Directors who provide support to most of the city's advisory boards and commissions. The City Manager also provided the PPTF with information provided in a written response to the task force.

3. Public meetings

Two general public meetings were held in the Public Library large meeting room using a "world cafe" process designed to elicit feedback and input. The first was held in January and was attended by approximately 75 community members. The second meeting was held April 28, at which specific Task Force draft recommendations were presented and discussed.

4. Information sharing with existing advisory boards and commissions

Initial draft recommendations were sent to existing advisory boards and commissions prior to the second public meeting for review and feedback prior to the final draft of the recommendations.

Inputs in our research included:

- Interviews with and written comments from the Mayor, City Manager, and Department Directors

- Review of best practices and interviews with representatives in other communities including Albany, Ashland, Bend, Eugene, Hillsboro, Lake Oswego, Springfield, Bellingham, WA, Ithaca, NY, and Pasadena, CA.
- Meeting with Eugene “Neighborhood Services” city staff and Neighborhood Association leaders
- Public testimony including input at regular meetings and e-mail
- Survey of currently serving Board and Commission members
- Survey of currently active Neighborhood Association members
- Public meeting in January, 2014 soliciting input on the current organization of advisory boards and commissions and ideas to improve channels of communication in the public process

V. Discussion point minutes example

To be included in final recommendation.

VI. Board/Commissions Changes: Options Chart

We acknowledge that City Council must prioritize recommendations and the use of resources for public participation effectiveness. The table on the following page provides alternative options to create more comprehensively charged advisory boards.

- The three committees on the far left are the three City Council standing committees. (See recommendation under Charge 2b.)
- All current advisory boards and commissions are listed in the column on the right side of the page.
- A change of scope or a new advisory board is indicated in **BOLD**.
- We assume that Departmental Advisory Committees are not included on the boards and commissions list and will be more cost-effective than currently organized.

	Option A	Option B	No changes
	<p><u>4 commissions</u> <u>11 advisory boards</u> Total 15, plus 2 department advisory committees</p>	<p><u>4 commissions</u> <u>12 advisory boards</u> Total 16, plus 4 department advisory committees</p>	Total advisory boards and commissions: 22
Human Services Comm.	<p>Arts & Culture Advisory Board (merge Public Art Selection)</p> <p>Community Involvement and Diversity Advisory Board (expand scope, sunset Committee for Citizen Involvement)</p> <p>Civic Beautification & Urban Forestry Department Advisory</p> <p>Corvallis-Benton County Public Library Advisory Board</p> <p>Housing & Community Development Advisory Board</p> <p>Martin Luther King, Jr. Advisory Board</p> <p>Parks, Natural Areas & Recreation Advisory Board</p> <p>Police Review Advisory Board</p>	<p>Arts and Culture Advisory Board (merge Public Art selection)</p> <p>Community Involvement and Diversity Advisory Board (expand scope, sunset Committee for Citizen Involvement)</p> <p>Civic Beautification & Urban Forestry Department Advisory</p> <p>Corvallis-Benton County Public Library Advisory Board</p> <p>Martin Luther King, Jr. Advisory Board</p> <p>Parks, Natural Areas & Recreation Advisory Board</p> <p>Police Review Advisory Board</p>	Arts & Culture CBUF CCI MLK Library Police Review PNAR Public Art Selection
Urban Services Comm.	<p>Appeals Commission (Board of Appeals)</p> <p>CIP Department Advisory</p> <p>Historic Resources Commission</p> <p>Planning Commission (merge Land Development Hearings Board)</p> <p>Transportation Advisory Board (includes Bicycle & Pedestrian, Citizen Advisory Commission on Transit, possibly Downtown Parking)</p> <p>Water Systems Advisory Board (merge Watershed Management Advisory Commission)</p>	<p>Appeals Commission</p> <p>Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Board</p> <p>CIP Department Advisory</p> <p>Historic Resources Commission</p> <p>Housing & Community Development Advisory Board</p> <p>Planning Commission (merge Land Development Hearings)</p> <p>Transit Advisory Board</p> <p>Watershed Management Department Advisory</p> <p>Water Systems Advisory Board</p>	Appeals Commission Bicycle and Pedestrian Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Downtown Parking Housing and Community Development Historic Resources Land Development Hearings Planning Commission Transit

<p>ASC</p>	<p>Airport Advisory Board</p> <p>Budget Commission</p> <p>Economic Development Advisory Board (merge Downtown Comm.)</p>	<p>Airport Department Advisory</p> <p>Budget Commission</p> <p>Downtown Advisory Board (merge Downtown Parking)</p> <p>Economic Development Advisory Board (merge Airport-related work)</p>	<p>Airport</p> <p>Budget</p> <p>Downtown</p> <p>Economic Development</p> <p>Watershed Management</p>
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Appendix VII Draft Implementation Plan

Appendix VIII Draft Board/Commission Annual Report and Proposed Work Plan

**(Date) Corvallis (name of advisory board/commission/TF)
Annual Report and Proposed Work Plan:**

Try to limit to one to two pages; addenda are optional.

Members:

Staff/ Council Liaisons:

Purpose/Mission (from enabling ordinance):

Example: Advises the City Council and Planning Commission on transportation related issues and works with City staff to proactively plan for a transportation system that enhances Corvallis livability, character and natural environment.

Prior Year Report:

Work completed

Recommendations, reports, projects, major issues resolved

Work in progress

Recommendations, reports, projects, major issues under review

Next Year Proposed Work Plan:

Regular work (ongoing or annual)

- List by task, project or goal
Description may include timeline, needed resources beyond standard, expected result
- Ex.: Review annual Traffic Mitigation Report and make recommendation to Urban Services
Receive report and recommendation from staff in September, discuss and receive testimony September and October, submit recommendation to USC in November

Special work for this year

- List by task, project or goal (new or continuing?)
Description may include timeline, needed resources, expected result
- Ex.: Begin discussions in preparation for revision of Plan for Upgrading Streets to Code
 - o Review existing plan and data concerning results and concerns
 - o Implement first steps of public outreach and review
 - o Develop a plan for public outreach and review
 - o Receive staff's first draft of plan
 - o Resources include scheduled staff time, and budgeted costs for one public meeting
 - o Eventual results should be a cost-effective plan to improve safety on neighborhood streets

Resources:

- Were resources (staff, volunteers, funds) adequate to complete your work in the prior year? Why or why not?
- Are different resources needed to meet your proposed work for the next year? If not, what changes do you propose?

Appendix IX Parking Lot

The ideas or subjects listed below are topics or suggestions made that may be worth considering, but fell outside the scope or charge of our task force.

1. Many requests for a clear city organization chart that shows how the city is organized and how boards, commissions, and task forces fit into that structure.
2. The lack of any board or commission coverage of anything dealing with energy and resource use.
3. The need for a clear, updated contact list for board and commission chairs and staff supporting each board or commission.
4. Many suggestions or queries regarding the consideration of joint city/county/OSU boards and commissions, like the Library Board. Possible suggested areas of collaboration included transportation, natural areas and parks, watersheds and drainagesheds.
5. Have more individual board and commission positions appointed by other organizations, as with the Library Board (half by Benton County), or Parks, Natural Areas, and Recreation Board (1 by the Greenbelt Land Trust, 1 by the 509J School District).
6. Watershed Advisory Commission should be involved with other watersheds in the city, not just Rock Creek.

Appendix X Other

Recipient list, draft PPTF recommendations:

1. PPTF
2. Carla Holzworth (Mayor, City Council, City Manager, Department Heads, Board and Commission members, staff)
3. League of Women Voters
4. Infill Task Force
5. Karen Levy Kuhn, Benton-Linn Health Equity Alliance listserv
6. Courtney Cloyd and contacts
7. Sustainability listserv (1500)
8. Healthy Streets, Healthy Streams Task Force
9. Jim Moorefield, Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services
10. Posted on PPTF website

PPTF 5/15/14 Minutes
Attachment B

From: jim.e.mitchell
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2014 3:14 PM
To: Altmann Hughes, Mary Beth
Cc: Holzworth, Carla
Subject: Fwd: PPTF meeting last night

Hi Marybeth.

I was looking at the PPTF archives and can't see that my comments (below) were forwarded to the task force. If they were not, please do so and let me know. Hopefully they are not too late for consideration.

I see in the 5/8 draft that there is a reconfigured advisory board, the Multimodal Transportation Advisory Board (MTAB) and although the revised charge is better since it is not so narrowly focused on planning, I am still concerned that individual modal "voices" not being heard and that recruiting volunteers to be on the board would be difficult. Again, this model would increase staff work needed to support the new board and the modal subcommittees.

Thanks.
Jim

From: "jim e mitchell"
To: "marybeth altmannhughes"
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2014 10:29:53 PM
Subject: PPTF meeting last night

Hi Mary Beth,

I was nice meeting you last night. I have a few more comments I'd like you to share with the Task Force:

Advisory Boards Charge

The charge for the new proposed Advisory Boards/Commissions emphasizes involvement in planning projects ranging from Master Plans to infrastructure construction plans. I have had experience with that range and wonder why new council advisory bodies would be needed if primarily for these types of projects. The infrastructure Master Plans and other major planning projects (e.g. Downtown Parking Plan, South Corvallis Area Refinement Plan, 9th Street Improvement Plan, Airport and Airport Industrial Park plans) include a extensive public and stakeholder participation processes and often include the development of ad hoc task forces/technical advisory groups. Because these planning projects are periodic (10-20 years) establishing an advisory committee with this as a primary charge seems unnecessary. Even smaller planning efforts, like a neighborhood traffic calming project, transit system changes, or removal of parking to add a bike lane, include a public process. A current example is the Healthy Streets/Healthy Streams planning project.

It is difficult to imagine what these new advisory boards would do on an on-going basis when there is no planning project occurring.

I believe it is better to form ad hoc task forces/committees to help with public participation for the occasional planning projects and then sunset them at the conclusion of the process. The existing advisory commissions are the right scale and have the appropriate level of knowledge for assisting the council and staff with the on-going service level and operational issues that are much more frequent issues for our community.

Transportation Advisory Board

I have concerns with the recommendation to form a Transportation Advisory Board with subcommittees for the various transportation modes. As mentioned above, outside of very infrequent planning projects, I'm not sure what the Board would be doing other than reviewing recommendations from the subcommittees when they are forwarded for council consideration. Inserting another level of review and consultation would not streamline the process or save staff resources. Although the subcommittees may still attract enthusiasts, advocates and other volunteers willing to dedicate their personal time and efforts for the community, I suspect it will be difficult to recruit members to the Board.

Further, I don't understand how this structure would reduce staff resources and recording costs. Rather than staffing the two Commissions and one Committee currently in place (Bike/Ped, Transit and the Downtown Parking Committee), staff could end up with five committees to support - the public transit, vehicle, bikes, and pedestrian subcommittees (page 13) - and the Board. Additionally, as Austin and Betty pointed out last night, relegating the bicycle and pedestrian advisory groups to subcommittees below the level of a council advisory committee will make it more difficult to maintain the Gold Level Bicycle and Pedestrian Friendly Community awards Corvallis has long enjoyed. It may also make it more difficult to compete for state and federal grant funds.

I support the recommendations represented by Option B in the draft recommendations.

Format of Minutes

You suggested that I review the format of minutes being used by the PPTF to see the recommended standard format. I dislike the table format. It is more difficult to read and track, especially when there is much discussion being captured and the narrow center column goes onto multiple pages (see March 27th). Also, this format will require more paper for those who want hard copy versions resulting in a sustainability loss. I like what PW was doing for the Commissions I supported: there was a summary table on the first page and minutes in paragraph form following. The summary table provides an overview - an Executive Summary, in essence - and is often all a decision-maker needs, but the following detail provides more information for controversial or complex issues. It also provides a better archive history that I found extremely valuable at times when I was working.

I do not support the recommendation to standardize the meeting minutes in a table format.

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to provide more in depth comments for the Task Force to consider.

Jim

From: Kenton Daniels
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2014 8:50 PM
To: Holzworth, Carla
Cc: Altmann Hughes, Mary Beth
Subject: Fwd:

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kenton Daniels
Subject: Fwd:
Date: May 6, 2014 at 10:26:20 AM PDT
To: Emily Bowling, George Brown, Becki Goslow, Richard Hervey, Annette Mills, Rocio Munoz, Brenda VanDevelder , Penny York, Mary Beth Altmann Hughes

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Altmann Hughes, Mary Beth"
Subject: Fwd:
Date: May 6, 2014 at 10:07:43 AM PDT
To: Kenton Daniels

See below.

Begin forwarded message:

From: [Rod.Berklund](#)
Date: May 6, 2014 at 9:23:44 AM PDT
To: [Marybeth Altmann Hughes](#)
Cc: Dan Mason

At this morning's Airport Commission meeting, the Commission voted unanimously to recommend the following to the Public Participation Task Force:

1. The Airport Commission should remain "AS IS" .
2. One Airport Commission member should be a liaison to the Economic Development Commission. The designated member would rotate among the Airport Commission members on a schedule to be determined by the Commission at a future date.

From: Kenton Daniels
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2014 8:51 PM
To: Holzworth, Carla
Cc: Altmann Hughes, Mary Beth
Subject: Fwd: Comments on the April 17 PPTF draft report

another

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Altmann Hughes, Mary Beth"
Subject: **FW: Comments on the April 17 PPTF draft report**
Date: May 12, 2014 at 8:18:50 AM PDT
To: 'Kenton Daniels'

FYI

From: Charles Bruce
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2014 7:45 AM
To: Altmann Hughes, Mary Beth
Subject: Comments on the April 17 PPTF draft report

Hi, Sorry for the late comments but we were out of town for 2 weeks. One correction on the page 14 table. Under the right hand No Change column, the Watershed Management Commission is under the wing of the USC, not ASC. I believe the Airport Commission may also be under USC.

Thanks for all your good work on this and to the Task Force!

Charlie Bruce
1625 NW 17th.
Corvallis

From: Kenton Daniels
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2014 8:46 PM
To: Holzworth, Carla
Subject: Fwd: Watershed Management Advisory Commission changes

another.

Begin forwarded message:

From: David Eckert
Subject: **Watershed Management Advisory Commission changes**
Date: April 30, 2014 at 9:31:33 PM PDT
To: Kenton Daniels
Cc: Annette Mills, "VanDevelder, Brenda"

Kent -

Thank you and your PPTF for the excellent meeting earlier this week.

At the PPTF meeting, I expressed my strong reservations with the recommendation that the Watershed

Management Advisory Commission becomes a Department Advisory Board. I expressed concerned that the following changes would result:

1. The meetings do not need to be publically announced
2. The meetings do not need to be open to the public
3. There are no provisions requiring that the public needs to know what is on the agenda
4. There are no provisions guaranteeing the public the right to provide testimony
5. No minutes are required and therefore the public has no official way to know what was discussed or decided at the meeting
6. The Board reports to the Public Works Director, not to City Council
7. The Board is appointed by the Public Works Director, not the Mayor

It was stated by a member of my discussion group that this Commission has had “problems” with public participation. While this statement may be true, the context of the statement in line with the recommendation by the Watershed Management Advisory Commission requesting that it become a Department Advisory board, thus shrouding the commission in secrecy bothered me very much.

Since the Corvallis Watershed is off-limits to the public except by guided tour with Public Works and since the decisions made about the care of the forest has significant consequences, not just upon the water quality, but on the entire ecosystem of Marys Peak, I believe that it would be unethical to shroud the entire process of management of that forest in secrecy. With the recommendation B to turn the Commission into a Departmental Advisory Board, the public would be permanently shut out of any knowledge of what is happening in the Corvallis Forest. And with secrecy, abuse always follows. For that reason, I will be speaking against this proposal to make this Commission a Department Advisory Board and I will be actively soliciting other people and organizations to do the same.

My recommendation is that the Watershed Management Advisory Commission become a subcommittee of the Water Advisory Committee (WAC) and submit its advice to the WAC in the same manner that the Council Standing Committees report to Council. Since the management of the forest has everything to do with clean water for drinking, I believe the final advice to City Council should come from the WAC.

Please share this with your PPTF members.

Thank you for all of your hard work on this process.

Dave Eckert
228 NW 28th Street
Corvallis, OR 97330

From: Kenton Daniels
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2014 8:47 PM
To: Holzworth, Carla
Subject: Fwd: PPTF Comments

another

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Altmann Hughes, Mary Beth"
Subject: FW: PPTF Comments
Date: May 2, 2014 at 10:05:24 AM PDT
To: 'Kenton Daniels'

[More comments from public meeting.](#)

From: Jessica McDonald
Sent: Friday, May 02, 2014 9:24 AM
To: Altmann Hughes, Mary Beth
Subject: PPTF Comments

Hi Marybeth –

I was at Monday's PPTF meeting at the library, and wanted to make sure that I sent in my written comments about the task force recommendations. Please find them attached.

Thank you,
Jessica

Jessica McDonald

Development Director | Greenbelt Land Trust
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Preserving lands in the mid-Willamette Valley.

PPTF Comments

April 28th, 2014

Re: Watershed Management Advisory Commission

First off – thank you for taking on the task of evaluating and enhancement of the public participating process throughout the City's Boards and Commissions. In addition, I appreciate your work to streamline the work of City volunteers and staff, and clarify procedures and guidelines to help our Committees work more effectively.

I am here today acting as a representative of the Watershed Management Advisory Commission, of which I am vice-chair. The WMAC, which meets monthly, has reviewed the PPTF's draft recommendations and would like to make a formal statement in response to those recommendations that concern the WMAC.

First – a little background about the WMAC. Many of you might know that the City of Corvallis owns 2,350 acres on the flanks of Marys Peak, and you have surely turned on your tap and drank from its reservoir during the year. However, you might not know the extent of the work being done to manage this vast tract of forests, rivers, prairie, and roads (without use of any tax income from the City of Corvallis). Some of the highlights from fiscal year 2012/2013 include:

- Provided to City Council an updated Corvallis Forest Stewardship Plan after a comprehensive year-long update process
- 85 acres were thinned, netting \$362,346 that goes back into the management of the forest
- Conducted marbled murrelet and northern spotted owl surveys
- Conducted stream temperature surveys to track the impact of the reservoir and spillway
- Organized a bridge replacement and channel restoration in Rock Creek

Since the CFSP was adopted in 2006, restoration and habitat enhancement projects have occurred on over 350 acres of forest, and stream improvements have increased fish access and habitat on more than 8 miles of streams. Invasive weed control and road maintenance have taken place throughout the forest. Funds from thinning harvests have allowed the City to leverage grant and cost-share funds totaling more than \$850,000.

These accomplishments are a direct result of leveraging resources. The City currently has a ¼ time staff member to oversee the Corvallis Forest. With limited resources and a significant landscape that needs to be managed day in and day out, the WMAC has been able to assist Staff on an array of tasks, including annual workplans that integrate public education/outreach, restoration management, budgeting, wildlife assessments, and water quality evaluations.

As noted, the Corvallis Forest and the work of the WMAC is about so much more than the water that flows through your tap. Our work is about maintaining and enhancing dynamic ecosystem. We feel that, under the auspices of a Water Systems Advisory Board, the function and effectiveness of the WMAC would be lost. The WMAC recommends to the PPTF that our role be either maintained as an Advisory Board or restructured to be a Department Advisory Committee.

Jessica McDonald
WMAC Vice-Chair