

RNA September 14, 2020 Minutes

Minutes by Allen Field

Meeting via Zoom was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chair Debby Hochhalter.

Board Members Present: Debby Hochhalter, Brian Hochhalter, Allen Field, Kamal Belkhat, Peter Forrest, Claire Cofsky, Denise Hare, Leslie Poston, Simon Kipersztok, Albert Kaufman, Heather Flint Chatto

Board Members Absent: JoAnne Knowles, Madeleine Anderson-Clark

Others Present: Doug Klotz, Kira Smith, Dennis Hopkins, Katharine Wannamaker Melissa Toledo, Jessica Hartman, Salma Huque. Mauricio Leclerc (PBOT), Maggie Derk (PBOT), Thomas Scharff, Roger Jones, Lee Katman

August Meeting Minutes: Peter moved, Brian 2nd, passes unanimously

Announcements:

- Debby passed along a message from Katherine Doherty Chapman: The Division Parking Permit Project is on hold until further notice
- Heather will present at HAND 9/15 meeting about extending the Division Design Guidelines to other streets

Crime & Safety: No officer present.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. **Hawthorne Paint & Pave:** Mauricio explained what the project is and isn't: scope doesn't include capital improvement elements, such as changing sidewalks and doesn't go west of 24th.

Maggie described current street configurations and the 4 alternatives:

1. keep existing lane configuration
2. extend center turn lane from east of Cesar Chavez to area west of Cesar Chavez
3. add bike lanes
 - 3A: 2 car lanes with buffered bike lanes
 - 3B: 2 car lanes with parking protected bike lanes

She went over PBOT's evaluation of the different alternatives using metrics of safety, crossings, parking, travel time, bike lanes. She then evaluated the 4 alternatives according to the goals for the project: improving safety, supporting Main Street functions, impact to current greenways, connecting people to Hawthorne, supporting city's goals of equity and climate issues.

PBOT isn't making any recommendation at this time, will make final decision in Oct. or Nov after more outreach. Additional presentations 9/16 & 17

Questions/Comments:

Albert: can PBOT do Alt 3 but keep current configuration near Cesar Chavez? PBOT: In filling out survey people can mix and match different elements of the 4 alternatives in their comments.

Simon: Is there data relating to increase in projected bike and cars usage on neighboring streets. PBOT: Looked at potential impact on neighboring streets.

Claire: Had problems completing survey, it stalled at 43% completion

Kamal: noted safety concern with middle turn lane with example of person struck in turn lane several years ago east of C. Chavez, worried that could happen west of C. Chavez if Alt 2 picked. PBOT: Statistically, 3 lanes with center turn lane safer than 4 lanes with no turn lane.

2. **Division Bus Transit Project Update:** Thomas Scharff, Community Affairs Rep., presented. Summarized construction phases and sequences, construction highlights (60th ADA elements, 76th new traffic signals), steps to reduce impacts to community, next steps. Fall 2022 is target for completion. He then described the Gideon overcrossing. TriMet building it, PBOT will own and maintain it. Planned opening: late Fall 2020.

Questions/Comments:

Lee Katman: Has concern about cars passing busses by driving onto opposing traffic lane. Will project try to alleviate this problem? Thomas described the changes lower frequency of busses as reducing this.

Kamal: Objected to focus still being on diesel busses

Albert: Seconded Kamal's concern re diesel bussed. Asked if project will involve repaving of Division C. Chavez to 52nd. TriMet: repaving only near the bus stops.

Leslie: Asked how long construction will be at 30th and 34th and if any safety features will be included for Gideon overcrossing at night. PBOT: will follow city guidelines on lighting.

3. **Waverleigh Homeless Issue:** Melissa Toledo, resident on Waverleigh, explained homeless tents next to Cleveland high school field and on Waverleigh Blvd median. Squatters have camped on median over the years, but this past year problem much worse. 11-12 tents next to Cleveland field, lots of trash and needles, sidewalk impassable, intimidation and fear growing. City approach since Covid is hands-off approach as to removing camps but they encourage continuing to report on ongoing basis and will do cleanup of trash and needles. She is asking for help in terms of:

- City to be creative in getting people housing and services
- Requests signage by Parks & Rec on Waverleigh median to discourage camping
- Asking others to get involved and report problems to city

Questions/Comments:

Jessica Hartman: made a list of how to report problems

Denise: rides by the tents along Cleveland daily and feels unsafe, she asked how to report
Leslie: concern that people reporting will lead to police presence and make things worse for people in tents. Melissa stated police have not been contacted, it's only the city non-police agencies she's contacted who deal with homeless issues

Allen: Asked for clarification on Melissa's "ask" to the RNA and city. It was explained that Parks & Rec owns the Waverleigh median

Allen motion, Simon second, for RNA to request Parks & Rec for No Camping signage for center median on Waverleigh Blvd: YES: Allen, Simon, Brian, Denise, Heather, Leslie, Claire, Kamal, Peter; NO: 0; ABSTAIN: Albert, Debby

4. **Communication Funds**: Allen explained need to amend the RNA's 2019-20 Communications Budget adopted in Dec 2019. \$1,513 available for reimbursement for expenses incurred up to Sept 30. Any amount not spent is lost forever, so important to spend full amount of available funds so don't lose it in future. Need to amend budget to add in Chair business cards, revise costs for A-frame signs, and # of copy crds. Budget isn't what will be spent but provides authorization for maximum amount that can be spent on the various aspects of communication expenses.

Allen motion, Brian second, to adopt amended budget. Passes unanimously

Committee Reports

- **Treasurer** – Simon is new Treasurer but need to show bank approved Aug Minutes before he can be added to acct. Allen presented current balances: Checking is \$13,816.92, CD is \$6,367.67, Business shares is \$5
- **Annual Tree Planting** (1st Saturday in December): Allen reported that Friends of Trees is still assessing. If they do a planting it will be limited to 25 people and be all outdoors for the registration activities
- **Richmond Cleanup**: Allen reported that NA cleanups are not cancelled but that the city will no longer reimburse expenses. NAs can still do cleanups but we wouldn't profit as much. We could still do it as a community service.
- **Richmond Ready**: No report, no coordinator
- **Sustainability Committee** (Kamal) – Nothing to report.
- **Land Use/Planning/Transportation & Land Use**: (Heather) Residential Infill project adopted, Resource Conservation Code Policy - update for the first time in decades is coming to Planning Commission. It will be discussed on next land use agenda.
 - Shelter to Housing Continuum is another city policy project to track that will create more options for alternative and affordable housing, emergency housing and shelters.
 - DOZA Design Standards & Guidelines coming back to City Council in the new year.
 - Tree Code - <https://www.portland.gov/bds/planning/projects/potential-tree-code-amendments/public-hearings-proposed-tree-code-amendments>

- **PDX Main Street Design Initiative representative** – (Heather) Division Design Guidelines (now renamed as PDX Main Street Design Guidelines) have been re-adopted by Hosford Abernethy Neighborhood District (HAND) for all seven main streets in HAND including Hawthorne, Division, 11th, 12th, MLK, Grand and Powell.
- **Division/Clinton Business Association Representative** – Leslie will attend the 9/15 DCBA meeting
- **Hawthorne Blvd Bus. Association Representative:** Roger Jones, HBBA, explained that HBBA is endorsing Alt 2 of the Hawthorne Paint & Pave project and shared HBBA’s letter and rationale.
- **SE Examiner Neighborhood Notes Writer** - Minutes-taker (Allen) will write it
- **Richmond Newsletter Editor** – Simon described his ideas for new articles and features
- **SEUL Rep.:** Allen mentioned the new Board Member training SEUL is putting on and recommended people attend. The matter to seek removal of the RNA’s Rep to SEUL Board was dropped. Motion was made to remove it from the SEUL agenda at the Sept agenda.
- **Sewallcrest Park/Community Spaces:** Allen reported that not as many campers have been in the park this summer
- **Liquor Licenses:** Allen – nothing to report

Meeting adjourned 8:45, next RNA Meeting October 12, 2020