ED REPORT

4/7/2025

Budget Listening Session: We had about 250 in attendance including both in person and online. Thanks to everyone who testified at the budget listening sessions. Your good thinking and remarks are necessary right now. WE hosted a testimony training session which was not very well attended and I was disappointed. We had great speakers and there is handout, prepared by Mary Jaron Kelly accessible on our website.

We have not received a template for our scope of work from Civic Life. We usually receive them in February/March time frame. I contacted Amanda Garcia-Snell the new director of Civic Life. I contacted her a little over two weeks ago about this, feeling she was probably not aware of the Scope of Work. I am in a quandary about completing a scope of work when we have no idea what our funding will be. We are very much in a holding pattern.

You will hear more about our engagement with housing from Ken Thrasher who is leading our Housing Solutions group. The District Coalitions met with the mayor to see if we could assist in finding and locating day and night shelters through the neighborhoods. He will be attending our meeting, possibly in May to talk to our Board about his plan and ask for any assistance he may need. It is important that neighborhoods begin to consider their conditions for possible placement of a shelter in their neighborhood.

We were approached by the Transgender Community regarding the need for emergency housing for transgender people moving to Portland for sanctuary. These are folks prepared to come with assets and will either have or be seeking employment immediately. Discussed the issue with Home Share Oregon who is interested in partnering around this issue.

I apologize for the Free Store debacle, it is true that if a neighborhood calls me to support them, I will, barring they are not doing something illegal. The Free Store appears to be problematic in several neighborhoods.

I have meetings with our Counselors this month. I wanted to meet with them collectively but instead each one chose to meet with me individually.

Some of the Counselors are co-locating with their coalitions. Ours will not. Ours will remain with offices at City hall, already in the district. I will try to schedule them to meet with our Board and executive committee regularly, if possible.

Right now under Michael Jordan’s budget, we will have no additional funding for insurance and small grants are cut. No matter how much money we receive we will be paying for all of your insurance as a base grant budget line item. We will not be able to allocate any money to small grants unless the City subsidizes this program.

I am looking at other funding strategies. Through my discussions about assisting the mayor in locating day and night shelters and hopefully to develop a program for business associations and small businesses. These potentially could provide additional revenues streams to the coalition and move us more to community development instead of just engagement which is where the City seems to wants us to remain. If there appears to be funding for assisting business associations our by-laws will need to be amended because currently our by-laws are only set up to serve neighborhood associations, even though the ONI Standards support our work with business associations.

We have one neighborhood that has regained status to be a voting member of the Coalition, Sylvan Highlands and two that need our help, West Portland Park and Markham. Thank you Marianne for pushing me to look through our files for West Portland Park, they have not yet submitted their membership agreement.

DOJ wants me to move on Markham, either dissolve or revamp. If anyone can meet with me to provide any insights it would be appreciated.

Our communication folks are developing a chat BOT. They are loading it with City Code, ONI standards, and nonprofit law information. You will be able to ask it a question and let AI give you an answer based on all of the data we are asking it to work through. This will be exciting but it takes a lot of work to set up. Thankful to Heather and Carl for their out of the box thinking to serve everyone better. Also, we have opened a SLACK channel for the land use and transportation committee to use for discussions. It is currently being piloted by a few to determine if this could work for these outside of meeting discussions.