

PDC

PORTLAND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

DATE: November 12, 2008

TO: Board of Commissioners

FROM: Bruce A. Warner, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Report Number 08-130
Create a new position on the Lents Town Center Urban Renewal Advisory Committee to represent the Foster-Powell Neighborhood Association and appoint John Mulvey to fill this new position.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED

Adopt Resolution No. 6649

ACTION SUMMARY

This action will authorize the following:

Creation of a new position on the Lents Town Center Urban Renewal Advisory Committee ("URAC") to represent the Foster-Powell Neighborhood Association. On May 14, 2008, the Board approved the first amendment to the Lents Town Center URAC, which included the expansion of the Lents Town Center Urban Renewal Area ("URA") along Southeast Foster Road between 79th and 50th Avenues (Resolution No. 6583). This expansion resulted in 177.82 acres of the Foster-Powell Neighborhood to be included in the Lents Town Center URA, making it the neighborhood with the third largest amount of land in this URA. In October 2008, the Foster-Powell Neighborhood Association officially requested to become an Organization Member of the Lents Town Center URAC.

Appointment of John Mulvey to the Lents Town Center URAC as a Regular member representing the Foster-Powell Neighborhood Association for a term ending on June 30, 2011, in accordance with the Portland Development Commission ("PDC") URAC Policy. Mr. Mulvey is an active member of his neighborhood association, and currently lives in the Foster Road area. He has a law degree and good understanding of the urban renewal process. He is interested in improving the area's livability and historic charm and character.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Meaningful public participation helps promote democracy and civic engagement, builds public trust in government and enhances the Commission's credibility within the community.

Effective public participation can improve the quality and effectiveness of Board plans and decisions.

This action will support the following PDC goals:

- Develop healthy neighborhoods
- Provide access to quality housing
- Help businesses to create and sustain quality jobs
- Support a vibrant Central City (urban core)
- Contribute to a strong regional economy

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND FEEDBACK

PDC staff has consulted with stakeholders in the Lents Town Center Urban Renewal Area and they are in agreement about the need to add the Foster-Powell Neighborhood Association and its representative to the Lents Town Center URAC.

Lents Town Center URAC members were also briefed about this proposed addition, and they officially expressed support for adding this position to their committee.

The public is continually advised of the opportunity to serve on a URAC, and encouraged to apply for appointment.

COMPLIANCE WITH ADOPTED PLANS AND POLICIES

This action complies with the Urban Renewal Advisory Committee Policy as revised by the Board of Commissioners on July 9, 2008 (Resolution No. 6614) that requires the Board to identify and appoint regular organization members to URACs that the Board has created.

This action complies with and help implement the Public Participation Policy adopted by the Board on June 22, 2005 (Resolution No. 6266) which established that “public participation is required and will be an integral component of project schedules, budgets, and board decision-making processes for developing and implementing urban renewal area plans and implementing urban renewal projects.”

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no significant financial impact as a result of this action.

RISK ASSESSMENT

There are no significant legal, financial or operational risks resulting from this action.

WORK LOAD IMPACT

The major workload associated with the creation of new positions on a URAC and the appointment of new URAC members is communicating the decisions to the URAC and providing new members with an orientation session and related material specific to their URACs. These activities are coordinated by Public Participation staff, and included in existing work plans.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS

Per Board established policy, there is no alternative process for creating this position and making this appointment.

CONCURRENCE

In accordance with PDC's URAC Policy, the Foster-Powell Neighborhood Association through its Chair, Erica Bjerning, has nominated Mr. John Mulvey to serve as its representative on the Lents Town Center URAC.

BACKGROUND

On September 14, 2005, the Board adopted Resolution No. 6293 which established a formal policy regarding the composition and operations of URACs. This policy was adopted in response to the Board's desire to ensure consistency in the procedures for creating and operating URACs and to emphasize the agency's commitment to public participation and involvement. This Policy was most recently revised by the Board on July 9, 2008 (Resolution No. 6614).

Pursuant to that Policy, the Board has established the following URACs:

1. Lents Town Center
2. Central Eastside
3. Interstate Corridor
4. Gateway Regional Center
5. Oregon Convention Center
6. North Macadam
7. River District

The Board retains sole authority to establish, recompose or disband a URAC. Among the elements under the discretion of the Board is the identification of URAC organization members and their representatives.

Acting upon the request made by the Foster-Powell Neighborhood Association, staff is requesting consideration of the creation of a new regular organization member position on the Lents Town Center URAC for the Foster-Powell Neighborhood Association, and the appointment of John Mulvey as the member's representative in accordance with the PDC URAC Policy.