

# PDC

## PORTLAND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

**DATE:** November 12, 2008

**TO:** Board of Commissioners

**FROM:** Bruce A. Warner, Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** Report No. 08-128

Appointment of the River District Urban Renewal Area Advisory Committee (URAC) Members

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### BOARD ACTION REQUESTED

Adopt Resolution No. 6647

#### ACTION SUMMARY

On September 14, 2005, the Board adopted Resolution No. 6293 which established a formal policy (the "URAC Policy") regarding the composition and operations of Urban Renewal Advisory Committees ("URACs"). The URAC 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.

The URAC Policy requires that the Board take specific action to appoint members.

In accordance with the URAC Policy, this action will appoint the following members to the River District URAC:

- David August as a representative of the Pearl District Neighborhood Association for a term ending in June 2011;
- Nancy Davis as a representative of Central Portland Families for a term ending in June 2011;
- Jamie Dunn as a representative of the Pearl District Business Association for a term ending in June 2011;
- Patricia Gardner as a representative of the Pearl District Neighborhood Association for a term ending in June 2011;
- Patrick Gortmaker as a representative of the Old Town/Chinatown Visions Committee for a term ending in June 2011;
- Ann Hudner as a representative of the Pacific Northwest College of Art for a term ending in June 2001;
- Anthony Jones as a representative of minority contracting interests for a term ending in June 2011;
- Louis Lee as a representative of the Old Town/Chinatown Business Association for a term ending in June 2011;
- Ed McNamara as a representative of affordable housing for a term ending in June 2011;

- Alexander Mace as a representative of the Old Town/Chinatown Neighborhood Association for a term ending in June 2011;
- Doug Shapiro as an alternative member for Tiffany Sweitzer;
- Eric Steinmeyer as a representative of the Portland Business Alliance for a term ending in June 2011;
- Tiffany Sweitzer as an area developer representative for a term ending in June 2011;
- Paul Verhoeven as a representative of the Old Town/Chinatown Neighborhood Association for a term ending in June 2011; and
- Stephen Ying as a representative of the Old Town/Chinatown Chinese Community for a term ending in June 2011.

## **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

A URAC is one of a variety of tools the Board and staff use to obtain public input and feedback when making plans and decisions related to implementation of an Urban Renewal Plan (“Plan”). Over the life of a Plan, the URAC plays an important role for the PDC Board by virtue of the following:

- Its diverse composition of representative stakeholders.
- Its ongoing familiarity with the overall short and long-term goals and objectives of a Plan and related city plans and policies.
- Its members sharing information with and receiving feedback from wider networks of project stakeholders.

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 from the River District, Downtown Waterfront, and South Park Blocks Urban Renewal Areas regarding appointment of members to the URAC. Staff also consulted with representatives from the Pearl District and Old Town/Chinatown Neighborhood Associations and numerous community partners.

## **COMPLIANCE WITH ADOPTED PLANS AND POLICIES**

This action is consistent with the URAC Policy adopted by the Board on September 14, 2005 (Resolution No. 6293) that requires the Board to appoint members to the URACs that the Board has created.

The Portland Development Commission's (PDC) Public Participation Policy, adopted in June 2005 (Resolution No. 6266), states 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."

A URAC is a "standing committee" as provided for in Article IV., Section 1 of the Bylaws of the Commission, and as such is a "public body" subject to Oregon Public Records/Public Meetings Law (ORS 192). This also means members of a URAC are "public officials" subject to Oregon Standards and Practices related to ethics and conflict of interest.

In addition, the appointment of members to the River District Urban Renewal Advisory Committee will further the implementation of PDC's strategic plan, Goal II which states that PDC will "position communication-listening, as well as, informing at the center of every initiative we undertake."

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

There is no significant financial impact associated with formally appointing representatives to fill the positions established for the URAC for the River District Urban Renewal Area.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

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

## **WORK LOAD IMPACT**

The major work load associated with the appointment of URAC members is providing them with an orientation session and materials related to PDC in general and their URAC specifically. This activity is coordinated by Public Participation staff, and included in existing work plans.

## **ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS**

Under Board established policy, there is no alternative process for making these appointments.

## **CONCURRENCE**

The members of the URAC were nominated by their respective organizations to represent them on the 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.

The process for identifying potential URAC members includes:

- Ongoing recruitment and acceptance of applications via the PDC website.
- Assessing the range of existing and potential stakeholders in a particular urban renewal area.
- Personal outreach and recruitment by PDC staff and URAC members.
- Review of application by PDC staff.

The membership of the River District URAC as established by Board Resolution No. 6615 adopted by the Board on July 9, 2008 and Board Resolution and based on the URAC Policy and discussion with stakeholders is as follows:

I. Organization Members

A. Neighborhood Association Members

- Two Pearl District Neighborhood Association representatives
- Two Old Town/Chinatown Neighborhood Association representatives
- One Portland Downtown Neighborhood Association representative (

B. Business Association Members

- Portland Business Alliance
- Pearl District Business Association
- Old Town/Chinatown Business Association

C. Community Partners

- Old Town/Chinatown Visions Committee representative
- Representative from the Chinese Community of Old Town/Chinatown
- Affordable Housing representative
- Minority Business representative
- Educational organization representative
- Families with Children (formally known as "Central Portland Families") representative
- Union representative
- Property developer representative

D. Taxing Jurisdiction Partners

- Multnomah County
- Portland Public Schools

E. Alternate Members (for the above listed members)

II. Ex-Officio Members

- A. Bureau of Planning
- B. Portland Department of Transportation
- C. Portland Parks Bureau

The initial membership of the River District URAC will be 18 (including Downtown Neighborhood Association) members. The Pearl District Neighborhood Association and the Old Town/Chinatown Neighborhood Association will have two members each based on their official recognition by the City of Portland as organizations formed for the purpose of considering and acting on issues affecting the livability and quality of their respective neighborhoods.