

PDC

PORTLAND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

DATE: June 22, 2011

TO: Board of Commissioners

FROM: Patrick Quinton, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Report Number 11-51
Appoint Ms. Sia Sellu and Reappoint Rachel Cunningham to the Lents Town Center Urban Renewal Advisory Committee for One-Year Terms

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED

Adopt Resolution No. 6891

ACTION SUMMARY

This resolution will authorize the following actions:

- The appointment of Ms. Sia Sellu to the Lents Town Center Urban Renewal Advisory Committee ("LTC URAC") as an organizational member representing the Lents Neighborhood Association for a one-year term ending on June 30, 2012. Ms. Sellu's background includes working with homeless and at-risk populations for the past nine years. She lives in the Lents Urban Renewal Area ("URA") and currently serves on the Lents Neighborhood Association Board. Ms. Sellu has volunteered extensively with both private and parochial schools her daughter attended, and received a Community Involvement Award from the Oregon Opportunity Network in 2009. She also worked at PDC in 2001-02 working in Professional Services with the M/W/ESB team.
- The reappointment of Rachel Cunningham to the LTC URAC as a taxing jurisdiction partner representing Multnomah County for a one-year term ending June 30, 2012. Ms. Cunningham is a resident of the Mt. Scott-Arleta Neighborhood, which is partially included in the URA. She works for Portland Public Schools as an Assistant Risk Manager. She is a direct descendant of Oliver P. Lent, the founder of the town of Lents, and has a great personal interest in the revitalization of this neighborhood. She is currently volunteering her time on the subcommittee that is awarding the Lents Livability Grants.

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. PDC believes that meaningful, timely, and effective public participation is essential to successfully implement the agency's policies and projects.

This action will support the following PDC goals:

- Strong Economic Growth and Competitiveness
- Sustainability and Social Equity
- Healthy Neighborhoods
- A Vibrant Central City
- Effective Stewardship over our Resources and Operations, and Employee Investment

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND FEEDBACK

The public is continually advised of the opportunity to serve on an Urban Renewal Advisory Committee (URAC), and encouraged to apply for appointment.

The process for identifying potential URAC members includes:

- Ongoing recruitment and acceptance of applications via the PDC website;
- Assessing the range of existing URAC composition and diversity;
- Personal outreach and recruitment by PDC staff and URAC members;
- Review of applications by PDC staff and URAC chairs.

COMPLIANCE WITH ADOPTED PLANS AND POLICIES

This action is consistent with the URAC Policy adopted by the Board of Commissioners on September 14, 2005 (Resolution No. 6293), and amended on July 9, 2008 (Resolution No. 6614), that requires the Board to create membership positions and appoint members to URACs that the Board has created. It is also consistent with the URAC Policy Amendment approved on June 8, 2011 (Resolution No. 6886), allowing members to serve terms of up to three years.

This action helps implement the Public Participation Policy adopted by the Board June 22, 2005 (Resolution 6266), which establishes 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 or operational risks resulting from this action.

WORK LOAD IMPACT

The major workload associated with the appointment and reappointment of URAC members is providing the appointee with orientation training and related materials specific to the URA. This activity is coordinated by the Public Participation staff and is included in existing work plans.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS

This is the only manner in which URAC appointments can be made. The Board could choose, however, to change the appointments or to not appoint one or more of those recommended. The Board could also choose to modify the length of term.

CONCURRENCE

There are three types of organizational members, those nominated by neighborhood associations, neighborhood business associations and community partners. The organizational member being appointed to the LTC URAC at this time has been nominated in accordance with the URAC Policy. A Taxing Jurisdiction Partner is a separate category of URAC membership. Multnomah County and Portland Public Schools are identified as taxing jurisdiction partners through a previous intergovernmental agreement. At this time, Multnomah County has nominated a candidate for reappointment to the LTC URAC in accordance with the URAC Policy

BACKGROUND

On September 14, 2005, the Board of Commissioners (“Board”) adopted Resolution No. 6293 establishing a formal policy regarding the composition and operations of URACs. Pursuant to that policy, the following URACs have been formally established by the Board:

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

Currently there is one vacant position and one expiring term on the LTC URAC.

On June 8, 2011, the PDC Board amended the URAC Policy to provide for the appointment and reappointment of members to terms of one, two or three years. This action was taken to provide the flexibility to make appointments for shorter than three year periods, particularly during the next year while PDC conducts a review of Agency-wide public participation policies and practices. As such, PDC staff recommends that these appointments be for a term of one year.