

Rockwood Weed and Seed Steering Committee

Minutes October 17th 2002

Attending: Patti Swanson, Carol W. Cole, Paulette Keller, Tory Mitchell, Maura White, Rich Pierce, Beth Faulhaber, Judy McNeil, Brian Renauer, John Pettis, Kathy Minden, Gloria Wiggins, Ivan Cortes, Bob Robison, Sharron Kelley.

Communications and Updates: Judy McNeil shared pictures of her neighborhood. She stated that the Headstart facility hadn't begun construction, the fence along the gravel pit was a garbage dump, that there are three abandoned houses on Yamhill, that traffic patterns were bad, speed signs had been torn down, language and cultural barriers were significant problems in crime reporting by residents and that the neighborhood was not safe for children.

Carol Cole told the committee that Headstart was in the permit process currently dealing with a traffic abatement plan. She went on to say there will be a community meeting on October 26th at St. Aidens church from 10:00 to 12:00 regarding code enforcement and nuisance abatement.

Beth shared that PAL was conducting a Lights Out after school activity. She suggested that we contact the national website www.afterschoolalliance.org for more information. Rich Pierce introduced himself as a new member of the committee and went on to say that he had tried to initiate similar activities as those described in the Weed and Seed plan.

Maura discussed an article in the Outlook authored by an individual concerned that because so much attention was going to Rockwood, police protection in other areas in the city could diminish. Maura suggested that we needed to pay attention to concerns such as these.

Carol told us to take care of ourselves by getting flu shots. She added that there was a lot being done in the community and that Urban renewal has been put off until November 2003.

Ivan told us he was working closely with the community on crime prevention measures and that he had learned a great deal at the September Weed and Seed conference regarding model programs.

Gloria told the group that 85% of her clients lived in Rockwood and that she was very pleased to have more law enforcement in the community. She added that she was building new leadership in Parents Alliance in order to advocate for resources.

Sharron present 10 signs donated by Lents to identify the Rockwood area as a Weed and Seed Site. John and Rich were asked to install them on appropriate road side locations that identified the boundaries of the project.

Kathy Minden discussed a meeting she had just attended with the US Attorney. The points made at the meeting were to document everything, ideas such as community gardens, community courts, Safe Havens and Making Better Choices, a program initiated in Burns. Kathy went on to express her concern over the loss of resources for the Anti-Gang Task Force due to the loss of funding from the State. It was decided that Kathy should write a letter on behalf of the Weed and Seed Steering Committee to the Mayors encouraging their advocacy at the next meeting of the E-Board.

Bob talked about Ivan's accomplishments that include a back to school fair, the initiation of a soccer team assisted by Eastwind, assisting with the families affected by the recent double homicide as well as a neighborhood watch program.

Patti discussed the Youth Gang Outreach project in Rockwood Station and the development of a resource center in the building formerly occupied by Fred Meyers. She said the project was dependant on the success of the income tax increase proposal at least for this year.

***A Pause for Celebration:** Kathy Minden requested that the committee take a moment to celebrate the fact that our project has been funded. Kathy presented flowers and cupcakes and the committee enjoyed the moment!

Minutes: The minutes of September 19th were approved as written. Because Heather was in China, Patti Swanson agreed to take notes. (Carol Cole also assisted.)

Review and Approve Membership Roster: Rich Pierce was added as a new member and the committee also approved a slotted position for a representative from the District Attorney's Office. Eric Trice has left his position with the District Attorney's Office but will be replaced in the next few weeks.

Review of the Certification Statement: Sharron reviewed the action items scheduled for this year, highlighting those benchmarks that would require either new data or the re-configuration of available data. Two items emerged as topics for consideration, a community survey and crime statistics that more closely meet the requirements of our plan.

Discussion of Outcome Measures: The discussion included concern that a survey done more than a year ago would probably not be valid and the avoidance of duplicating work that had already been done by the City.

John Pettis will ask those involved in the Urban Renewal project if they have conducted any recent surveys.

The committee agreed to initiate an Evaluation Committee composed of Mary Hammonds, Bob Robison, the new Weed and Seed coordinator/ Maura White-Cioeta and Shelley Kowalski. Their charge is to design a survey with “action research” in mind as well as an overall evaluation plan. Brian will meet with Marty and the committee before the next meeting. Maura moved and Bob seconded the motion.

Update on the Hiring Process of the Weed and Seed Coordinator: Maura told the committee that there were 31 applicants, 6 live in Gresham, 4 are Spanish speakers, one speaks both Russian and Spanish, salary requests range from 25,000 to 60,000 a year. (We have budgeted 32,000.) Maura has organized an interview/selection committee and plans on scheduling two sets of interview with the candidates. The first interviews will be held during the last week in October, the second during the week of 11/11/02. Paulette Keller and Ivan Cortes volunteered to be on the committee as well. Maura also stated that she had 12 semi-finalists for the Safe Haven Coordinator position.

Contract with Multnomah County / Pal: Bob Robison asked why the local match wasn't shown in the budget. Sharron explained that the budget office in the DOJ asked that it be removed. She told the committee that she would forward the working budget to the committee next week.

Maura asked the committee if she could replace the permanent phone with a cell phone. Sharron asked Rich to contact the appropriate person at the City for some direction regarding the graffiti clean up project.

There was also general discussion regarding transferring funds and how best to spend resources.

PAL and Multnomah County were both satisfied with the contract and were pleased with how quickly there were able to come to an agreement.

Next Steps: The next meeting will be on November 21st at the Rockwood library. The topics scheduled are the final plans for evaluation, by-law amendments and the completion of the review of the Certification Plan.