

Commissioner Amanda Fritz leads listening session

City Commissioner Amanda Fritz says she is listening to the concerns of the people, which is why she has launched a new listening series designed to help people listen better in listening sessions.

About 30 people attended the initial session of Listening Closely and Carefully to Improve our Community Listening Group, which began with a listening exercise to fire people up. But there were many points of interruption that followed. In one outburst, a participant wondered aloud to the group about how difficult it was to hold down a full-time day job and attend critical listening sessions on yard waste disputes, outdoor lighting hours, TriMet poetry rewrites and public odors.

"Listen, people," said Bob Brisbane, a paramedic from Southeast Portland. "I missed seven meetings this week because of work and scheduling conflicts with other meetings. I don't want to stop listening."

As he trailed off, Commissioner Fritz gave an understanding nod as the rest of the audience paused and listened.

"Everyone in the audience feels we should move toward action on this issue," blurted out Ramona Windsor from North Portland. "But it's hard to listen and do things at the same time."

Fritz nodded, and with a commanding look, instructed her assistant to make a note of what was happening.

The speaker was cut off by a chorus of understanding eye rolls.

The listening session is held the third Friday of each month in the Rose Room at City Hall. It is open to the public.

City Hall bans fragrances

City Hall took bold action last month, creating a fragrance free workspace after several city employees were using Axe body spray to cover up the smell of skunk weed in their backpacks.

The City voted 5-0 to create the fragrance-free work space, which asks city employees to "refrain" from wearing perfume, cologne and after-shave and "avoid" strongly scented deodorant or other hygiene products.

In protest, several city employees at the housing bureau stopped wearing deodorant or taking a shower in silent protest of the new law.

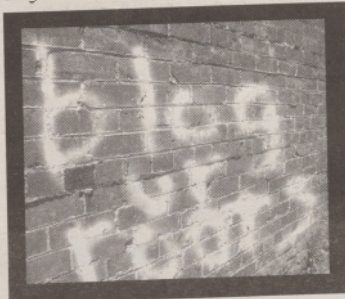
"Just because my co-workers smoke weed and can't control the Axe, doesn't mean I should be punished with Bill's natural scent," says one water bureau employee. "Let's see, Old Spice, or that disgusting pee smell. I'm at a loss. You tell me."

Erik Sten gets basement storage area at RAC named after him

The new Bud Clark Commons, also known as the Resource Access Center, also known as the most expensive affordable housing project in town, also known as the last new homeless project in downtown for another decade, also known as a key strategic tool in the 10-year plan to end homelessness, announced that a basement storage area will be named after former Housing Commissioner Erik Sten — who helped move the project forward in 2008.

"The city and service providers really appreciate the people that came before, especially the people that helped create this project," says one provider who sat on a blue ribbon committee to help name the storage area. The center will provide a one-stop shop for services, along with transitional housing for more than 100 individuals.

"Erik Sten has done a lot over the years, and it's fitting that the storage area is named after him. It's a really important honor to the person that got this thing started from the ground up."



Mayor announces he's running again in 2012

BY LIL' JOHN HOGG
STAFF REPORTS

Portland Mayor Sam Adams announced today that he plans to run again in 2012.

"I've thought long and hard about it, and it feels like all the pieces are in place," says Adams. "I have a personal trainer and everything."

In an exclusive interview with SR last week, the mayor told us about his sweet tooth, and his turbulent battle with Voodoo Doughnut's clearance rack, "I'm going to start out by laying the ground work for the upcoming run."

People close to the Mayor says that he's more focused than ever on making sure that his announcement to run, and running the city won't be a distraction. "I think Sam has learned a lot over the past two years, and I would be surprised if he wasn't able to compete in a half marathon by the end of his term in office," says one insider.

One of the biggest questions is whether his former personal trainer will stand by him after jumping off the wagon with all the Snickers, and sweet treats over the past two years. Nobody wins in politics in this town without Mark Wiener's running program," says a City Hall staffer who wished to go

unnamed.

Asked if his former personal trainer will be standing by him in 2012, Adams declined to comment. And while to date, Adams hasn't been lifting any heavy weights, there has been a lot of equipment being moved in and out of the mayor's office.

Not to be outdone, other possible mayoral candidates are expected to follow suit in the coming weeks, and unveil running programs of their own.

Steve Novick, Charlie Hales, Jim Francesconi, New Seasons' co-founder Eleen Brady, and others are thought to be recruiting personal trainers around town. All have been seen flexing their muscles at local facilities.

Multnomah County Chairman Jeff Cogen, caught by this reporter at a local salad bar, said he's been running for years, and feels in top shape to run toe to toe with anybody, even the mayor.

Bike advocates including the Bicycle Transportation Alliance questioned the wisdom of Adams running again in 2012.

"The mayor has done a lot for our two-wheeled community," says Rob (we can't ever spell his last name right) Sadowski. "Announcing to run this early might be a little risky. We would have loved to have

been involved with the conversations about the mayor's training plan, and the benefits of cycling."

A spokesperson for the Portland Department of Transportation declined comment.

One of the questions still lingering is whether the mayor will go with the more powerful Nike, which is based in Beaverton, or the dark horse Adidas, which has its North American headquarters in North

Portland — close to Adams running grounds. Asked which shoe company Adams will be endorsed by, the Mayor says, "It's hard. Both Nike and Adidas do so much for our community. It's still too early to determine. It's possible, I'll wear one of each — creating a swoosh-like striped base that would be hard to beat in 2012."

"The reality is, I have a vision and that vision includes running again," says Adams. "Sometimes you get sidetracked. The last couple of years have been trying times for our city, and I'll be the first to admit it. I haven't exercised my best judgement at times. Saying that, I'm more excited than ever to lead Portland into the future, one race at a time."

CENTRAL CITY concern

Changing Lives
Building Communities
Creating Opportunities

www.centralcityconcern.org
503-294-1681

Finally, an APP-ropriate way to give!

In this digital world, it's difficult to find the spare change to give to a panhandler. Now there's an app for that! Droid's new Help Out app allows you to scan a homeless person's QR code and directly deposit money into their account. It's that simple — no interaction, just a press of a button let's you help those less fortunate.

12 percent of all donations go directly to the person in need!

*Person in need agrees to pay transaction fees and all other charges associated with the Help Out service. Some additional charges may be incurred if person in need has no registered address within the zip code where the donation is registered, or if their account is accessed more than once a month. If you or anyone you know feels that you need the money more than the person in need, there's an app for that too. See ad on page 6 for details.