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Two Sections

City plan raises issues

by Chuck Goodmacher

A resolution calling for a Central City Plan, a brainchild of Commissioner Margaret Strachan, was unanimously passed Wednesday by the Portland City Council. Adoption of the resolution sets in motion a complex process to create a "viable central city" for Portland via a comprehensive Central City Plan just as former mayor Neil Goldschmidt's Downtown Plan shaped the downtown area.



The Central City Plan is expected to be more than simply an updated Downtown Plan. Rather, as the adopted resolution states, there is a recognition of the interdependence of the Northwest Triangle, Coliseum-Lloyd Center, Central Eastside, Macadam Corridor, and Downtown, and developments in the area should therefore be planned accordingly.

Commissioner Strachan believes the emphasis on a Central City is vital for the survival of the entire city, not just the specific areas mentioned. Strachan points to Eastern cities currently in economic trouble "because they let the core area die."

"A viable central," she continued, is important to every citizen in Portland.

Citizen reservations about the plan are already surfacing. Some neighborhood activists told the *Observer* of concerns that, given limited resources available for development, areas in dire economic straits (such as inner Northeast) are being bypassed for the more glamorous central city area—an area where big business has a greater stake. Southeast Uplift board members Monday expressed concern over possible loss of a significant voice on development proposals in their eastside neighborhoods.

To mitigate such concerns, the resolution seeks to recognize the need for broad public participation throughout the two- to three-year planning process. Big business, government bureaucracies, and the major media are all sure to be active participants in the process and will have their desires reflected in the plan.

According to Dean Smith, Commissioner Strachan's assistant (and a principal architect of the plan), the real question about how the plan will develop is "how much attention are neighborhoods and citizens in general going to pay to it?" If the final plan "isn't a common vision," he added, "it's just an economic plan and will cause imbalances."

The adopted resolution calls for a Citizens Advisory Committee charged with gathering "public input and developing a vision for the Central City Plan." The powers of the committee, the composition and size of its membership, and its relationship to established committees and commissions such as the Planning Commission, the Portland Development Commission, and the Economic Development Advisory Committee are issues which, as Commissioner Charles Jordan commented, "remain to be determined."

Many crucial questions about both the planning process and the plan itself remain to be answered:

- What are the precise boundaries of the area to be studied?
- Will the plan include studies of how development within the "central city" will solve or create problems in "secondary" areas such as inner Northeast?
- Will the Willamette River Greenway park system be affected?

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Crime commission seeks input

by Robert Lothian

The first Public Safety Commission for Portland and Multnomah County is basing its work on the idea that "every citizen in the city and county has the right to feel safe in their neighborhoods," according to Sharon L. Nielson, chairwoman.

crime," he said. "A creative, cooperative effort" of agencies, institutions, social services and neighborhoods is needed to come up with "more creative and community-based solutions," according to Lindberg.

The 30-member commission has been meeting since October to define the issues and then put together a comprehensive set of crime-fighting and budget recommendations for city and county commissioners.

He said issues besides police and jails which the commission might consider in its two-year study include drug and alcohol rehabilitation, police-community relations, employment for ex-offenders, and neighborhood organization and crime prevention. Nielson added that health and environmental design, as they relate to public safety, might also be studied by the commission.

Commissioner Mike Lindberg, who steered the Public Safety Commission proposal through a not-always-supportive City Council, said policy makers too often tend to think that public safety means more police and prisons. "My feeling was that it was more complicated than that...that we ought to develop a more comprehensive approach to

Commission membership reflects a cross-section of the population, she said, with half women, 20 percent minorities, 15 percent seniors, 10 percent youth and no more than 25 percent representation from

public safety experts. According to Lindberg, commission members are reading "reams of materials" and listening to panels of experts in an effort to pull together information from local national and international sources.

Nielson said the commission is working now to put together a plan for how to proceed with its two-year inquiry. "We are just getting started," she said.

One thing the plan will include is a lot of public participation. "Citizen involvement is a crucial aspect to creating and making things work," she said. "We will be going out into the community to solicit input about what they see as their needs." A series of community hearings should be under way by April, she said, and for those who can't make it to the hearings, there

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Allison Oberbillig, Rachael Ziady and Petra Babon proudly display the plaques presented to them for their winning essays in the Harriet Tubman Middle School Human Relations Composition Awards. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Teens receive awards

The Harriet Tubman Human Relations Composition Award was initiated as one of the last formal acts of the Community for School Integration. It was designed to reinforce a positive, multicultural educational environment at Tubman Middle School, and to encourage the development of sound communications skills in youngsters who attend Tubman.

entists and farmers could cultivate lots of land to provide the fruits, vegetables, meat and dairy products to keep everyone's body healthy.

white school and not be subject to stares nor be teased by the other students.

This year's award winners were Petra Babon, 6th grade, Rachael Ziady, 7th grade, and Allison Oberbillig, 8th grade. The text of their winning essays follows.

If the wealthy and the powerful would not be greedy and would share the world's wealth, then it wouldn't be necessary for people to live on the streets, and people would have homes with clean water and warmth.

I plan to travel throughout the world and spread my dream. I would like to go to every city, state, and country possible. I hope to talk to the kings, queens, emperors, presidents, and czars of different countries and encourage them to enforce equal rights.

My dream for all the world

by Petra Babon
Grade 6

People of all colors and cultures should be able to have the freedom to worship in the religion of their choice. They should be free to go to the same churches as everyone else without being ignored or insulted because of their appearance.

Part of my plan would be to help enforce the equal rights laws we have now. Many people know of their existence, but literally ignore them. I would try to convince people to obey them. I would also try to pass them in places where none exist.

There are many problems in our world that need to be changed. These problems cannot be corrected or changed by just one person alone. Everyone in the world of different cultures and colors needs to cooperate to make our world a better place to live.

All people should be able to express their opinions in newspapers, on television, on radio programs, and during meetings that they attend without being persecuted or censored.

I want it to be known that while people are different colors, races and religions, everybody is a human being and should be treated like one.

People in all nations should be free of fear. That is, they should not have to be afraid of criminals that would steal from them or do them bodily harm. They should not have to be afraid of their political leader and that leader's soldiers.

Now, if I were President of the United States, instead of spending all the money on bombs and nuclear warheads, I would spend it on improving the environment, helping other countries to develop natural resources, increasing food production, and increasing medical care.

As in a situation where a job is being applied for, a person should not be judged by race or religion, but by his or her qualities and qualifications. If an employer is prejudiced, he might hire someone unqualified for the job while others who were qualified could have been denied because of the color of their skin or for what they believed in.

People of different cultures or colors should be able to get an education and have the job they want or that they have been trained for without being turned down because they are different.

For my community, I think that I can help out by volunteering my time and sharing my education with others that are not as fortunate as myself. I think that if everyone cooperated with each other and treated all the people the same way by listening to other ideas and being honest and trustworthy, that our community would be a better place to live.

In my community I plan to organize groups who would attend community meetings and give talks on equal rights. I shall hope to set a good example and to influence others to practice equal rights.

A dream world would have clean waters, fresh air and ground that hasn't been polluted with chemicals. A world where humans, animals, and fish can live without breathing in bad air or drinking polluted water.

My dream for the world

by Rachael Ziady
Grade 7

I would like to raise enough funds so that it would be possible to build and run an intercultural community center. People would have a chance to mingle with other cultures. It would, most likely, be a new experience for most of them. I think the center should host dinners in which the community's people could bring a dish from their culture or religion.

An ideal world would be one in which governments and their scientists would work together to make it possible for all people to have plenty of food to eat. If the governments would all agree to cooperate, the sci-

I dream of a world where every man, woman and child is equal. I dream of a day when Japanese can live with Chinese, Jews can live with Catholics, and Blacks can live with Whites. I dream of a day when Black children can walk into an all-

I hope to build a society that does not judge people by their shape, size, color, culture or religion, but by their intelligence, character and feelings. That is my dream.

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These youngsters at King School celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday Monday with an all-school assembly. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)