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Urban Renewal Redo

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expanding any urban renewal district into residential areas, citing how it has historically displaced residents.

Paige Coleman, the executive director of the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods and member of the committee, held a series of meetings on the expansion of urban renewal earlier this year, and found that many residents felt that it yielded too few tangible benefits and the process itself was murky.

Coleman, who abstained from voting on the expansions under direction from her organization,

brought a letter from the coalition that argued that expanding urban renewal should be put on hold until the PDC could prove that the Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Area accomplished its original objectives.

The committee also delayed voting on an urban renewal area for the Rose Quarter until November, which has become more complicated.

Last year, Mayor Sam Adams has made redevelopment of the area around Memorial Coliseum a prior-

Roy Jay, a businessman and committee member who heads the African American Chamber of Commerce, has been steadily building support for a Community Development Agreement, which would direct one percent of all gross revenues generated in the Rose Quarter to community organizations.

Jay, speaking before the committee, wanted to make sure that his idea was strongly incorporated into any deal approving a Rose Quarter

It's got to be enforceable. It can't be a recommendation.

Roy Jay, Rose Quarter Stakeholder Advisory Committee member

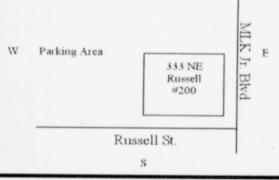
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ity, and assembled the Rose Quarter Stakeholder Advisory Committee to review ideas for it. In March, the committee, chaired by Adams, whittled the long list of proposals Jay. down to three, including the Portland Trail Blazers' JumpTown entertainment district.

But action on the Rose Quarter has been delayed, after one of the project sponsors, Doug Obletz, raised strong concerns about the process. He's pointed out that the city has an agreement with Portland Arena Management, a company with ties to the Blazers, that effectively gives it veto power over the fate of the Rose Quarter. Redevelopment of the area has come to standstill.

The committee also voted to support two proposals aimed at easing the social impact of urban renewal, ing property values to soar and longtime residents to leave.

urban renewal area and included legally-binding language.

"It's got to be enforceable. It can't be a recommendation," said

The committee voted to request that the Rose Quarter Stakeholder Advisory Committee require that there be a legal obligation to the benefits agreement in any redevelopment deal for the Rose Quarter.

It also expressed support for a community-based housing advocate program run by the Portland Housing Bureau that would assist vulnerable homeowners in north and northeast. It also called for ongoing investments in the area to prevent displacement of established residents.

The committee's recommendations will be reviewed by the Portland Planning Commission before which has been criticized for caus- being sent to City Council, which will give them final approval sometime next spring.



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