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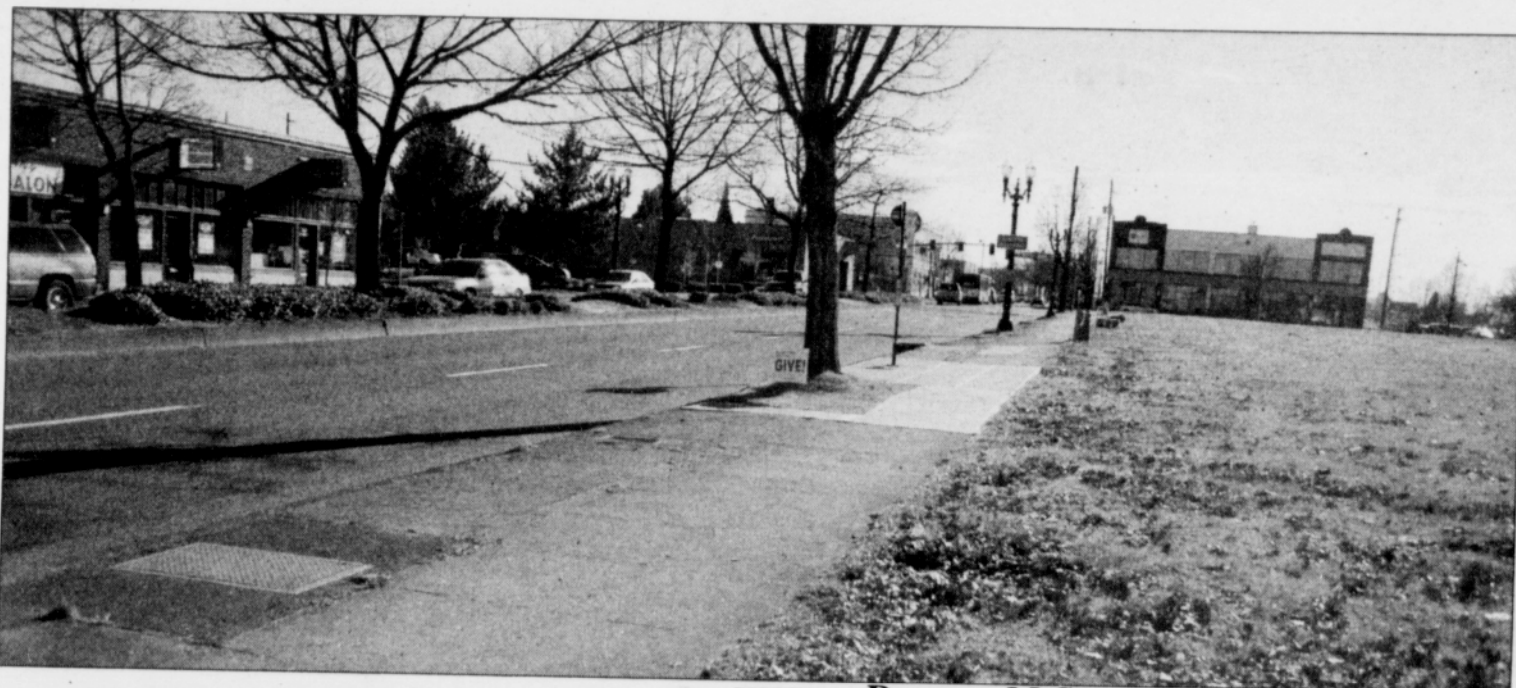


PHOTO BY DONOVAN M. SMITH/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland Mayor Charlie Hales, Commissioner Dan Saltzman and other government officials met with leaders of the African American and northeast Portland community Monday to try to revive a proposal to develop a vacant parcel of land at Northeast Alberta and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard for a Trader Joe's specialty grocery store.

Recasting Trader Joes

Mayor meets with community to revive controversial project

BY DONOVAN M. SMITH
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The public outcry that led to specialty grocer Trader Joe's pullout of a city-negotiated economic development project in the heart of Portland's historic African American community may get reversed if the mayor and other city leaders are successful in new efforts to recast the project.

Mayor Charlie Hales and Commissioner Dan Saltzman met with leaders of the African-American community, neighborhood, and

business representatives at City Hall in an effort to bring the popular retail chain back, perhaps with more compromises for all parties at the table.

The issues discussed at Monday's gathering included past policies that lead to the displacement of people of color and other disadvantaged residents from inner north and northeast Portland, along with pledges to increase affordable housing and minority-owned businesses in the Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Area, a large section of north and northeast Portland

which includes the proposed Trader Joe's site at Northeast Alberta and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

The community leaders who attended the meeting went mostly unnamed, but included representatives of the Portland African American Leadership Forum or PAALF, the group which brought major opposition to the tax supported project when it was announced in November.

The new proposal by city offi-

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Both Sides Faulted in Labor Dispute

Company deemed unfair; workers used violence and racial slurs

A Vancouver grain terminal unfairly locked out employees for more than a year, but workers broke the law by making threats and engaging in violence during the dispute, according to a federal labor agency official.

United Grain Corp. imposed the lockout in February 2013 after saying a worker represented by the International Longshore and Warehouse Union sabotaged company equipment.

Ronald Hooks, regional director of the National Labor Relations Board in Seattle, issued his rulings in the matters last week, saying United Grain should have provided the union with a "timely, clear and complete offer" of what it needed to do to avoid a lockout. Moreover, Hooks said the company, weeks before the lockout, unfairly discharged longshoremen who refused to operate equipment they considered unsafe.

Hooks said locked-out picketers used racial slurs against black security officers, verbally threatened to harm managers and their relatives and physically attacked truck drivers and security officers. In March 2013, picketers shone spotlights into vehicles entering and leaving the terminal, "thereby blinding the drivers as they attempted to drive and causing permanent eye injury to a security officer."

The National Labor Relations Board investigates and remedies alleged unfair labor practices.

United Grain disputes the finding and a National Labor Relations Board administrative law judge will hear the matter June 30 in Portland. For now, non-union workers continue to operate the export terminal, and the two sides continue to negotiate a new contract.

Separately, Hooks said the longshoremen violated labor law by engaging in threats and violence in the early months of the lockout. For example, he said, picketers threw rocks at a security officer and threatened to rape a manager's daughter. An administration law judge will hear that matter July 21.

--Associated Press