

## **RESOLUTION No.**

Accept the visionPDX reports and recommendations (resolution).

WHEREAS, a community vision shapes the long-term future of a city and is based on a collaborative effort by people of all backgrounds and life experiences; and

WHEREAS, visionPDX, Portland's community visioning project, was launched in November 2005 by the City of Portland and charged with engaging the public in creating a shared vision for the city; and

WHEREAS, a shared vision reflects Mayor Potter's belief in the need to understand community aspirations prior to City Council making long term investments and decisions; and

WHEREAS, Portland has a rich history of visioning, dating back to the 1903 Olmsted Plan which provided a vision for parks connected by parkways and boulevards, and this vision has largely materialized over time; and

WHEREAS, Portland has previously engaged hundreds of community members and organizations in the development of innovative, forward looking plans that address many issues raised by people in the visionPDX process (e. g. Portland Parks Vision 2020, Bureau of Environmental Services' Actions for Watershed Health, and Ten-year Plan to End Homelessness in Portland and Multnomah County); and

WHEREAS, the visionPDX reports will provide these and other current plans with information by which they may be implemented or revised over time; and

WHEREAS, over 15 years have passed since Portland's government and the community last engaged in community-based visioning through Portland Future Focus, and during that time the demographics in Portland have changed significantly; and

WHEREAS, Portland has experienced consistent growth since the 1980s through annexations, migration and natural growth; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland is the center of a major metropolitan region that is estimated to grow by an additional million people by 2030; and

WHEREAS, Portland will experience significant change in the next 20 years including: an increase in population, growth and change in the economy (850,000 new jobs are expected in the region), increase in minority populations (from 1990 to 2000, the overall ethnic minority population increased 119%), and global climate change presents enormous challenges both globally and in Portland (the region's temperatures are expected to rise up to 1°F every ten years, causing hotter and drier summers, wetter winters and threats to forests, beaches and salmon); and

WHEREAS, Portland enjoys a higher-than-average community participation rate and is a city that relies upon community input. In the early 1990's, the rate of Portlanders who attended at least one public meeting on town or school affairs was 30-35% compared to 11% nationally; and

WHEREAS, more than 15,000 people participated in the creation of Portland's community vision; and

WHEREAS, Portland's community vision project made an innovative and strategic decision to seek the perspectives of under-represented groups so that a citywide vision would reflect the hopes and dreams of the diversity of Portland; and

WHEREAS, feedback to the Portland community vision project was generated from diverse audiences including: non-English speakers, youth, elders, African Americans, Africans, Asians, Pacific Islanders, Latinos, Native Americans, Caucasians, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) community and people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, community members read and summarized 21,000 pages of comments that provided the foundation for creating Portland's community vision, main ideas and challenges; and

WHEREAS, the Vision Committee and volunteers contributed thousands of volunteer hours; and

WHEREAS, the community vision identified five elements of the city: 1) Built Portland, 2) Economic Portland, 3) Environmental Portland, 4) Learning Portland, and 5) Social Portland; and

WHEREAS, the community vision identified a set of three key values: 1) Community Connectedness and Distinctiveness 2) Equity and Accessibility and 3) Sustainability; and

WHEREAS, these elements and values provide a broad and tangible framework to guide city efforts to achieve the expressed vision; and

WHEREAS, the community vision identified a series of challenges facing the city that will need to be addressed as future plans are created (see attached exhibits and final document for complete list); and

WHEREAS, Portland's community vision project developed significant new ways to involve the public through innovative outreach strategies including theatre, youth, technology and one-on-one relationship building with hard to reach populations; and

WHEREAS, the early results of the community vision were shared with other current City of Portland projects (e.g., Community Connect, the ONI Budget Advisory Committee, the Human Relations project team, Immigrant and Refugee Task Force and the Schools, Families, Housing Initiative) to incorporate the voices and main ideas of visionPDX respondents;

WHEREAS, long-term planning is successful when it originates from the community and when it is paired with short-term demonstration projects;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Portland endorses the Portland 2030: a vision for the future document (attached as Exhibit A, also referred to as the ‘community vision’) and accompanying Community Engagement Report (attached as Exhibit B) and Voices from the Community report (attached as Exhibit C); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Portland directs the Bureau of Planning to use the above documents as the basis for The Portland Plan (see summary attached as Exhibit D), a comprehensive plan for Portland’s future and will require a report back to Council by spring 2008 with an approach for the effort; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Portland directs the Office of Management and Finance to use the community vision to assess the city’s current priorities and identify potential gaps in services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Portland pledges funding for a round of community action grants to promote community organizations and local agencies ability to partner with the city to take action on the vision; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Portland creates a Vision into Action Coalition to act as keeper of the vision and charged with oversight and communication regarding the status of vision implementation. The coalition will be staffed at the Bureau of Planning in conjunction with the community action grants (description attached as Appendix E) and as part of The Portland Plan staff team; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Portland will examine the following set of short-term demonstration projects by the City and its partners to implement initial aspects of the vision:

- **BUILT PORTLAND:** Explore the creation of a district energy system, a system which uses heat exchanged from an underground network of water pipes to heat or cool buildings in a given neighborhood; (description attached as Appendix F)
- **LEARNING PORTLAND:** Create new City guidelines to allow City of Portland employees to volunteer in the community for up to four hours of paid leave per month to bolster the City of Portland’s involvement in the community with a focus on youth oriented programs; (description attached as Appendix G)
- **ECONOMIC PORTLAND:** Establish a pilot project to provide one-on-one technical assistance to small businesses; (description attached as Appendix H)
- **SOCIAL PORTLAND:** Develop a Community Gathering Center in partnership with community organizations that will provide a home to community-based organizations working with underrepresented populations and will create community space for individuals and groups to gather and organize; (description attached as Appendix I)
- **ENVIRONMENTAL PORTLAND:** Explore making unimproved greenspaces available for community sponsored improvement and maintenance efforts and authorize Portland Parks and Recreation to provide design and technical assistance; (description attached as Appendix J)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Portland will provide the East Portland Commission (to be launched fall 2007) the visionPDX reports (as identified above) and that short term, tangible actions and longer term actions resulting from the Commission may also implement aspects of the vision; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that City Council will use the community vision as a guide for policy and decision making; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Portland will partner with individuals, community organizations, local businesses and agencies such as Multnomah County, Metro, Tri-Met, higher education institutions and school districts to plan and implement strategies that support implementing the vision; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Portland will take a lead role in implementation of the community vision including the development of The Portland Plan, sharing findings with bureau advisory committees and directing all bureaus and PDC to consider visionPDX in current and future long-term planning efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bureau of Planning will report back to City Council within a year with a report on The Portland Plan and the Vision into Action Coalition.

**Adopted by the Council,**

Mayor Potter  
Prepared by: Liesl Wendt

September 13, 2007

**GARY BLACKMER**

AUDITOR OF THE CITY OF PORTLAND  
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