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Dick Ivey Speech (draft)

Richard Ivey

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RB
read a letter

DICK IVEY
speech

THANK YOU VERY MUCH . . . I AM GLAD TO HAVE A CHANCE, FIRST OF ALL TO TALK ABOUT WHAT WE ARE DOING DOWNTOWN AND SECOND, TO GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO TELL THOSE OF US WHO ARE WORKING ON THE DOWNTOWN PLAN WHAT YOU THINK WE OUGHT TO BE DOING. THE DOWNTOWN PLANNERS ARE ANXIOUS TO BROADEN THE PARTICIPATION IN THE DOWNTOWN PLAN, AND ONE WAY TO GO ABOUT IT IS TO MEET WITH DIFFERENT GROUPS WHO HAVE A SPECIAL INTEREST IN WHAT HAPPENS DOWNTOWN. YOU FALL INTO THAT CATEGORY.

BECAUSE PLANNING AFFECTS ZONING AND ZONING IN TURN AFFECTS THE VALUE OF PROPERTY, I AM GOING TO ASSUME THAT YOU ARE INTERESTED FIRST OF ALL IN HOW THE PLANNING PROGRAM FOR DOWNTOWN PORTLAND IS ORGANIZED. BECAUSE THE ORGANIZATION INFLUENCES THE PLAN, WE GAVE A GREAT DEAL OF THOUGHT TO THE BEST WAY TO ORGANIZE THIS PROGRAM. WE HAD AT LEAST TWO OBJECTIVES: ONE WAS TO ACCOMPLISH AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE WITH THE LEAST AMOUNT OF MONEY -- BECAUSE THERE WASN'T MUCH MONEY AVAILABLE, AND SECONDLY TO OBTAIN THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL OF THE PUBLIC AGENCIES THAT WERE CONCERNED WITH DOWNTOWN PORTLAND AND TO PROVIDE A MEANS WHEREBY CONCERNED PRIVATE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS COULD EASILY GAIN ACCESS TO THE PLANNERS.

WE FINALLY EVOLVED THE CHART SHOWN HERE. LET ME DESCRIBE IT BY STARTING AT THE BOTTOM, WHERE MOST OF THE WORK IS BEING DONE RIGHT NOW. WE HAVE A TEAM OF PROFESSIONAL CITY PLANNERS

AND TRAFFIC ENGINEERS -- MEMBERS OF THE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION STAFF, AND THEIR CONSULTANTS -- CH2M AND DELUIW CATHER. THE CONSULTANTS ARE REALLY AN EXTENSION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION STAFF, MADE AVAILABLE BY DOWNTOWN BUSINESS AND THE STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT TO HELP GET THE JOB DONE IN A SITUATION WHERE THE CITY HAS LIMITED FINANCIAL AND STAFF RESOURCES OF ITS OWN. THE PARTICIPATION OF MY FIRM -- CORNELL, HOWLAND, HAYES & MERRYFIELD -- IS BEING FUNDED BY DOWNTOWN BUSINESS, THROUGH THE DOWNTOWN COMMITTEE, INDICATED HERE ON THE CHART. THE PARTICIPATION OF DELIEW CATHER IS BEING FUNDED BY THE STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT, BY THE CITY, AND BY TRI MET, WHICH IS ABLE TO PAY A PORTION OF THE COST OF THE PARKING STUDIES.

THE WORKING TEAM IS BEING COORDINATED BY BOB BALDWIN, THE COUNTY PLANNING DIRECTOR. BOB WAS SUGGESTED FOR THIS ROLE BY LLOYD KEEFE BECAUSE EVERYONE FELT THAT A PUBLIC PLANNER SHOULD HAVE THIS ROLE AND REALLY ALSO BECAUSE HE IS VERY GOOD AT IT. WE WERE ABLE TO GET BOB TO AGREE TO TAKE ON THE JOB IN ADDITION TO HIS REGULAR RESPONSIBILITIES, BECAUSE HE THOUGHT THE PROGRAM WAS IMPORTANT AND HE WANTED TO BE INVOLVED IN WHAT IS REALLY ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING AND IMPORTANT PLANNING PROGRAMS THAT HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN IN THE CITY.

NOW BESIDES THE WORKING TEAM WE HAVE SOME ADVISORS. WE INVITED VARIOUS PUBLIC AGENCIES TO PARTICIPATE IN A TECHNICAL GROUP --

AND HERE WE HAVE THE METROPOLITAN ENGINEER FROM THE STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT, THE CITY TRAFFIC ENGINEER, THE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR, THE PLANNING DIRECTOR FOR THE PORT OF PORTLAND, THE PLANNING DIRECTOR FOR CRAG, THE ECONOMIST AT CRAG, THE PLANNING COORDINATOR FOR THE PORTLAND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION, THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMINISTRATION AT PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY, AND THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE BUILDING OWNERS AND MANAGERS ASSOCIATION. THIS GROUP HAS MET WITH US ON A FAIRLY REGULAR BASIS, EVERY TWO WEEKS, AND REPRESENTS A REAL RESOURCE OF TALENT AND KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE DOWNTOWN.

IN ADDITION TO THE TECHNICAL GROUP IS THE WATERFRONT TASK FORCE, A COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC AGENCY OFFICIALS APPOINTED BY GOVERNOR McCALL BEFORE THE START OF OUR PROGRAM TO RECOMMEND A PROGRAM FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE DOWNTOWN WATERFRONT. THIS GROUP HAS RECOMMENDED THE CLOSURE OF HARBOR DRIVE AS A FIRST STEP IN MAKING THE WEST BANK OF THE RIVER AVAILABLE FOR PEOPLE INSTEAD OF CARS. THEY CONTINUE ON AS A PART OF OUR DOWNTOWN PLANNING ORGANIZATION TO ADVISE PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO WATERFRONT ASPECTS OF THE PLAN.

THEN WE HAVE THE DOWNTOWN COMMITTEE -- WHO HAVE PLEDGED TO FINANCE A PORTION OF THE TOTAL BUDGET, ACTUALLY \$110,000 OF A TOTAL BUDGET OF APPROXIMATELY \$350,000. THIS GROUP IS ALSO A REAL RESOURCE OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT DOWNTOWN PORTLAND.

IT INCLUDES UTILITIES AND BANKING EXECUTIVES, RETAIL TRADE AND REAL ESTATE PEOPLE, AND IN EACH CASE THE HEAD MAN IN A PARTICULAR FIRM. THE COMMITTEE, REALLY BY ACCIDENT BUT IT IS HELPFUL, INCLUDES THE BOARD CHAIRMEN OF THE STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT AND TRI MET, SO WE HAVE BOTH THE HIGHWAY PEOPLE AND THE MASS TRANSIT PEOPLE WELL REPRESENTED.

THERE IS A BOX FOR "DESIGN CONSULTANTS" WITH THE THOUGHT THAT AT A LATER STAGE IN THE WORK OTHER CONSULTANTS MAY BECOME INVOLVED. ALREADY PIETRO BELLUSCI HAS MET WITH US AND MAY MEET AGAIN WITH US FROM TIME TO TIME AS ARCHITECTURAL CONSIDERATIONS ARE INVOLVED.

ON THE OTHER SIDE AND IN THE SAME RELATIONSHIP TO THE PLANNERS IS THE CITIZENS ADVISORY GROUP, AND A GREAT DEAL OF THOUGHT HAS GONE INTO THIS PART OF THE ORGANIZATION. OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO MAKE IT EASY FOR ANYONE WHO HAS AN IDEA OR A QUESTION TO GET ACCESS TO THE SYSTEM, FOR WHATEVER REASON. AN OPERATING PRINCIPAL IN THIS PROGRAM, AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED, IS THAT PLANNING IS TOO IMPORTANT TO BE LEFT TO THE PLANNERS. WE NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET, AND ANYONE WITH AN IDEA IS WELCOME. IT HAS TAKEN A WHILE FOR US TO REACH THE POINT WHERE THIS COMMITTEE IS OPERATIONAL, AND IN FACT THE COMMITTEE IS ONLY NOW BEING ORGANIZED. IN JANUARY COMMISSIONER IVANCIE APPOINTED A FIVE-MEMBER COMMITTEE, HEADED

BY PROFESSOR RON CEASE AT PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY, TO DESIGN AND RECOMMEND A PROGRAM FOR CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM. IT ISN'T EASY TO GET CONSTRUCTIVE, BALANCED, PARTICIPATION BY CITIZENS. WE DON'T USUALLY DO A VERY GOOD JOB OF MAKING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WHO CARE AND HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PLANNING PROCESS. PUBLIC HEARINGS AREN'T VERY SATISFACTORY AND TEND TO BE MORE OF A FORMALITY TO BE GOTTEN OUT OF THE WAY. WE REALLY DO WANT A BROAD-BASED, VERY OPEN PROGRAM, BECAUSE WE WANT THE PLAN TO HAVE THE STATUS THAT IT CAN ONLY HAVE IF IT REPRESENTS A REAL COMMUNITY EFFORT. BASED ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF PROFESSOR CEASE, THE MAYOR WILL SHORTLY APPOINT A "CORE COMMITTEE", BUT IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE CITIZENS COMMITTEE AS CONCEIVED BY PROFESSOR CEASE AND HIS PEOPLE WILL BE LARGELY SELF-APPOINTED. THAT IS, ANYONE WHO WANTS TO BE A MEMBER IS WELCOME, SO THAT I EXPECT THE MEMBERSHIP WILL BE SOMEWHAT TRANSIENT ALTHOUGH SOME OF THE MEMBERSHIP WILL BE CONSTANT -- THIS IS WILL REPRESENT A "CORE GROUP" THAT WILL STICK WITH THE PROGRAM AND PROVIDE A CONTINUING VEHICLE FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

THE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION PLAYS ITS CUSTOMARY ROLE -- AS ADVISORS TO THE CITY COUNCIL, AND THE CITY PLANNING DIRECTOR SERVES AS A PRINCIPAL ADVISOR, OF COURSE TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION, BUT ALSO THE PLANNING TEAM. LLOYD KEEGE HAS ALWAYS

HAD A SPECIAL CONCERN FOR THE DOWNTOWN AND IS VERY GENEROUS WITH HIS TIME AND ADVICE -- IN FACT I SUSPECT HE HAS THE PLAN ALREADY IN HIS HEAD AND IS WATCHING US TO SEE HOW LONG IT TAKES US TO FIGURE IT OUT.

THIS BOX ON THE RIGHT INDICATES THOSE PUBLIC AGENCIES WHO HAVE A STAKE IN THE PLAN, AND OUR AIM IS TO COORDINATE CLOSELY WITH THEM AND TO MAKE SURE THEY ARE IN GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH WHAT WE ARE DOING.

AND FINALLY AT THE TOP -- THE CITY COUNCIL, THE ONLY BODY THAT CAN ADOPT A PLAN FOR THE CITY. THE MEASURE OF OUR SUCCESS, REALLY, WILL BE THE DEGREE THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVES THE PLAN THAT IS RECOMMENDED. OUR OBJECTIVE, OF COURSE, IS TO HAVE A PLAN THAT IS OFFICIAL -- THAT REPRESENTS THE BEST JUDGMENT, THE INTENTIONS OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND THE CITY COUNCIL WITH REGARD TO THE WAY DOWNTOWN PORTLAND SHOULD DEVELOP IN THE FUTURE.

NOW LET ME DESCRIBE THE KIND OF PLAN WE ARE PUTTING TOGETHER. WE ARE NOT QUITE HALFWAY THROUGH THIS PROJECT -- THE INITIAL PHASE OF IT -- AND THERE ISN'T A WHOLE LOT I CAN TELL YOU ABOUT WHAT THE PLAN IS GOING TO BE. BUT IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT EVERYONE UNDERSTAND WHAT KIND OF A PLAN WE ARE MAKING. WE HAVE DESCRIBED OUR PROJECT AS A "GUIDELINE PLAN", INDICATING