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September 29, 2021
Noise Review Board
Special called meeting

Present: Mary Sipe (Chair), Desi Wright (construction professional), Mike Raley (acoustics professional), Derek Trost (community member-at-large), Paul van Orden (noise control officer/nonvoting member)

Absent: Ernest Harris (community member-at-large)

Noise staff present: Michael Montoya (interim director), Kareen Perkins (livability supervisor), Katherine Couch (program coordinator), Nicholas Carroll (office support specialist)

Minutes: Katherine Couch

Mary Sipe called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Subcommittee overview

Board Chair, Mary Sipe explained that the focus of the Noise Review Board Special Meeting is to bring together members of the community and stakeholders to discuss the formation of a Noise Review Board Subcommittee to identify next steps in exploring and validating possible solutions to address community concerns related to noise from the Portland International Raceway.

Mary explained that items such as the scope of the work of the subcommittee, the timeline, frequency and number of meetings, updates to the Noise Review Board and any deliverables such as a final report and Subcommittee recommendations will all be established through the subcommittee process. Those details and exploring potential solutions will not be addressed at this meeting; that will be the work of the subcommittee.

Mary explained that all Subcommittee meetings will be public meetings and will take place on Zoom. She encouraged anyone who is unable to attend subcommittee meetings to submit comments to variances@portlandoregon.gov. The subject line on the email should read **Attention PIR subcommittee**.



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Noise Review Board deliberations

Chair Mary Sipe said the-subcommittee composition is anticipated to be Noise Review Board members, nearby neighbors experiencing the sound, subject matter experts on acoustics or racing, users, visitors of PIR, and PIR management staff.

Mary announced that the application process will begin immediately. The application will be online on September 30, 2021, and the deadline to apply is by 5:00 pm, Friday, October 8, 2021. The Selection Committee will review applications and members of the subcommittee will be announced at the next regular Noise Review Board meeting on Wednesday, October 13, 2021. The application will be available at <https://www.portland.gov/civic/noise/pir-subcommittee>.

Board Chair Mary Sipe explained that Subcommittee members will do research, analysis, and possibly other assignments. Members must be willing and able to devote the time needed to do research and analysis.

The consensus among board members present was the entire Board should be the selection committee.

Members of the Board stressed the importance of ensuring all voices are heard and a transparent, fair, and open process.

Interim Bureau Director, Michael Montoya, requested an overview of the Noise Review Board for the benefit of members of the public in attendance.

Mary Sipe explained that the Noise Review Board is a quasi-judicial body. They meet once a month to review variance applications for high impact activities and events. The board can approve, deny, and set conditions that allow the work to occur while keeping residents protected and informed as much as possible.

The Board also has the authority and responsibility to review Title 18 (Noise Code), to identify improvements, and recommend amendments to the Code. Those amendments are presented to the City Council for consideration and approval.

The subcommittee will work in the same manner. They will make recommendations to the Noise Review Board. The Noise Review Board will then review those recommendations and present a request to the City Council or Commissioner-in-Charge of the bureau for approval.

Public Testimony

Mary Sipe reminded guests that the focus of this meeting is for the formation of the subcommittee, they will have 3 minutes to ask questions and/or make suggestions about the formation and composition of the Subcommittee. The purpose of this meeting is not for sharing personal experiences with PIR and or suggested solutions.

The time and opportunity for sharing personal experiences and to offer solutions will be at the Subcommittee meetings. The subcommittee meetings will be open public meetings, and ample time will be given for Public Comments at each meeting. People can always provide written comments anytime at variances@portlandoregon.gov.

Notes on public testimony were taken by Nicholas Carroll, Office Support Specialist for the Noise Program. Notes were copied, pasted, and added to the minutes in italic form.

Present:

1. *Paul van Orden – Noise Officer*
2. *Katherine Couch – Noise Coordinator*
3. *Mary Sipe – **NRB Chair***
4. *Kareen Perkins – Livability Supervisor*
5. *Nicholas Carroll – Noise Support Specialist*
6. *Kerrie Standlee – former NRB Chair*
7. *Derek Trost – **NRB***
8. *Michael Montoya – Interim Bureau Director*
9. *Ron Huegli – PIR*
10. *Nikki Gamell – PIR*
11. *Desi Wright – **NRB***
12. *Mike Raley – **NRB***
13. *Will Howell – Commissioner Rubio's Office*
14. *Jason Henshaw*
15. *Peggy*
16. *Darrell LeBlanc*
17. *Nini Liedman*
18. *Michael Burch*
19. *Mary-Margaret Wheeler Weber*
20. *Kristine Alyse Munholland*
21. *Tyler*
22. *Angela Moos*
23. *Rick B*
24. *Mary Jaron Kelley*
25. *Judie Dunken*
26. *Maximo Behrens*
27. *Michael Morrissey*
28. *Brian Landoe*
29. *Michael Kelly*
30. *Doretta Schrock*
31. *Willwats*
32. *Greg Mintz – Office of Ken Helm*
33. *Stuart Henigson – Willamette Week reporter*
34. *Dr. Oshin*
35. *Laura Feldman*

36. Mark Wigginton
37. Ryan Pittel
38. Marty Knowles
39. Cristopher Kratzer
40. Samantha Backer
41. Kevin Savoree
42. Mike Lambert
43. Tommie
44. Patricia O'Bannon
45. Emma Pattee – Willamette Week reporter

Public Comments

Kristine Alyse Munholland – St. Johns resident for 15 years

- Different neighborhoods all need representation
- PIR has lobbying group (Friends of PIR) that does not represent residents
- Consider socio-economic differences (PIR patrons racing their cars do not live in the neighborhoods near the raceway; whereas the residents in the neighborhood are working class / not as affluent as the people who race their cars)
- Wonders how the subcommittee be limited to just 10 people
- Requests that the 2008 study on PIR to be released to the public

Mary Margaret Wheeler Weber – Portsmouth resident for 20 years

- PIR needs to modernize and use electric cars
- Submitted an email about PIR

Angela Moos – Kenton resident for 30 years

- Focus on history of different stakeholders
- Consider folks with historical background to be on the subcommittee

Michael Kelly – NW Portland resident

- Encouraged community members to share responsibility for resolving these issues, including in neighborhoods not affected by PIR

Ryan Pittel – Kenton resident since 2006

- Find a give and take relation with PIR. Believes PIR is only taking without offering anything to residents

Cristopher Kratzer – Flagger at PIR

- Be mindful of both sides
- Every applicant may have a conflict of interest
- Be even handed in the selection process

Nini Liedman – Kenton resident

- *Someone who is part of Friends of PIR would be a conflict of interest*

Marty Knowles – *Kenton resident for 11 years*

- *Kenton neighborhood is unlike any other neighborhood in Portland due to impact from PIR*

Michael Burch

- *People who have emotional investments on both sides of the issue should be considered*

Jason Henshaw – *Portsmouth resident for 30 years*

- *Asked about the time commitment expected for a subcommittee member*
- *Requests a good balance of perspectives on the subcommittee*

Mary Sipe said that the subcommittee meetings are usually a couple of hours and that if we want to make any progress, the subcommittee should probably meet more than once a month. A lot of that is going to depend on the scope of the Subcommittee. She said that what people sometimes fail to understand is that they will be asked to do work on their own time outside of meetings doing research and analysis. If a person is thinking they will just show up to a meeting once a month for an hour or two and just listen and talk they need to understand there is a bigger commitment.

Emma Pattee

- *Spoke about the article she wrote for Willamette Week and said that she hopes the focus will be not just on personal opinions about whether PIR is good or bad, but on taking a scientific approach and exploring noise mitigation.*

Brian Landoe – *Kenton resident*

- *Stated that Conflict of Interest includes people who use PIR or benefit from it financially or stand to lose money if less events are held*

Tyler – *Kenton neighborhood*

- *Complaints about PIR are viewed as a pretext for shutting down the track*
- *Suggests that subcommittee members be as independent as possible*
- *Does not want committee to be caught up in the emotional aspect of the noise*

Angela Moos (speaking again)

- *Mentioned that meeting times should consider neighborhood association meetings so that they will not be scheduled at the same times / days*

Patricia O'Bannon – *Kenton resident*

- *Requests an environmentalist be included on the subcommittee*

Mary Sipe said that she would ask the City Attorney about what constitutes a conflict of interest.

Noise Board decision

Rep Mike Raley felt the general outline of the Subcommittee composition made sense to him.

Categories might consist of stakeholders like neighbors, users and spectators of the track, and PIR staff.

Derek Trost suggested that neighborhood associations be represented by serving as consultants. He suggested requesting each neighborhood association designate a person to be assigned as a representative of their organization as a consultant to the subcommittee.

Mike Raley thought the consultant role was an excellent place to have racing clubs and other organizations supporting the track.

The composition should form a balance of members from various parties, including interested parties in the neighborhood and PIR users and visitors.

Desi Wright added that PIR staff should be included since they understand the day-to-day operations of PIR.

After board discussion about the composition of the Selection Committee and Subcommittee

Mike Raley moved:

- That a Noise Review Board Subcommittee regarding PIR be formed.
 - Subcommittee members will be representatives of the following categories:
 - Interested Noise Review Board Members
 - Neighbors impacted by PIR
 - PIR “Users i.e., racers-spectators
 - PIR Management
- That applicants who are not selected to be committee members could be asked to be consultants to the subcommittee to provide specific input, such as acoustic expertise.
- That the entire Noise Review Board will review the applications and select the members and consultants.
- That applications are due by 5:00 pm on October 8, 2021.
- That the subcommittee selection will be announced at the next Noise Review Board meeting on Wednesday, October 17, 2021.

Derek Trost suggested a friendly amendment to set aside a separate category for experts in noise as consultants.

Mike Raley will be the exception to this, as he’s applying to be on the subcommittee.

Desi Wright wanted clarification added that Noise Review Board members and PIR staff be included

Mary Sipe called the vote. Results were:

**Desi Wright “Aye,” Derek Trost “Aye,” Mike Raley “Aye,” Mary Sipe “Aye”
The motion passed unanimously 4-0**

Mary Sipe thanked the board members and everyone who attended the meeting or sent in comments. She again encouraged anyone who was not able to speak tonight or who is unable to attend Subcommittee meeting to submit written comments to variances@portlandoregon.gov. The application will be available on September 30, 2021, on the website and that the deadline to apply is 5pm October 8th.

Derek Trost moved to adjourn. Mike Raley seconded the motion.

Mary Sipe adjourned the Special Session of the Noise Review Board at 7:20 pm

