



Albina Neighborhood Improvement Committee

111 N.E. Failing St.
Portland 12, Oregon
ATLantic 8-4959

March 13, 1961

Dear Neighbor:

After years of discussion, workshops and planning by persons who live and work in the Albina Neighborhood, the Albina Neighborhood Improvement Committee has been formed to determine what action can be taken to develop an improvement program for Albina Neighborhood.

Since October 1960, an eighteen member committee, composed of Mrs. R. M. Beson, Mr. Frank Brown, Mr. Arthur Cox, Mrs. Irene Cranford, Mr. James Crolley, Mrs. Julia Ganter, Rev. T. X. Graham, Mr. Herbert Hale, Mr. John Holley, Mrs. Carolyn McDonald, Mrs. N. B. Parr, Mr. Lloyd Rainwater, Mrs. Cleophas Smith, Father Mel Stead, Rev. O. B. Williams, Mr. Willie Whitley, Mrs. Earl Winslow and me, has been working to gain the cooperation of city and Federal officials, to assist the property owners, residents and neighborhood groups in carrying out specific improvement activities:

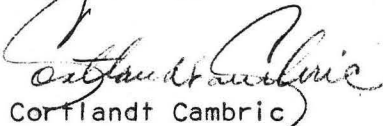
- (1) As a result of talking to Mr. Rosenthal, City Engineer, about improving streets and street cleaning, we have requested a survey of the condition of neighborhood streets to determine what specific improvements are needed so that it will be possible to have more adequate street cleaning service.
- (2) After discussing additional street lighting with Mr. Hamilton of the City Street Light Bureau, we have sponsored street light petitions which have been submitted to Commissioner Bean.
- (3) We have met with the members of the Portland Development Commission and have received assistance from their staff in gathering information and preparing maps. If the people of the neighborhood are interested in making improvements, the Portland Development Commission has agreed to prepare an application to the Federal Government for urban renewal conservation funds. Under this part of the urban renewal program the objective is to preserve and improve existing structures. Removal of individual structures is undertaken only when the owner feels that the cost of improvements would be excessive when compared to the value gained by improving the structure.
- (4) At our request and with the cooperation of home owners, Federal Housing Administration personnel inspected sample homes in the area and have reported that they will be willing to guarantee mortgages for home improvement loans within an urban renewal conservation project.
- (5) Federal officials from the Housing and Home Finance Agency have reviewed the area and have encouraged application for Federal urban renewal funds to help finance improvement of public facilities and to make the area eligible for FHA Section 220 and 221 mortgage insurance for home improvement loans.

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The committee members have spent a great deal of time during the past five months gathering information and learning of assistance available to help you improve your neighborhood. Now we would like to talk to you: To see what improvements you feel are needed, to explain what improvements are possible through organized action with your neighbors, and to learn whether you are interested and willing to participate in a program to improve the homes, public services and public facilities in your neighborhood.

To discuss this with you, we are preparing to conduct a door-to-door survey within the next two or three weeks. The proposed Albina Neighborhood Improvement Project tentatively includes the area bounded by North Fremont, Vancouver, Skidmore and the north-south alley between Albina and Mississippi streets. Because your home is located in this thirty-five block area, we are seeking your cooperation and assistance. We solicit your comments, suggestions and ideas for improving your neighborhood. If you would be willing to assist the committee or are interested in the work of the committee, please complete the enclosed card and drop it in a mailbox today.

Yours truly,



Corflandt Cambric
Chairman



Albina Neighborhood Improvement Committee

August 3, 1961

3726 North Kerby Avenue
Portland 17, Oregon
ATLantic 2 - 2214

Information Bulletin Number 11

Dear Neighbor:

On March 13, we sent you a letter to explain the purpose and organization of the Albina Neighborhood Improvement Committee (ANIC). We also requested your cooperation and assistance in carrying out a survey so that we could explain the possibilities of neighborhood improvement and learn whether you feel a coordinated improvement program would be worthwhile.

On July 20, ANIC held an evening meeting and there was a large turnout of committee members. Many interested persons from the area were also members of the audience. Mrs. Irene Cranford, a Committee member, gave a report on the survey which was completed in the area. She related that three hundred thirty-five (335) households were contacted and seventy-five percent of these families were willing to participate in the improvement program. In addition to these, twenty-three percent of the other families were also in favor of developing block and neighborhood citizen organization to solve neighborhood problems, and only two percent of the families who were contacted did not answer the questions of the interviewers.

Mrs. Cranford also reported that the residents felt the block and neighborhood citizens organizations could improve health and safety conditions by working on:

1. Traffic hazards
2. Inadequate street lighting and sweeping
3. Trees and shrubs which need trimming
4. Rodent Control
5. Cleaning of vacant lots
6. Cleaning of alleys
7. The need for a park area

The need for a park area, means to solve inadequate street lighting and sweeping, and control of rodents were the problems that people felt were most prevalent.

Upon completion of the survey, members of ANIC met with the Portland Development Commission staff to discuss the results. Thereafter, this information was included in a survey and planning application for the proposed Albina Neighborhood Improvement Project. At the July 20 meeting, ANIC discussed the application with the staff of the Portland Development Commission. Following the discussion, ANIC members approved a resolution asking the Development Commission to give official approval to the application for funds to make detailed plans for the project. The Committee also approved a resolution directing me, as Chairman, to request prompt and favorable consideration of the project by the City Council.

As you may have heard, the Portland Development Commission and City Planning Commission both approved the application on July 24. City Council has also given final local approval. Upon approval of this application by the Federal Government, funds will then be made available to move ahead with detailed plans to solve problems in the area bounded by Fremont, Vancouver, Skidmore and the north-south alley between Albina and Mississippi. Also, a neighborhood Information Center will be established so that you will be able to ask questions and obtain consultation about your improvement problems.

The members of the Committee wish to thank you for your help in making the survey a success. Your willingness to discuss your neighborhood with us first-hand has given us a better understanding of your ideas and needs. In order to meet these needs, ANIC has asked for official assistance from the City Government. In addition to such local and Federal Government aid as can be gained from the Urban Renewal Program, all of us who live in the neighborhood will have a part to play in the neighborhood improvement program. We urge you to become informed about the program by attending our committee meetings. We also urge you to work with your neighbors in solving common problems in your block. The Committee will provide assistance to help you set up a block organization and will work with your group to gain the assistance of city officials.

If you have any questions concerning the Albina Neighborhood Improvement Program, please contact a Committee member or call AT 8-4959.

Yours very truly,

Reverend Cortlandt Cambric, Chairman
Albina Neighborhood Improvement Committee

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