



Metro | Meeting minutes

Meeting: Equity Strategy Advisory Committee
Date: Monday, January 6, 2014
Time: 3 to 5 p.m.
Place: Metro Regional Center, Rooms 370A & B, 600 NE Grand Ave, Portland, 97232
Purpose: Discussion and approve operating principles and staff recommendations on Baseline Workgroup additions; continue work on Metro's equity definition

Attendees

Equity strategy advisory committee	Carl Talton, Chair; Vice Chair; Pam Treece, Kirsten Kilchenstein, Philip Wu, Judi Martin, Julia Meier, Ben Duncan
Metro	Scott Robinson, Deputy COO; Pietro Ferrari, Peggy Morell, Cassie Salinas, Valerie Cuevas
Facilitator	Joan Brown-Kline, Brown-Kline Consulting

Absent

Sydney Webb, Rey España, Daniel Vázquez, Virginia Nguyen, Betty Dominguez, Joseph Berezhinskiy

Part 1: Committee Business

Carl Talton welcomed everyone and briefly reviewed the agenda.

Review, discuss and approval of operating principles

Pietro Ferrari introduced the combined document *Charter, Purpose and Operating Principles* that joined the advisory committee's adopted charter and authority document with the draft operating principles developed at the last two committee meetings. Combining the documents adds clarity. Present members voiced approval for adoption and Carl Talton tabled final approval until later in the meeting in case other members showed up and had additional comments.

Staff recommendations to accommodate additional community groups to Baseline Workgroup

Pietro Ferrari reviewed the structure of the Baseline Workgroup that was formed by awarding six \$15,000 contracts to community organizations through a competitive procurement process. The awarded organizations are Adelante Mujeres, APANO, Center for Intercultural Organizing, Coalition for a Livable Future, OPAL, and Urban League of Portland. Adelante Mujeres is primarily an economic development agency working with the female Latino community in Washington County. Coalition for a Livable Future and the Urban League of Portland are primarily civic engagement and leadership development focused which also describes APANO, which works with the Asian communities, OPAL, which focuses on environmental justice, and Center for Intercultural Organizing, which works with immigrant and refugee communities.

The advisory committee has charged staff to explore the possibility to add more representation to this group for Latino, Native American and Slavic communities. Two options for committee consideration are: A) Select 2 to 4 organizations for a direct award of \$5,000 each to participate in

the engagement piece of the Baseline Workgroup; or B) Award 2 organizations \$15,000 each through a targeted competitive procurement process to participate fully in the Baseline Workgroup.

The Baseline Workgroup launched in December and has been working in 2 subgroups: 1) The indicators subgroup will help identify and organize indicators, categorizing them by the region's desired outcomes; 2) The feasibility assessment sub-group will help identify measurement and data gaps with the existing indicators and help develop a feasibility report that outlines the scale of effort needed to maintain the Equity Baseline over time. The entire Baseline Workgroup meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

Philip Wu asked if both the \$15,000 and \$5,000 contract options could be targeted and Pietro Ferrari responded positively that both processes could be targeted within the procurement standards in place to fill specific gaps. Julia Meier voiced reservations for the \$5,000 option because it creates 2 tiers within the group and it is often difficult for organizations to come in at the end of a process when impact is lessened. Carl Talton asked about the previously floated option of adding outreach to specific communities to the scope of work of the 6 organizations awarded. This option was presented to the Baseline Workgroup but organizations responded that they did not have that capacity and with contract monies being spent quickly, Metro could not increase the contracted amount to possibly boost that capacity.

Scott Robinson highlighted that the Baseline Workgroup's tasks of evaluating and testing indicators of equity with the region's communities depends on the advisory committee's definition of equity relating to the 5 regional outcomes. The program timeline calls for completion of the final Equity Baseline Report in July 2014. All Baseline Workgroup's deliverables will be reviewed by the advisory committee.

Pietro Ferrari summed up the discussion as the advisory committee's preference for a new targeted procurement process for two \$15,000 contracts to represent the Native American, Slavic and Latino communities with a 45 day turnaround time, understanding that the two newly awarded organizations will have some catching up to do when they join the Baseline Workgroup.

Part 2: Workshop session: Defining Equity

Peggy Morell reviewed the committee's work done so far to inform the working definition of equity. Handouts summarizing the committee's discussions on vision, values, challenge and opportunity were reviewed. Ben Duncan's comments on the Response exercise emailed to the committee inspired the committee's conversation.

Carl Talton pointed out the affinity of Ben Duncan's response to the Community Investment Initiative's (CII) shared challenge and response statement. Pam Treece called to mind Metro's authority as granted in the charter and asked for framing Metro as a convener for equity in the region, creating an open space for collaboration. Julia Meier echoed sentiment that a definition needs to be broad enough for stakeholder communities and jurisdictions. Carl Talton explained that the CII drew from the Oregon Business Plan and asked if there was something similar that Metro could draw on to unite jurisdictions. Judi Martin suggested the Oregon Educational Investment Board's equity lens.

Pietro Ferrari guided the committee to consider the 9 example definitions of equity from organizations around the region as a jumping off point for composing Metro's definition. Julia Meier agreed, noting that many of these example definitions draw on each other and were composed by robust and diverse processes; Julia Meier recommended the Coalition for a Livable Future (CLF) definition as a starting point. Pam Treece commented that the CLF's definition opening implied ownership by constituents instead of Metro. Philip Wu pointed out that the CLF definition missed an assignment of accountability and that may be a tough point. Scott Robinson responded that

assigning accountability would be a next step to defining equity and the definition is more about defining where we want to land as a region and not just an agency in the same spirit of the 6 desired regional outcomes. Pam Treece similarly pointed out that the authority piece would come later through MPAC and JPACT and that the definition should focus on an input model to make the road smoother.

Kirsten Kilchenstein shared preference for the Northwest Health Foundation's (NHF) definition, especially the second sentence about self determination which came up in the committee's values exercise. Julia Meier noted that the use of "health" in the NHF definition may not be broad enough for Metro's purposes. Ben Duncan and Julia Meier suggested starting with the CLF definition because it incorporates the NHF definition already.

Philip Wu asked the group if a shorter or longer definition was desired. Ben Duncan commented that the CLF definition is more of a narrative, expanding on a definition. Pam Treece asked the committee to consider the target audience and that a more elaborated definition may be provided to the Baseline Workgroup to inform their tasks and a final definition could be refined for publishing. Scott Robinson reminded the committee that the definition of equity would ultimately define what equity means as one of the 6 desired regional outcomes. Peggy Morell noted that the definition of equity may want to reflect Metro's federal requirements of accessibility and meaningful engagement

Philip Wu, noting that the first 2 paragraphs of the CLF definition were more mission and program statements, suggested combining the NHF definition with the second part of the CLF definition. Kirsten Kilchenstein suggested that the CLF definition bullet points could be revised to relate back to the other 5 desired regional outcomes. The committee showed enthusiasm for taking that approach as the starting point for refinements.

Pietro Ferrari summarized the discussion and next steps. The committee will work through the NWF definition and the second part of the CLF definition, incorporating the concerns shared here at this meeting with refinement to inform the other 5 desired regional outcomes at the next committee meeting. Developing a tagline may be considered at a later date.

Review, discuss and approval of operating principles

Carl Talton reopened discussion from the beginning of the meeting on committee adoption of the combined charter and operating principles. Julia Meier opened discussion on the need to clarify that committee members were not formally representing organizations they work for or are affiliated with. Carl Talton commented that this clarification would take care of the misunderstandings that resulted in some advisory committee affiliated organizations not applying for the Baseline Workgroup contracts. A clarifying line will be added to the charter, section F, to state that committee members represent themselves and not their affiliated organizations and the document will be considered adopted.

Closing business and next steps

Pietro Ferrari shared that the Baseline Workgroup showed interest in getting together with the the advisory committee and asked the committee for their thoughts. Joint meetings may lead to role confusion as the Baseline Workgroup's role is very specific and delivers work for the advisory committee's consideration. Pietro Ferrari suggested that future Baseline Workgroup updates could be delivered to the advisory committee directly by a representative from the Baseline Workgroup. Julia Meier also suggested representatives from the Baseline Workgroup could present at the joint sub-committee.

Pietro Ferrari, Carl Talton and Scott Robinson will present an update to MPAC on the equity strategy program the evening of Feb. 26. MPAC is a public meeting and the committee is invited to

attend. All MPAC agenda, minutes and meeting packets are posted online at www.oregonmetro.gov/mpac.

Next meeting

The next advisory committee meeting is **Wednesday, Jan. 29, 3 to 5 p.m.** A telephone conference call option will be available for those who cannot attend in person and that information will be sent via email with the meeting agenda.