

Meeting minutes



Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Meeting: Committee on Racial Equity Meeting
Date/time: Thursday, July 19, 2018
Time: 6 to 8 p.m.
Place: Metro Council Chamber, 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland, OR 97232
Purpose: Continue the work of the Committee on Racial Equity

Attendees

Co-Chairs: Sharon Gary-Smith

CORE Members: Donna Maxey, Martine Coblentz, Duncan Hwang, Patricia Kepler, Shweta Moorthy, Dele Oyemaja, Effie Stansbery, Kari Herinckx and Karla Hernandez

CORE Liaisons: Metro Councilors Shirley Craddick and Sam Chase

Metro staff: Raahi Reddy, Nyla Moore, Margi Bradway, Andre, Cassie Salinas, Noelle Dobson, Pierre Hauo

Guest: Kevin Thomas

Absent: Laura John, Daisy Quiñonez, Katie Sawicki, María Caballero Rubio

Welcome

Sharon called the meeting to order and asked the CORE members and guests present to introduce themselves by saying their names, affiliation and preferred gender pronoun.

Public comment – Members of the public

No public comment was offered.

Introduction of Andrew Scott, Metro Deputy Chief Operating Officer

Sharon Introduces Andrew Scott, Metro's new Deputy Chief Operating Officer. Andrew comes to Metro from the City of Portland where he oversaw the development of Portland's \$4.2 billion annual budget and championed equity as a lens in making fiscal policy decisions.

Andrew shared his excitement about the work happening in diversity, equity and inclusion and the work he's been able to be a part of in his three weeks with the agency.

Presentation of the Metro Planning & Development Department's racial equity action plan – Margi Bradway and Andre, Planning and Development

Raahi reminded the CORE members that this is the second presentation from Metro's Planning and Development department about their department and the work they have done to create a racial equity action plan.

Margi reminded CORE of Elissa's presentation on the racist history of urban planning in Portland, areas of focus for Planning & Development and what their department does. She also mentioned addressing some of CORE's feedback and suggestions from the last meeting.

Vision Statement (see presentation)
Shared the P&D vision statement,

Guiding Principles

Power, influence, innovation, culture, accountability

Questions:

Councilor Craddick: how do we know when racial equity is achieved?

Andre: when race is no longer a factor for success.

Duncan: work of the planning dept. leads to disparities communities are facing. I want to know innovation has led to change on the ground. At the end of the day power is built.

Sharon: intention and purpose for power to see the breakdown in progress

Areas of influence

The four pillars of P&D work. Margi asked that the CORE members think about actions they would like to see. They are not presenting actual actions today. The feedback from this meeting will inform the final actions in their plan.

Regulation and Policy

This includes:

Metro has power in the regulatory function but it is limited with state law. Persuasive power used to persuade partners to come on board on equity for the region. Plan (?) will be adopted in December 2018. Will require people to share how new projects move equity forward. Have done work to diversify the committees. Not the same authority at JPACT because it is federally created with elected officials.

Land and Infrastructure

This includes:

TOD-add affordable housing and mixed use development. Actively committed to derail displacement with the development of new rail lines. If the referral for housing passes in November we will be able to move forward with plans.

Funding and Finance

This includes:

Provide funding to cities, schools and nonprofits for transportation outcomes. All grants have criteria for equity and how communities of color will benefit. Title one schools with high crash networks. There's a correlation that has been mapped and P&D is trying to make the areas safer with Safe Routes to School. Hard to do quick effective grants when the money is attached to federal dollars.

Community Capital

This includes;

People who use the infrastructure are as important as the places they use. Community Placemaking Grants to create place and culture for their community. Gave examples of the Tongan, Native American and African American community grant holders. Regional snapshot is a communication tool on line.

Question:

Donna: SW Corridor to Tigard will go through low income, how much housing will be added in comparison to what is lost due to construction?

Margi: we will be adding to housing not taking any away.

Affordable housing for rentals or purchase?

Councilor Chase: when you create transit corridors you see gentrification happen. Usually there is no strategy to not have this happen. See what the impacts would be and identify strategies to address the issues. Affordable housing before transportation initiative. 10% to be used to acquire land along the corridor before transit is built.

Martine: how much displacement will take place?

Andre: in public comment period. The approach is to have the least amount of impact

Margi: shared they could have the project team come back if there is interest

Shweta: shared CCC work in WA County

Margi: P&D is working with groups (SWEDs program)

Sharon: engaging African populations in the area without translation

Donna: pictures on the page?

Andre: before and after road with improvements, will send exact location in a follow up

Duncan: Asked for P&D to send out information on how much money is in each bucket and where the funding comes from

Margi: some are funded in the three year...

Martine: safe routes to school?

Margi: constrained list 1-10 lightly 11-20 (?) and beyond has no funding. Have to be on the list to get any funding at all.

Martine: do we know where these projects fall for funding in the constrained list?

Margi:

Prioritization

CORE members' feedback:

Presentation of Impact Evaluation Project (Scotty Ellis, Shweta Moorthy, Kari Herinckx)

The plan is to update members on the project and find out the best ways to connect back to the group.

Background

This project helps to evaluate the strategic plan. There has not been a successful way to measure equity especially from quantitative standpoint. The project asks what the impact looks like when the goal is reached and what measures will help us indicate the success.

Outcomes for this project is to establish metrics to success for the strategic plan and assess impact of the agency's equity efforts. Additional opportunities for this project are that it could help to establish an agency-wide evaluation approach and help to build staff capacity for impact evaluation.

Participants include 35 Metro staff representing 10 departments, 10 community members, five of which are on CORE. The project began on October 31, 2017 and is projected to be completed early 2019. A cohort learning approach is used.

Project stages

Participants were dispersed by goal. Project stages include intention, inquiry and implications. Developed impact statements to answer the question what the impact would look like if successful.

The presenters had an educational background that lacked a racial equity lens. Not just quantitative but necessary for storytelling. Classroom setting. There was a gap between i

Spending time being intentional about the process. A small group is developing a guiding document to use as a blueprint moving forward.

First, Metro staff assumed that putting the racial equity experts in the room with evaluation experts would be able to move forward. We found that could not happen without everyone being grounded in racial equity. Secondly, we wanted to take advantage of all of the opportunities and brought staff into the room that should not have been there. This watered down the process. Thirdly, we are being more intentional and trying to be clearer about the roles and power.

Metro brought in an external expert on similar racial equity evaluation work to help with the intention document and consult the small group on how to move the work forward.

Questions & Feedback

Bring updates to general meetings or use periodic email updates

Dele asked if they were surprised that not all staff members had a similar understanding of racial equity.

Updates and next steps, Raahi Reddy

- Community event with CORE- Thursday, September 20, 2018 CORE meeting (East Portland) (with Bridges and Momentum as well as other partners who gave community input on the racial equity plans
- Nominations process for selecting new co-chairs
- December CORE/Council work session—December 4, 2-4pm
- Updated work plan –retreat Jan 2019
- Nathan Baptiste’s departure.
- Oliviah Walker’s departure
- Next CORE meeting on Thursday, September 20

Consideration of the minutes from the May 17, 2018 CORE meeting – Sharon Gary-Smith

Sharon called the CORE members’ attention to the minutes from the May 17 meeting, which they received in the meeting packet. Maria asked for a motion and then for a second, and then called the vote. Martine moved. Duncan seconded. And the members approved the minutes.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Nyla Moore