

Meeting minutes

Meeting: Committee on Racial Equity Meeting
Date/time: Thursday, May 17, 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-Chair: María Caballero Rubio

CORE Members: Donna Maxey, Martine Coblentz, Duncan Hwang, Laura John, Patricia Kepler, Shweta Moorthy, Dele Oyemaja, Daisy Quiñonez, Katie Sawicki, Effie Stansbery and Olivia Walker

CORE Liaisons: Metro Councilors Shirley Craddick and Sam Chase

Metro staff: Raahi Reddy, Nyla Moore, Elissa Gertler, Margi Bradway, Andre, Andy, Martha Bennett, Cassie Salinas, Juan Carlos Ocana-Chiu, Noelle Dobson

Absent: Sharon Gary-Smith, Kari Herinckx and Karla Hernandez

Welcome

Public comment – Members of the public

No public comment was offered.

Appreciation for CORE members – Patricia Kepler and Laura John – Raahi Reddy to lead

This past month, two CORE members stepped up and helped on projects that were out of their traditional scope as a CORE members.

First, earlier in May, Metro held a series of conversations with a diverse group of people who either identified as a person with a disability, care for people with disabilities or advocate on behalf of this community to help inform Metro's accessibility work. Metro couldn't have done this work without the care and support of Patricia Kepler.

She was instrumental to helping ensure the community engagement conversations were inclusive and inviting and helped co-lead 90 minute conversations keeping them interactive!

And, she helped recruit people in her network – lots of Patricia fans out in the community!

A big thanks to Patricia for all she did to make these events successful and push Metro to be more inclusive.

Second, thanks to Laura John for elevating an important issue for Metro Council to recognize and on Thursday, May 3, Metro council stood with other tribal, local, regional, state and national governments and organizations in support of National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls on May 5, 2018.

American Indian and Alaska Native women are 2.5 times more likely to experience violent crimes – and at least twice as likely to experience rape or sexual assault crimes – compared to all other races, according to a 2013 National Congress of American Indian Policy Research Center report.

Public comment – Members of the public***This is a time for members of the public in attendance to provide comments on any subjects related to the Committee on Racial Equity (CORE)***

There were no public comments.

Presentation of the Metro Planning & Development Department's racial equity action plan – Elissa Gertler and Margi Bradway, P&D

This was the first presentation from Metro's Planning and Development department about their department and the work they have done to create a racial equity action plan. Elissa Gertler, Planning and Development director and Margi Bradway, Deputy Planning and Development director presented details, answered questions, and obtained feedback from the CORE members.

Presentation:

Elissa discussed urban planning and the importance of addressing the history of what has happened because of planning in Portland. She showed a PowerPoint presentation and displayed pictures of interstate 5 being built across North Portland and images of North Williams Avenue and the JADE district.

The 2040 Plan was adopted in 1995. It is a 50 year vision to monitor growth in an environmental way. It uses community engagement while developing the plan to identify shared values. Roots in transportation include adding the MAX blue line and the waterfront park. Shared a quote from Tamika Butler that shared the sentiment of gentrification in North Portland.

About the Planning & Development Department (P&D)

What they do: Federal Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), they manage statewide planning requirements including the urban growth boundary, regional programs, and partnership with counties, cities and communities.

How decisions are made: There state and federal laws that guide the work. The Metro Council, JPACT/TPAC (transportation), MPAC/MTAC (land use), project steering committees and grant screening committees guide the work of the department. A goal of P&D is to increase inclusivity within those committees. Grants are recommended to the council by community experts, not staff.

Areas of influence: (Re: tree image) the roots represent policy goals and convey their intentions, the trunk represents programs and investments, outcomes are the branches, and the leaves are places we love around the region.

Regional livability trust: (see image from presentation) policies and regulation, land and infrastructure, funding and finance and community capital.

Case studies:

- **Policies and regulation:** The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) 2018 takes two years to plan. The focus this year was on equity, P&D held regional forums, gathered online public input, held 18 meetings with the Transportation Equity Work Group. They discussed jobs, how the high crash corridor and communities of color overlapped on a map, and that community input is important.

Community shared that they should lead with equity, prioritize jobs, and look at safe transportation.

- **Land and infrastructure:** urban growth boundary, equitable housing, transit oriented development, investment areas (SW corridor)
- **Funding and finance:** safe routes to school
- **Community capital:** community placemaking grants, arts and culture to make community based decisions on place.

How we work: culturally specific partnerships

Who we are: 50 staff, 8 managers, ~10% people of color

Alignment with Racial equity Goals

- **Use influence:** Intentionally direct tools, resources, processes and decisions in areas of influence to improve outcomes for people of color
- **Change culture:** Become more reflective of the community we serve by hiring and advancing people of color in the department, in the region, and in the field of urban planning
- **Access to power:** Empower people of color to co create and participate in advisory and decision making processes
- **Keep moving:** Establish new practices with a foundation of racial equity; retire outdated practices and approaches
- **Be accountable:** Ensure that we hold ourselves and allow others to hold us accountable for accomplishing our racial equity goals

Feedback and discussions from CORE members:

Laura shared that of all the departments that have presented planning seems to have their work together the most. Donna shared her thoughts on what happened to the Albina community and asked how far in advance does planning & development plan and what are their plans to bring back that community. Donna followed up to ask about the aging population. Elissa replied they can plan for that work.

Typical our range of planning also called “long range” planning is 20-30 years, we need to clearly address this in our racial equity plan as well discuss ways to have more immediate equitable impacts. We need to build relationships with community members from Albina to strategize ways to move forward.

Duncan appreciated the clarity and wants to explore the theory of change (tree image) and work shown to be happening. He asked, how are you taking history and applying this to all grant and committee work you do? Elissa answered that the emphasis is on the people and using the influence to improve outcomes for people of color. Access to power, governance and decision making.

Martine shared that P&D forecasts demographics, looking at a 20 year plan, and asked how you help partners understand the work you do is for the future.

The best way to do this is through graphical explanations, there is a really awesome chart that shows demographics by age and race and it makes it very visually clear that the Metro-region of 2040 will look a lot different than the populations we see today.

***Presentation of the Metro Housing Bond project – Andy Shaw, Emily Lieb, Metro
Cassie can help facilitate questions/discussion after the presentation if Andy
needs it.***

Andy Shaw presented a map of rental increases from 2011-2015. There is 40-71% increases in North Portland. The reason for this is that the building of housing stopped and people kept moving into the area. There is not enough housing to support the population growth. The Metro bond measure would raise capital funds to fund the construction of new homes and acquire existing homes and land to get ahead of cost increases and ahead of potential displacement.

Metro convened two tables, technical and stakeholder groups, to develop a framework of how to invest in housing. Andy showed the summary of stakeholder values regarding racial equity, people we serve (seniors, people of color, least served by the market), the places affordable homes should be targeted, the need for program funding in addition to capital resources, and how to keep per unit pricing down. It costs more money to build more deeply affordable homes and larger bedroom-size units.

The community partnership program gave grants to partners totaling \$110,000. Those partners held community discussion groups, workshops, leadership development, canvassing and home visits. Overall impact is the total homes versus the total people. Metro is recommending a \$516.5 million bond in November. A constitutional amendment on the same ballot proposes to give more flexibility for how to get housing. If both measures pass, the bond could build 3200 homes and serve 10K people.

There will be distribution of homes around the region 21% in Clackamas, 45% in Multnomah County, 34% in Washington County. Factors included housing need, opportunity and population. 10% of the funding will be used to acquire land and 90% will go out to local partners. Four cities and three counties will decide where to build the homes. Metro will need agreements with all of those jurisdictions but want to have flexibility.

Next steps: Close to the end of the work. Final stakeholder meeting on Monday, May 21. COO is preparing a recommendation that will go to the Metro Council, based on all the work, input, and advice from the technical and stakeholder tables, as well as the broader public engagement. There will be a presentation to MPAC on Wednesday, May 23.

Feedback and discussion:

Dele asked why IRCO wasn't involved and that the immigrant population was missing. Andy admitted that the process was quickly assembled and that they could have used more time to advertise funds and partners to do the work. Community partners applied for the funding, Metro did not seek them out.

Daisy shared tenants have been against leading with racial equity. Andy welcomed support to make change across the region especially in Clackamas County. Metro will use intergovernmental

agreements with city/county partners. Project based funds will be implemented by local governments.

Shweta asked about how racial equity showed up. And to breakdown MFI. Andy replied that the focus on building homes that are deeply affordable (30% and lower MFI), a commitment to larger sized units (2, 3, 4 bedroom units), and the spread of units across the region were a few of the elements that respond directly to a focus on racial equity. Other key steps to addressing racial equity will take place during the implementation process, including where buildings are located and how they are designed, the screening criteria for who is to be served, and how communities of color are engaged in the local selection process.

Laura shared that they have to look at the community people have created within their communities. And spoke to the accountability of community organizations doing the work and making sure actual community members are involved and they are doing the work they agreed to instead of just getting money to pay the bills. Laura believes Metro should also be discussing how to raise wages and gain access to higher paying jobs versus only addressing affordable housing. She suggests creating innovative systems and addressing the additional costs that come along with creating affordable housing. Laura shared that access to housing is a human right and that is missing from the list of core values for this work. Housing is just as fundamental as education. Renting versus buying was not addressed and there needs to be ways to move up the economic ladder. Some idea to consider are to create accessible home buying, partner with Tribes are who have access to federal dollars and consider models around the world outside of the western paradigm.

Next steps – Raahi Reddy, DEI

- Internal Policies and Work Culture Subcommittee meeting on Monday, June 11 at Metro
- External policies subcommittee meeting on Monday, June 18 at Metro
- Next CORE meeting on Thursday, July 19

Consideration of the minutes from the Mar. 15, 2018 CORE meeting – Sharon Gary-Smith

Maria called the CORE members' attention to the minutes from the March 15 meeting, which they received in the meeting packet. Maria asked for a motion and then for a second, and then call the vote. Patricia moved. Dele seconded. And the members approved the minutes.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Nyla Moore