



Meeting summary

Meeting: Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants Pilot Program Design and Review
Committee Meeting #1

Date: Tuesday, January 4, 2022

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Place: Zoom

Purpose: Orientation, Committee Establishment and Visioning Exercise

Outcome(s): Introduce committee to each other, establish working agreements and decision-making processes, establish vision for committee work

Recording: <https://vimeo.com/684754357/999b12f222>

Attendees

Committee Members

Kevin Hughes
Alisa Chen
Jairaj Singh
Blanca Gaytan Farfan
Jeffrey Lee
Theresa Huang

Staff

Andrew Scott, Metro
Humberto Marquez Mendes, Metro
Crista Gardner, Metro
Brandon Goldner, Metro
Gabrielle Brown, Metro (PSU Fellow)
Allison Brown, JLA Public Involvement
Ariella Frishberg, JLA Public Involvement
Amanda Hudson, Participatory Budgeting Oregon (PBO)

Absent

Anthony M. Bradley

Welcome and Introductions

Allison Brown, JLA Public Involvement, began the meeting by reviewing Zoom tools and etiquette. She then introduced Andrew Scott, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, who welcomed the group, gave a land acknowledgment, and some project context. After reviewing the agenda, attendees were given an opportunity to introduce themselves to the group.

Meeting summary



Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Overview and discussion of program scope and schedule

Crista Gardner, Metro, gave an overview of the committee's goals, timeline, and scope. Members of the committee felt this reflected their understanding of the work they had signed up for.

- Q: How much of the actual work are committee members going to be doing, versus Metro staff facilitating and guiding?
 - A: This committee is a recommending body on how the program should proceed. Metro staff will take what we hear from you and try and translate it into documents that will be shared with Metro Council. There are opportunities for committee members to be more involved, but it is not expected.
- Q: What happens if the committee puts in all of this work and then Metro Council doesn't put our recommendations into place? Is there an accountability tool?
 - A: Metro staff are here to listen to this committee. Metro Council are the ultimate decision makers. As staff, our role will be to document and report out what you've shared.
 - A: This is a question we should continue to come back to.
- Q: What does communication look like, especially how are you communicating about the work we're doing out to other parts of Metro?
 - A: There is an interest in potentially applying this pilot model to other departments and areas. Staff will be sharing with other departments at Metro both formally (via memos, among other tools) and informally (through regular check ins, among other methods).
- Q: Will there be a broader effort to do community engagement or are we representing the community in these meetings?
 - A: Both. You are serving as representatives of the community and we will also be doing additional community outreach.
- Q: Allison Brown asked committee members to share what support they'd like from staff and how they'd prefer to receive communications?
 - A: Adequate time to prepare and digest information before meetings.
 - Metro will share links to the Sharefile where committee members can download files as they get uploaded.
 - Metro has a lot of resources and it would be helpful to understand what those are and how to access them.
 - There are two full time staff devoted to this work specifically – Crista and Gabrielle.
 - After the meeting, Metro will share out a list of staff and resources that are connected to this program.
 - Allison is available to answer questions and problem solve around process-related challenges or issues.

Operating Rules and Working Agreements: Discussion

The group reconvened after a brief break. Humberto Marquez Mendez, Metro, and Allison Brown presented on initial community agreements. After talking through each one, Allison asked committee members if they would like to add or change any agreements.

- Change “Step up/step up” to “Move up/move up” and “Take space, make space”
- Hold a brave space and speak truth to power
- We commit to working towards solutions – same team, and here together
- Be open to new ideas, approaches: lots of things are possible!

Allison Brown took a “temperature check” to see how committee members feel about the list of agreements. There was general agreement from the group that they were okay with the agreements and ready to keep moving.

Next, the group discussed the process for group decision making. Allison proposed a “modified consensus” approach for decision making.

- A committee member suggested the “Stepladder Method,” a technique for consensus building that can help avoid group think. This process can be time consuming, so it was suggested it could be used for specific kinds of decisions.

Allison took a temperature check and the group agreed to use the modified consensus model for the time being.

Next Steps and Closing

Crista Gardner thanked Allison Brown and the committee members for their time both during the meeting and in preparing for the meeting. Allison reviewed upcoming tasks for committee members and staff:

- Committee members should check their calendars and confirm 4:30-6:30pm on every other Tuesday.
 - February 1st is Chinese New Year and does not work for at least one committee member
 - One committee member has a conflict on the first Tuesday of every month
 - Staff will send an agenda and reading materials beforehand – the goal is to have it to members a week beforehand but because of the frequency of meetings there may not be that much lead time.
 - Metro staff will be putting together the list of resources available to committee members, including a list of who to contact about what.

Next Meeting

January 18th, 4:30-6:30.

Appendix A: Zoom Meeting Chat

Ariella Frishberg, she/her, JLA: Name, pronouns, where you're joining us from, and a time you had a say in a government decision

Allison Brown (she/her): We'll go to Kevin, Blanca and Amanda next

Allison Brown (she/her): **Also staff! When it's your turn, please share your role in this project

Allison Brown (she/her): Up next: Jairaj, Humberto and Gabrielle

Allison Brown (she/her): Let's go to Jeffrey, Crista, and Ariella next

Alisa Chen (they/them): I have to head out now- I'm looking forward to working with y'all!

Allison Brown (she/her): HI Theresa: welcome! We're doing introductions, with our names, pronouns, where we're joining from in the region, and a time that we had a say in the government decision

Allison Brown (she/her): We'll go to Brandon and Theresa next

Allison Brown (she/her): And Andrew to finish up!

Ariella Frishberg, she/her, JLA: oh, and I'm in SE Portland - Jade District

Jeffrey Lee (he/him) - EDRR/NA/BIOSCI: OOPS! I'm also in SE Portland - Brentwood Park represent!

Allison Brown (she/her): Jeffrey we're neighbors!

Kevin Hughes - (he/him): Getting info beforehand (in moderation, of course) will also help people formulate their own opinions beforehand.

Theresa Huang (she/hers): some Tuesdays I will have some conflict

Kevin Hughes - (he/him): I will need to check.

Jairaj Singh | they/he | Unite Oregon: Same ^^^ but I can coordinate

Allison Brown (she/her): You can reach Allison via text during emails (or call me whenever) at XXX

Allison Brown (she/her): sorry not emails, but meetings

Humberto (he/him): You can reach out to Humberto at XXX

Jairaj Singh | they/he | Unite Oregon: I've heard *Step up, step back* ...is 4th bullet point suppose to be *Step up, step up*?

Jairaj Singh | they/he | Unite Oregon: I like that Jeffrey

Kevin Hughes - (he/him): I like the phrasing that says "working towards..." because it puts the goal in front of us and does not conflict with #6.

Ariella Frishberg, she/her, JLA: for the notes - that was called the Stepladder Method?

Kevin Hughes - (he/him): Yes

Theresa Huang (she/hers): will the meetings be only after 5pm?

Theresa Huang (she/hers): oh sorry 4:30

Brandon Goldner | he/him | Metro staffer: I spy a cat! :)

Gabrielle Brown (she/her/Mrs.) | Oregon Metro: Every other week

Theresa Huang (she/hers): I do have conflict on every first Tuesday of the month

Jeffrey Lee (he/him): Excited to learn and be creative with you all! =)

Crista (she/her): Alisa, Here are the materials from the meeting:

<https://oregonconventioncenter.sharefile.com/home/shared/fo042163-dd7c-45d2-84c9-2ef7d0c6f780>

Crista (she/her): I'm goin g to step off. Thank you!!

Crista (she/her): <https://oregonconventioncenter.sharefile.com/d-s5e79c6af4eea4ba2a3742885e4d3b8ce>

Appendix B: Land acknowledgement – Oversight Committee

As we kick off this work on a committee charged with building on the legacy of investments in our region’s natural spaces, we want to acknowledge that all of the Metro region, Oregon and the United States are Indian Land.

The greater Portland area is built upon the ancestral homelands, villages and traditional use areas of multiple Indigenous tribes and bands who have stewarded these lands we cherish since time immemorial.

The lands at the confluence of the Willamette and Columbia rivers have long served as a major crossroads for the economic, social and political interactions of tribal nations for thousands of years and a place of significance in the homelands and traditional territories of many tribal nations.

We owe a special acknowledgement to the many tribes and bands and their descendants who ceded these lands in treaties with the United States.

We recognize the strong and diverse tribal nations and Native communities in our region today and offer respect and gratitude for their stewardship of these lands past, present and future.

Metro seeks to establish meaningful relationships and explore opportunities to collaborate and consider tribal priorities and interests in our work, including our parks and nature bond work.

We are building our understanding of tribal interests in the greater Portland area as we implement our parks and nature work.

As we learn more, we hope to refine Metro’s approach to land acknowledgements in the future; We recognize land acknowledgements are important and can be sensitive. We are hoping to learn more to integrate this into our work appropriately and in a good way honoring tribal interests going forward.