

Meeting minutes

Meeting: Metro Housing Oversight
Committee Work Session – equitable contracting and workforce

Date/time: Friday, October 15, 9AM – 10:30AM

Place: Zoom Virtual Meeting

Purpose: Work Session on equitable contracting and workforce

Attendees

Jenny Lee, Steve Rudman, Tia Vonil, Mitch Horbecker

Metro

Emily Lieb, Jimmy Oporta, Sebrina Owens-Wilson, Patricia Rojas, Alison Wicks

Facilitators

Allison Brown, JLA Public Involvement

Minutes

Alison Wicks, Metro

Note: The meeting was recorded via Zoom and therefore details will be focused mainly on the discussion, with less detail in regards to the presentations.

Welcome

Patricia Rojas, Metro Housing Director, welcomed the Committee members in attendance. Allison Brown, JLA Consulting, gave an overview of the agenda and asked the group to share introductions.

Staff Presentation on equitable contracting and workforce

Emily Lieb, Metro and Jimmy Oporta, Metro presented on equitable contracting and workforce. Sebrina Owens-Wilson, Metro, shared an update on the Construction Careers Pathways program including that the agencies that have signed on to the program work together in a committee. The tracking from the Construction Careers Pathways program will be helpful for the regional effort, will create a baseline of information, and will help organizations learn about the workforce.

Q & A and Discussion

Comments and questions from committee members included:

- The update on equitable contracting and workforce is encouraging. Excited that we are capturing non-certified firms. In agreement that getting a baseline data set is critical
- At the State level there can be challenges to meeting these goals when looking at projects outside of the Metro region.
- We want to be able to look at information for certified and non-certified firms.
- There should be no minimum level of contract dollar amount for tracking firms.



600 NE Grand Ave.
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- Issues arise when smaller firms and subcontractors have to fill out documentation. Smaller firms have less infrastructure to be able to fill out the forms.
- There is a software issue. How can we help make reporting easier? If we can help defray the cost of helping firm report – that is a good use of the \$120k in admin funds
- Is there criteria for how all jurisdictions are collecting data? And for how apprentice hours are counted?
- Portland and Beaverton’s software programs allow disaggregation by race, gender, and by trade.
- Portland and Home Forward are looking at contracting and workforce as economic opportunity
- Having apprentice on the jobsite can benefit the contactor, both by meeting goals, and by have cheaper people on jobsite. Not sure if this is the best way to establish a diverse workforce. There are other ways to ensure a diverse workforce then focusing on apprentice hours.
- Metro is a new funder so can use its role to encourage workforce tracking
- Metro Bond has a goal to lead with equity. Apprentice hours is not the only way to track workforce diversity. Jurisdictions are also reporting on race/ethnicity of the total workforce.
- How is intersectionality captured? Are women who are also people of color captured twice? Is data captured in a way that does not duplicate hours?
- It would be great to know which projects and jurisdictions are paying prevailing wages.

Next Steps and Close

Emily reviewed the next steps for this process, specifically highlighting:

- HBOC meeting on Wednesday – Jenny Lee volunteered to report out in that meeting
- Themes from that meeting will be reported to Metro Council
- Reimbursement for costs to jurisdictions that have invested in software for tracking
- Finalizing tracking and reporting
- This group can continue to give feedback
- Suggestion to have Sebrina report to the committee