



Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Meeting minutes

Meeting: CORE Meeting
Date: Thursday, February 18, 2021
Time: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Place: Zoom

Attendees

Co-Chairs: Tristan Penn, Martine Coblentz

CORE Members: Anthony Deloney, Dele Oyemaja, Mahmood Jawad, Nabin Dhimal, Nura Elmagbari, Rebecca Descombes, Saara Hirsi, Quincy Brown

MERC Commissioners: Danel Malan

CORE Liaisons: Councilor Christine Lewis, Councilor Mary Nolan

Metro staff: Raahi Reddy, Sebrina Owens-Wilson, Melissa Palavecino, Tiffany Thompson, Nathan Sykes, Reed Brodersen

Absent: Daniela Ortiz, Jamila Dozier, Laura John, Maria Magallon, Karis J.A. Stoudamire-Phillips, Laura John

Welcome and Overview of the day

Melissa Tech Overview
Tristan welcomed Councilor Nolan

Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

Committee Business & Updates

Quincy: Fundraising for the re-entry of Black Americans into commercial districts in Portland. Please share to networks and any funding you can help with appreciated.
https://www.gofundme.com/f/multicultural-reentry?utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=customer&utm_campaign=p_lico+share-sheet

Martine: Clackamas County Power Outage response have resource centers in Canby, Mollalla and Gladstone for resources for ice storm. There is a forming of a BIPOC working group that will be advising local public health on Counties in the Region: Multnomah, Clackamas, Columbia, etc. They will help with information about how to do communications and to rollout the vaccine. Martine will email specific locations.

Resource Centers:
1. Canby -- Clackamas County
Fairgrounds and Event Center 694 NE 4th Ave. Canby OR 97013.

2. Molalla Church of the Nazarene
920 Shirley St.
Molalla, OR 97038 map
Open 10 a.m.– 4 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 18 and Friday, Feb. 19

Minutes Approval:

Review of how minutes are approved

October Core Minutes. Motion Nura. Second Quincy. Unanimous in favor.

November Core minutes: Motion: Dele. Second: Mahmood. Unanimous in favor.

Metro Council Update

Councilor Lewis: 2 new councilors joined – Mary Nolan who is with us today. Councilor Garrette Rosenthal for District 3 – Beaverton, unincorporated Washington County, etc. Small business owner. Environmental consultant and planner - natural resource planning with a community involvement process Expertise in solid waste. Lane Council government. Excited to have them join us!

- Facilities area key part of disaster response of the ice storm. Opened the Oregon Convention Center and Metro parking garage for shelters. Set up own tents with port-a-potties and fresh water. Working with community members who do not have compost to get tree limbs and other things from the storm. Working with 4 hospital systems who are running the convention center vaccination efforts – 54,000 Oregonians have received vaccine at OCC so far. Working toward the release of the State of the Region – Next Friday Feb 26 you will get a preview of our 2021 priorities in the State of the region Address at noon and is hosted by City Club of Portland. More information on their website and will be emailed out to this group.
- Still hard at work on Willamette Falls and Legacy Project. And moving forward with property purchases for the Transfer stations West and South. Work on housing and parks and nature bonds.

Civic Engagement and Capacity Building Grant Program

Presenters: Raahi Reddy and Reed Brodersen

- Nura: Can this grant be used to teach and train future leaders in government? Youth?
 - Reed – We can't use it to do c4 activities. However, leadership training is okay but elected officials is not the focus.
 - Raahi – Continue to engage organizations about all of the grant opportunities at Metro. Come to an info session and reach out to Reed directly. If this is not the right fit, we can identify other opportunities within Metro that could be.

- Nabin – Very exciting. When you are looking for grantee, are you looking at organization as a whole to know if they have a DEI team and maybe have not looked into how to do equity work? How are we holding them accountable to their own vision for DEI work and how this would advance their own work within the organization?
 - Reed – One of the criteria is that they are doing anti-racist work and advancing equity internally and externally. May need additional resources. Will co-create scopes with organizations so that they can also advance that work internally.
- Saara: Grantee who are applying of the grant, are those organizations inclusive for people of color with disabilities? Often, they don't have education or training for people of color with disabilities?
 - Raahi – I love the idea of this being a part of growth strategy as well. If possible, would like to follow up with you. Last year, we had a bigger grant size. Had funding for learning cohorts for all of the grantees. Bring together for learning a strategy and build the capacity. Unfortunately because of budget cuts we had to pull back on that part. We as Metro have already programs that have inclusive design and engagement. The thing you are bringing up is brilliant. Should weave that into the learning cohort that we can provide especially into the trainings that we provide for Metro staff. Would love to go into more of your thinking on that Saara. Want to bring partners together and we want them to get better together. Inclusivity of engagement and how they design that is critical piece.
- Tristan: Curious about the idea that we are in a pandemic. There is a lot of impact felt especially with non-profits and CBOs. Push back on idea that some of this can't be an incubator. I work with a network of non-profits across the nation that are staying afloat. Hard to be a capacity building organization during a time like this. Big name non-profits will just get the lion's share of the grants that were able to get PP grants.
 - Raahi: One of the things that we want to ensure that we have flexibility and creativity with partners. Even if you are an establish non-profit, reviewing what are the ways you are going to grow smaller networks, within a geography and culturally specific network. I share you concern as well. And at the same time we don't have the capacity to be an incubator like Meyer Memorial Trust.
- Quincy: I see throughout the grant cycle that the same nonprofits get the grants. Not a lot of support for small and mid-size nonprofits. Support for those that don't traditionally get these grants? Look at who are in the jobs such as young people of color? Maybe adding some aspect for supporting young folks of color?
 - Raahi – That is good feedback.

Will follow up with questions from the chat.

CORE Strategic Plan

Goal A Questions:

- Rebecca: Does that include Metro 'culture' barriers/obstacles?
- Nura: Engagement with faith leaders as they are a great resource when it comes to connecting or creating relationships BIPOC communities and to further racial equity
- Danel: Metro has not historically supported communities in more rural areas such as Hillsboro

Goal B:

- Mahmood: At CORE I was still a high schooler when I came. I never saw people from marginalized communities an who still go to school and who are affected by all the

decisions that metro makes right now and will be affected by it for generations and older generations that are making decisions for the future. Maybe a youth committee? Or a youth Councilor? City of Tigard has a youth commissioner. Doesn't have the same responsibilities who influences decisions making. Something like that being a part of what Metro does in a decisions making spectrum. Youth voices are heard but not necessarily financially compensated or taken into full account.

- Martine: Add an additional question for target groups of folks that Metro needs to be engaging within the categories of communities of color. Lens questions would be to ask of anyone who came to Core with presentation on program, project, etc.
- Nura: There is a big challenge for youth to be in civic engagement. Very difficult to find places for youth in civic engagement sphere. There are organizations that work specifically with youth. Great experience if they can get involved.
- Danel: Very interested in this engagement of youth. Think about how they are selected.
- Quincy: I think it should be a vote.
- Mahmood: Momentum Alliance. Urban League of Portland. No set system for youth to be a part of Urban League. Usually, you have to find your own path and is very difficult when you are young. Think about how Metro can get youth leaders to be involved. Have them be a part of the decision making process.

Goal C

- Martine: I like the spirit of question 2. Look at barriers is good, so not yes or no type. Change it to 'what are the barriers that exist'? Add to that to say how do you know? What steps are being taken to address them? Broaden question 4 – support system is one way and is not the only. Recommend what steps are being taken to improve retention of BIPOC staff such as.... Don't limit to one thing.
- Anthony: Echo that I agree with that on question 4. Maybe needs to be named in the goal itself – hire, retain, promote, etc. If you can't retain folks and you don't have a strategy to do that it is a waste.

Goal D

- Quincy: When ask about safety think about physical, psychological and social safety that are related to engaging with people of color?
- Martine: Questions 6 and 3 could be possible merged together. There are a lot of questions in this entire section. Could be more concise so that people are not overwhelmed.
- Nura: Could also merge 5 into that and just say languages

Goal E

- Nura; I don't see oversight. It should be mentioned more often when we are talking about resources and money. Either through Metro or a third party organization. How do you prove that those organizations were actually funded? Paper report is not enough.

Sebrina: Thanks for all of the input. Excited to see how this tool comes together and seeing how it supports digging into topics. Feel free to email and add any additional thoughts.

Building a Strong Committee

- See White Board

Will continue discussion next time.

Adjourn