



Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Meeting minutes

Meeting: CORE Meeting
Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021
Time: 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Place: Zoom

Attendees

Co-Chairs: Tristan Penn, Martine Coblentz

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

MERC Commissioners: Dañel Malán,

Metro Councilors: Metro Councilor Nolan, Metro Councilor Lewis

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

Absent: Daniela Ortiz, Jamila Dozier, Laura John, Maria Magallon

Welcome and Overview of the day

Melissa shared an overview of using zoom.

Tristan -

- Preparing for CORE's annual report on the Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- Review new staff report
- Update to co-chair election process

Public Comment

No public comment

Committee Business and Updates

Patricia – PCC formed an NCORE fellowship. Accepted 20 people to be part of that fellowship and Patricia is one of them!

Anthony – Every Friday you can get the COVID Vaccine and SEI with a focus on the African American Community. Access this through the website.

Rebecca – NAYA is also providing vaccination clinics for communities of color.

Quincy – We have been working with SPEN for mobility to provide SPEN Access. Working with SE Portland uplift to provide civics conversations over the next couple of months about the land use process and community related projects in your neighborhood.

Tristan – Indian Health Center in Salem is offering a vaccine for you and others in your household (regardless of their tribal affiliation).

Nura – This Saturday we are hosting 75 families for Ramadan give away. Household goods, food, Halaal bread. Thank you Metro and others for support of this event

Rebecca – Moratorium on utility shut off ends June 15. NAYA is opening a second support line for folks who may have their utilities shut off.

Council Update

Metro Councilor Lewis

Councilor Lewis – We have just kicked off the budget process today. Accepting the proposed budget and going through all of the changes with departments and programs. Approval in about 2 months from now. Metro and Greater Portland, Inc. are releasing our economic strategy in early May and will have a formal comment period on Metro's website. Initial strategy is on equity for access to economic development. Resilience for chronic stress and shocks. Tying our work to emerging technologies to compete in the global economy. You can find more on GPI's website. One strategy is childcare access in the region. This is the economic recovery plan for the region.

Supportive Housing Services measure has already had the oversight committee approve Multnomah's County's plan and Washington and Clackamas will follow. Will review Washington County April 23 and May 6. Clackamas County approved their plan to the oversight committee and will be up for review after Washington County. On the bond side, the bond oversight committee is preparing its first report. Expected in late May. Assessment of progress on bond commitments and achievements. Ahead of goals right now and may want to update goals to continue to exceed commitment.

There is a workshop on April 28 about Regional Flexible Funds from the Federal Government that is on a 3 year cyclical basis and can be used in a very flexible way.

Willamette Cove, in the lower bit of Willamette before it hits the Columbia and Metro is the property owner. It is a site that has had a long and arduous process and Metro supports clean-up of the site and connection to the Greenwood Trail. DEQ has selected clean-up plan that would allow for full access of Willamette Cove on and off trails. Metro work with the Port to build off the plan from DEQ. Metro will focus on clean water, healthy habitat, and connect nature close to home. Process of developing our criteria and we have our Metro Parks Bond from 2019 at disposal to assist with that. \$98 M set aside for 'taking care of Metro Parks' – balance our competing needs within that budget.

RID Patrol, there has been a lot of media attention on clean-up of dump sites. More than a year ago the Multnomah County Sheriff's office suspended our access to inmate labor for trash clean up. Previously our time response was 3 days. Our time response is now weeks. We have had policy changes to sweeping camps on public land. We have also had national conversations prompted us to review our relationships with law enforcement and the carceral system. New plan in July using our own employees for the work. And we will break the cycle of incarceration through employment and not relying upon inmate labor. These opportunities give opportunity for recently incarcerated folks by Building skills, resume and wealth. We know the response time is frustrating but we need to lead with our equity goals. We will be implementing RID in a whole new way.

Approve Minutes

Minutes were not sent out.

Oversight for Metro's SPAREDI

Small groups and report back

Goal A - Martine

- Outreach through the Parks Bond
- Procurement bringing folks together around COBID utilization
- Supportive Housing Bond work
- Need to think about strategies to return COBID registered firms and support the existing ones long term

Goal B- Quincy

- System to coordinate with communities of color across the organization is needed
- Highlight emergency management efforts and could be an example of that, opening up facilitates, etc.
- Still work on youth services and projects that have had longevity before COVID and lost funding. What could Metro do in the future to support those organizations? Such as SEI, Urban League, Hacienda, etc. Many programs lost because of inability to get funding from Metro.

Goal C- Nura

- Metro went through a racial equity lens for hiring processes
- Metro may want to look into lived experiences of people when they are in that job process. Make that part of the criteria. To bring in that greater or larger community being able to share experience and benefit them in that way.

Goal D - Nabin

- Culturally dynamic, not just specific, serves communities as a whole
- Looking at data how things constantly move and how to stay up to date on those needs

Goal E - Martine

- The status of all items are in progress. If you look at the report, you will see how much Metro was impacted by COVID 19.
- There is work to do to recover. Feedback about funding and resources to track grants and investment. Track COBID businesses. Understanding when they are and if not why?
- Budget cuts meant a lot of the work wasn't able to happen.
- Given budget cuts and lack of resources – the things that are in place how can there be more training for project managers? How to have that mindset and equity lens when putting out RFPs and contracting

CORE Highlights

- Thank you Patricia for talking about how CORE has changed over time. What are the highlights from this previous year
- Patricia – Moving moments was the letter drafted to Council following the George Floyd Incident. It changed the dynamic of who we are
- Sebrina – Opportunity to share the work you have done with Council
- Nura – Hard year. Resilience of communities and everyone on this team to show up and listen and be heard. And to fight that fight that we have to continuously be a part of.
- Dele – Tough year on everyone. How Metro transitioned from in person to virtual meetings. Metro is being creative to do this work.
- Danel – The harder the work has become the harder we have dug in and worked together.
- Tristan – When George Floyd was murdered it coincided with becoming a co-chair. Our committee was in transition at a time when the committee had to solidify and put itself forward about how to be a part of these conversations. The letter opened up the door to how CORE can operate in any way we want to. It can be something that we are able to have feel good moments and ask really hard questions of elected officials.
- Martine – CORE became officially a part of the Metro Code
- Anthony – Folks are seriously coming forward to do the work. Learning what Metro does

Metro Staff Report on CORE

Tristan – We want to highlight to whomever is coming to CORE, it would be helpful to come before their work is completely polished and buttoned up. Don't need to have all of the right answers before staff come here. The role of CORE is to raise those questions. Don't worry about perfection

Nura – Does CORE only work on Metro sponsored projects. Or can anyone in the community come to CORE? Could Metro step up and help in that way too?

- This committee is to support Metro in adhering strategic plan. Community members can attend and provide public comment etc.
- It is very valuable to have this committee when you look at the way other systems that are run. If this was available to our greater community, paid training for different organizations throughout the state, or through the jurisdictions that you cover. It helps spread the word of DEI and what we do.
- Raahi – We do that on a case by case basis. We also open our trainings for sponsors and partners.

Patricia – Need to get feedback at the ground break stage. Don't to most of the way through to project and then have to go back and redo some of the work. Use this group for what it is intended for.

Update on Co-Chair Election Process

- Proposal to have alternating chair process so that the committee is not overturning all at once.
- Patricia – as a former chair, I like this idea
- Anthony – Yes! I like the mentorship idea.
- Dele – It is a good idea.
- Patricia – Concern I could see is that when they are elected their term might end after one year?
 - o May use structure where they can sign up for an extra 1-2 years
- Nura – I love the mentoring idea.
- Dele – Maybe use part of a retreat in the future to invite previous members back and we can have a way to socialize and support each other.
- Sebrina – There will be a form for folks who are interested in co-chair position and then there will be electronic voting between sessions.

Adjourn