



**Metro**

600 NE Grand Ave.  
Portland, OR 97232-2736

# Meeting minutes

Meeting: CORE Meeting  
Date: Thursday, January 20, 2022  
Time: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
Place: Zoom

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## **Attendees**

**Co-Chairs:** Tristan Penn; Rebecca Descombes

**CORE Members:** Saara Hirsi; Daniela Ortiz; Anthony Deloney; Nura Elmagbari, Nabin Dhimal; Quincy Brown; Jamila Dozier; Wade Hopkins; Ernesto Oliva

## **MERC Commissioners:**

**CORE Liaisons:** Councilor Christine Lewis, Councilor Mary Nolan

**Metro staff:** Raahi Reddy; Sebrina Owens-Wilson; Melissa Palavecino; Nathan Sykes; Andre Bealer; Raul Preciado Mendez; Brian Evans; Simone Rede; Nicole Paxton; Councilor Duncan Hwang

**Absent:** Karis J.A. Stoudamire-Phillips; Dañel Malan; Maria Magallon; Brandon Culbertson

## **Welcome**

Tristan introduces newly appointed Metro Councilor Duncan Hwang

Councilor Hwang says a few words about his time on CORE and how the committees work has impacted the councils.

## **CORE Bylaws Review**

*Presenter: Nathan Sykes, Deputy Metro Attorney*

Nathan went over the highlights of the bylaws and the edits that CORE members will be voting on at their next meeting in February. The three areas that have been edited are the terms of membership, attendance requirements and meeting schedules.

Sebrina noted that the bylaws needed to be updated with the current model for the co-chair which is a Mentor-Mentee situation.

Wade recommended that the CORE members should have a conversation with the co-chairs after two unexcused absences not three.

Nura agreed with Wade and asked for trainings to be added to the bylaws.

Quincy agreed with Nura and added that CORE members who help Metro in other ways should be taken into consideration when members miss meetings.

Tristen asked that the type of year used when taking attendance be clarified. Is it a calendar year, school year or fiscal year?

Nabin agreed with Quincy and stated that there should be flexibility in attendance. He also suggested that when members miss a meeting they should look over the materials and connect with co-chair or other members about what they missed at the meeting. He doesn't want to create more barriers for folks. Would really like to build a sense of community for members so that everyone can support each other and be present in the meetings even if they miss one.

Raahi clarified that there is a difference between being on CORE and being a part of other Metro committees. And that Metro staff have had this made clear to them. Volunteering for other Metro committees although appreciated is not a replacement for the CORE meeting.

Nura agreed with Raahi and stated that it was important that members respect the responsibilities they signed up for when joining the committee.

Ernesto asked to have trauma informed language and that to have clear guideline with trauma informed care.

Quincy agreed that he would like to see trauma informed care in the bylaws and that members should be asked what supports they need at the meetings.

Anthony agreed that current times have been strange and difficult and that he would like for there to be flexibility and compassion around attendance. He doesn't want for the committee to become just like the things they are trying to change within Metro.

Tristan restated what he was hearing which was that the work being done outside the meetings are important and that the work the committee is doing is also vitally important. Members should communicate if they are going to be unable to attend. Trauma informed language should be added as well as communication.

Nura asked how the absences of members affect Metro and staff. And that she also believes it's very important to use trauma informed language.

Raahi thanked Nura for the question and responded that the group as a whole gets impacted, direct impacts are quorum. Providing feedback and decisions pile up because things keep getting moved. Engagement items that need to go to council for a vote are all on timelines. Raahi states that many things have been done to lower the barriers to participation because each member's contribution is highly valued. And that we the Metro DEI team is always open to hearing other ways to be inclusive but that there does need to be communication from the members about what they need. Raahi also mentioned that she and Sebrina will set up a meeting with the DEI staff and co-chairs around next steps.

Tristen agrees with Raahi's points and adds that there have been many times as a co-chair that they are concerned about members because they have been reached out to but don't respond and that raises those trauma informed responses around what could be happening with that member and if they are ok. Which becomes an emotional impact due to the worry. And ends with saying that if members can let them know what's going on or if they are not going to be able to attend a meeting that that can go a long way.

Daniela shared that the bylaws don't sound friendly to the people who are going through difficulties. When she first started attending these meetings there was dinner, and child care offered and now people are being asked to be present in the virtual world without those same resources being offered. Which is something that she feels needs to be taken into consideration because time are really different and it takes a lot to show up even virtually.

Quincy states that there is often talk about accessibility and disability opportunities and that the committee should be taking into account intellectual disabilities as well. That people with intellectual disabilities may not be able to communicate the issues they are having in the moment or may not feel comfortable doing so. Which is something that may have been easier to do in a physical setting so he feels that need to be thought about as well.

Tristan proposes that at the next co-chair meeting with Sebrina and Raahi they will look over everyone's suggestions and come up with a proposal for the bylaws for the next meeting.

Wade says that looking back on the text the only consequence to missing meetings is a conversation. And that maybe focusing the language around what would be helpful about whatever is going wrong or helping people with barriers. The three strikes conversation is off track because that isn't what is in the policy. It's a conversation is the result and if the conversation makes it feel like someone is in trouble then maybe changing the text to say that it's a supportive conversation that will be had.

Nura says that Wade makes a good point and that the ambiguity of the language may be causing confusion for the members.

Nabin said that it comes down to communal care, and that they should work on building relationships among the committee members. They should be more intentional around checking in on each other and reaching out to each other. The smaller subcommittees may help facilitate this. He feels that because of how the times are people have to be more thoughtful and intentional around how they show up to the meetings and how they take care of each other.

Saara shared that as a blind person she processes things in a very different way and that she is always trying to participate but may have to do it in a different way.

### **Community Updates**

Jamila gave a community update about the state re-opening the rent assistance portal on January 26th. Households with the most need will have priority. They are happy to provide more information on that as well as the local programs that are available. They also shared that they will be on the I&I local grants committee representing CORE and is happy to report back.

Rebeca shared a flier in that chat about a testing and vaccination event coming up. NAYA will be holding these drive through clinics on Tuesday the 25<sup>th</sup>, they will be providing all vaccines, boosters and flu shots. There will also be hot food served, pantry food boxes, as well as cleaning and household supplies.

Tristen shared that NTEN will be hiring for an impact and evaluation coordinator. He shared the link in the chat. That position will be working with himself and his team on making sure that the work NTEN is doing is equitable for the non-profit sector and the world. The starting pay is 45k a year and there are no qualifications in terms of degree or schooling. Anyone can apply as long as they have an affinity for data, data analysis and evaluation. It's a great opportunity for folks to learn.

### **Committee Updates**

Tristan reminded members to fill out the Subcommittee interest Google Form, and if they needed the link again, or would like to fill it out in an alternate format, to please contact Raul.

Raul posted their email in the chat.

## **Public Comment**

Sharon Gary Smith provided public comment. She expressed her excitement about being at her first CORE meeting in quite a while. She said it was joyful to hear the committee and their level of devotion and dedication to representation. As the founding co-chair of the CORE committee she realized that many people in her community had no idea of the breath and the depth of Metro's presence in their communities. And when she looked at all the facets of Metro's work she started spreading the word about Metro. Sitting back and seeing how far the committee has come and to also know the accountability, credibility, and integrity that they bring from and forward into Metro to the communities is so significant. It was important before the pandemic, during the pandemic and there is no doubt this committee is influencing the Metro government.

## **2022 CORE Meeting Calendar:**

Anthony moved to approve the 2022 CORE Meeting Calendar

Jamila seconded that motion

All approved

## **Minutes Approval:**

Minutes for November and December to be approved

November's meeting minutes need to be amended with correct attendance for Jamila as she was present and not absent.

Wade moved to approve December minutes

Rebecca seconded that motion

All Approved

## **Metro Council Update**

*Councilor Lewis and Nolan*

Councilor Lewis started off by recognizing that it was National Penguin day. And shared that the council started their day off with a visit from the very cute Humboldt penguins from the Oregon zoo. And that it was a point of joy in their meeting but that the seriousness of the habitat and food chain issues that these penguins are facing due to climate change is very real. She continued to say that the education that the Oregon zoo provides around this awareness was very important and appreciated.

Councilor Lewis then moved on to highlight the work Metro's regional illegal dumping (RID) program has been doing. And that Metro has been working very hard on this program, there was a budget amendment written by councilor Nolan, so that council really

send a clear directive and resources the RID patrol to be able to respond to the illegal dumping across the region. Today they received the news that Metro is at a two day response time for one of the teams to get out. This is really good to know as the response times at the height of the pandemic was in weeks and months. All of this has been accomplished because of the reframing of the program which has moved to doing work in house and with contractors and no longer working with the carceral system and using inmate labor on the teams.

She also wanted to celebrate the work of the Parks bond measure implementation. We've had local share open for six or seven months now, which is the portion of fund that go to local communities such as cities and parks districts. The council has moved forward with the land acquisition dollars last week so that there are funds available for the 24 target areas, which include not only the arears around the edge of the region but also the urban area its' self.

Councilor Lewis was also able to attend the capital grants refinement committee. Capital grants fund non-profit work around parks and nature in coming years. The refinement tram is working hard to represent community and she wanted to uplift Parks and Natures work around that.

She mentioned that Metro currently has regional flex fund applications open so that local governments can be applying for the three year cycle. The regional flex funds are federal dollars that support mobility and road safety for cyclists and walkers. Tends to be the last dollar in for projects that cities want to do. The time frame is applications get submitted in February and reviews happen through the year with funds being awarded toward the end of the year.

Councilor Lewis moved on to the reginal transportation plan which has been looked at for an update this year. They will be working on really hard to get some preliminary finding to update the RTP by the end of the year.

Finally, in housing last week council approved the intergovernmental agreement (IGA), which help Metro implement supportive housing services with county partners. All three counties have to approve the same IGA so that they get signed, Clackamas County approved theirs today. Which means we are moving forward to make this work real and to have terms of engagement on how to work with the counties not only on giving them funds but also on engaging them when they need to do things differently.

Councilor Nolan wanted to add that they had the opportunity to fill a vacancy on our council and to welcome a fabulous leader who is well known to CORE. And they just wanted

to address their personal excitement the opportunity to be working side by side with Councilor Hwang moving forward on the issues that come before CORE and the Council.

### **Audit of Metro's DEI Program**

*Presenters: Brian Evans; Simone Rede and Nicole Paxton from the Metro Auditor Office*

Brian gave an overview and background of the audit and its findings.

Raahi responded to a question in the chat about the response to the audit, stating that the response letter was sent out to members with the meeting materials.

Tristan asked the committee to think about what they could do as CORE to support the DEI team and Metro as a whole. What discussion points could they bring to the table to dig into?

### **Adjourn**