



**City Light Review Panel Meeting
Meeting Minutes
DRAFT**

Date of Meeting: February 13, 2018

MEETING ATTENDANCE					
Panel Members:					
Names		Name		Name	
Gail Labanara		David Allen	√	John Putz	√
Sara Patton	√	Patrick Jablonski	√	Nina Sidneva	√
Thomas Buchanan	√	Leon Garnett		Cal Shirley	√
Staff and Others:					
Jim Baggs	√	Ellen Javines	√	Karen Reed (Consultant Contractor/RP Facilitator)	√
Calvin Goings	√	Kirsty Grainger	√	Kelly Enright	√
Robert Cromwell	√	Carsten Croff	√	Kelly Enright	√
Paula Laschober	√	Monica Fontaine		Craig Smith	√
Lynn Best	√	Tony Kilduff	√	Calvin Chow	√
Gregory Shiring	√	Darnell Cola	√	Maura Brueger	√
Leigh Barreca	√	Jaya Bajpai	√	Brendan O'Donnell	√

Introduction: Patrick Jablonski welcomed everyone, as Gail Labanara is not present.

Review of Agenda: Karen Reed reviewed the agenda.

January 23 Meeting Minutes: The minutes were approved as submitted.

Public Comment: None

Chair's Report: Cal Shirley and Gail Labanara are both on the search committee for replacing the SCL general manager. Cal expects a six- month timeline.

General Manager's Report: Jim Baggs reviewed changes he has made in the leadership of the Utility. Darnell Cola, the Interim Customer Service, Communication & Regulatory Affairs Officer, introduced himself. A round of introductions followed. In response to a question from a Panel member, Jim Baggs said he did consider gender as well as other factors in the making of his re-org decisions.

Communications to Panel: A letter came in from a customer who was concerned about her high bill. It was forwarded to Kelly Enright, Customer Care Director and has been resolved.

SCL in the news and other updates: Jim noted there have been articles on the backlog of service connections; This issue as well as the billing problems that have also been in the news is being worked on.



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Discussion points included:

- Q** What is the \$314M in debt mentioned in the Seattle Times January article?
A Staff don't recall this detail, ***Kirsty will look into it.***
- Q** How many people are opting out of smart meters?
A Very few, only about 200 in the 100,000 installed so far. Some have asked to keep their old mechanical meters and we are accommodating these requests. It means the Utility will need to keep a few meter readers on staff.
- Q** How many meter readers will be laid off?
A Currently temporary staff are being used to fill meter reading vacancies and the positions will not be filled. There are 25 FTEs; 11-15 will retire soon and we will retain the remaining staff, Utility is working to find them other jobs.

Update on Stakeholder Outreach – Leigh Barreca

Leigh shared a strategic plan “preview document” that is being used in the outreach meetings.

Discussion points included:

- Q** What was the discussion like at the Key customer forum?
A It was robust. Attendees were concerned with potential rate increases.
- Q** Was the draft rate path presented at the key customer forum?
A Verbally, yes.
- Q** Was the concern of that group more about the 1- year increase magnitude or the ongoing path of increases?
A It was mostly just a request for advance notice. NUCO representative did express a desire for more gradual rate increases. The group expressed an interest in knowing sooner rather than later what the rate path is; the City's timeline is usually after their budget preparations.
- Q** Have there been any threats from companies to leave town because of rates?
A Yes, from NUCOR.
- Q** When will the full stakeholder outreach report be available to the Panel?
A Probably in March when outreach is complete.

The “community chambers” will meet with SCL on Friday 2/16/18.

Strategic Plan Initiatives Discussion – Leigh Barreca

Clean Renewable-Power City – Brendan O'Donnell & Craig Smith

(Initiative #7) Brendan O'Donnell, and Craig Smith offered additional response to several of the questions.

Discussion points included:

- Q** What are the costs of this initiative?
A They are subsumed within current spending.



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- Q** Can we see the money that will be spent to accomplish this initiative?
A Yes.
- Q** It is unclear what will be happening under the components of the initiative.
A Particularly on the “leverage the lighting design lab and industry partnership” item we will do something to show how these technologies can be connected. A more detailed plan has yet to be developed
- Q** Does the lighting lab issue include the micro-grid project that Larry Weis spoke to?
A In part, yes, but we are no longer seeking a scalable neighborhood strategy on that issue.
- Q** On the electric transportation issue, what is in place now?
A The utility has 2 charging stations in place now. Electrification of transportation will be important to the Utility going forward.
- Q** What is growth rate expected in use of Electric Vehicles (EVs)?
A 3-4% of new car sales locally, about 1-2% nationally.
- Q** How much use are the electric charging stations getting?
A It varies by location. A few times a day, perhaps 10-20% of capacity.
- Q** If automated vehicles are deployed more, it would limit EVs. Why focus on EVs? What’s really the demand?
A Access to electricity is a limiting factor in getting more EVs deployed. Many utilities are moving in this direction. Transportation is a key issue for the City. We’re not trying to be the monopoly provider of charging stations.
- Q** Why are no costs shown?
A They will be added.
- Q** How long is the EV pilot?
A We seek to deploy 20 fast charges in the next year.
- Q** Automated vehicles are coming by 2020. Someone should look at that. This may be electric vehicles and we need to work with EV charger systems.
A Multiple city departments are involved in this initiative.
- Q** Will you bring us cost information?
A Yes.
- Q** Are you doing anything on battery storage?
A Yes, we have one project in partnership with the Parks District for a 100kc battery in a park location for emergency use.
- Q** The proposal around equity focus seems very general. How will it work? Will you require partners to do workforce development as a part of being a partner in our projects?
A Yes. Detail is lacking here because we are working with our partners. This will be updated.
- Q** How will you reach smaller customers?
A By working upstream with distributors.



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- Q** Are you working with housing authorities and private landlords?
A Yes.
- Q** Did anyone ask low-income people what they want? Do they even want these things?
A Yes, we asked in the survey. Energy efficiency is a priority for all customers.
- Q** Who will pay for this?
A There is a grant to offset some costs.
- Q** The grant should be mentioned in the write-up.
A OK, but that's just a small part of the cost.
- Q** Did you consider using bill repayment to facilitate energy efficiency projects?
A There are legal barriers.
- Q** I would like to see more milestones in this write-up. Are there any?
A Yes, and there are metrics for success as well we can add.
- Q** Are public vehicle fleets a focus for the EV effort?
A Yes, we are working with King County. They are aggressively seeking to convert their entire fleet to electric.
- The Utility is also working with the state to electrify the ferry system
- Q** What is the payback time on these investments?
A About 7-10 years.

The Panel agreed they would like to see more information on this initiative in response to questions and discussion today before voting whether to support this initiative.

In the interests of time, the business process improvement program initiative discussion was moved to the next agenda.

Rate Discussion – Paula Laschober & Kirsty Grainger

Paula Laschober and Kirsty Grainger presented. Paula shared a document that showed three draft rate path options, all with no new additional expenditures and incorporating reductions of \$111.5M from elimination of the training center and service center capital projects.

Discussion points included:

- Are there any discretionary expenditures?
 - What are ways to reduce costs?
- Q** We don't know the operational impacts of the smoothed rate paths presented so it's hard to opine on them. Can you provide us with a sense of what cuts would be made and what impacts it would have?
A We don't have the details right now but we are working on them.

There was a general discussion about strategies for cutting costs.

Karen asked Panel member if they would like to see some further information on the impacts of the smoothed rate paths? Panel members would like to see this information.



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Jim Bagg's presentation on strategy for the future will be moved to the next agenda

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 PM