

Green New Dean Oversight Board (GNDOB)
Meeting Notes

MEETING SUMMARY	<p>Date: October 7, 2021 Time: 4:00pm – 6:15pm Location: WebEx</p>
MEMBERS PRESENT:	<p>Maria Batayola Tomas Madrigal Matt Remle Rachel Heaton Kristina Chu Syris Valentine Debolina Banarjee Emily Myers Andrea Ornelas Keith Weir Jess Wallach Deepa Sivarajan Steve Gelb</p>
MEMBERS ABSENT:	<p>Dennis Comer, Katie Garrow</p>
GUESTS:	<p>Office of Sustainability & Environment: Lisa Chen, Ani Krishnan, Lylia Allala Public: Jordan Mazzola, Nicolette W., Callie Ridolfi, Dorothy Gesick, Taylor, Page Crutcher</p>

DECISIONS MADE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board approves 9/30 meeting minutes • Board establishes GND Definitions Workgroup • Board approves to add two Special Session meetings regarding the proposed 2022 budget in order to receive community input
-----------------------	---

FOLLOW-UP ACTION ITEMS			
#	ITEM	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)	TARGET DATE
1	Values Statement drop-in feedback sessions will be scheduled via When2Meet in the following week	Kristina	10/04
2	GND Definitions workgroup will begin meeting to draft	Deepa, Andrea, Maria, Jess, Emily, Steve, Keith	10/21
3	Board will revisit regular meeting time for Dec 2 nd meeting	Executive Committee	11/04
4	Exec Committee will develop engagement plan for public comments during upcoming Special Session meetings.	Deepa, Maria, Syris	10/04

Meeting Notes

M. Batayola and S. Valentine, GNDOB Co-Chairs, facilitated the meeting

Welcome, introductions, and recap of last meeting

- M. Batayola provided summary of last meeting. Board approved by-laws and decision-making processes. Board members are encouraged to share leadership and facilitation roles. Testing out different ways to engage during meetings, raise hands on vide, raise hand in webex, or type stack in chat.

Approval of Minutes

- Names will be kept in minutes for reference. Request was made to add pagination to minutes.
- **BOARD ACTION:** K. Weir motions to approve minutes. M. Remle seconded.
- **BOARD DECISION:** Approved
 - A “Yes, I approve” – **(10)**
 - B “Yes, with reservations” – 0
 - C “Not voting until we have further discussion” – 0
 - D “I don’t approve, but I don’t block” – 0
 - E “I block, with serious concerns” - 0
 - F “Stand aside. Recuse myself” - 0
-

GND Values Updates – K. Chu & D. Banarjee, GNDOB members

- The Values Statement Workgroup includes M. Batayola, S. Gelb, K. Chu, and D. Banarjee. The Workgroup thought about what the board’s vision is, and how we achieve this vision. In accomplishing this we must align ourselves with the GND Ordinance that states a goal for Seattle to become climate pollution free by 2030.
- Each member picked one value to read out loud. Values that drive our Vision:
 - We serve the land, frontline communities, and people who live, work, play and pray in Seattle.
 - We are stewards of our local and global environment, health, and climate.
 - We exist to correct historic and current inequities towards racial and social equity.
 - We respect and approach intersectionality and cultural preservation as assets to bring about unity and creativity from various perspectives and differences to our work.
 - We build on the legacy of our ancestors, our communities, and forerunners in this movement.
 - We listen and are guided by frontline communities, Black, Indigenous, communities of color, immigrants, refugees, youth, elders, houseless people, disabled people, LGBTQ+, people with low-income and no income, and people who work in outdoor occupations. Hereafter, we will refer to these communities as “frontline communities.”
 - We collaborate with the community, Seattle governmental and other entities to accomplish our vision and mission.
 - We hold ourselves, Seattle departments and others accountable to accomplish our vision and mission.
- D. Banarjee reads mission statement:
 - GNDOB connects frontline community-led voices and the Seattle city government to co-create a “climate pollution free Seattle by 2030” by 1) recommending systemic changes and budget priorities to the Mayor, City Council, City departments and advisory boards,

2) supporting departmental planning and implementation, and 3) coordinating efforts with City departments and related advisory groups.

- Each member read each value on how the board accomplishes their mission:
 - We are focused on our vision and mission and act with immediacy.
 - We practice having an open mind and cultural humility to recognize we do not know everyone's cultural ways.
 - We seek to build trust and reliability with respectful, honest, caring, and transparent interactions within and outside the GND OB.
 - We are guided by accurate information, science, and community experience and insight.
 - We seek to solve problems and conflict creatively at the root cause and will not accept false solutions.
- This is still a working document; the board will discuss items that are highlighted in the draft document and comments.
- A summary of the process was shared. The group met online two times, and also offline multiple times to work on this document. The group put in a lot of thought in de-marketing what the values are and how we are thinking of values in the first place. What values should be informing the vision and what values should be informing the mission.
- K. Chu provided more context about what the workgroup was thinking about in putting this draft document together and items we would like additional input on. The group will be scheduling additional drop-in feedback sessions for board members to participate. The Google Doc will still remain available for members to provide comments and suggested edits directly into the document. The goal is to finalize this and present it at the November board meeting.
- There is a section in the document reviewed that is intended for the GND Definitions workgroup, that will come up later in the agenda. This is just as a placeholder for now.
- M. Batayola shared insights on how these values were developed from the Values conversations and visual notes that took place during the board retreat.
- M. Remle would like to expand in section F, to specifically mention sovereign nations with treaty rights that are tied to this land that we know as Seattle. Another area would like to see expanded on, a little bit more depth on "no false solutions" to add to not support no false solutions that reinvent or bring back old models of energy colonization that supplants the taking and theft of resources of other indigenous communities, not only here but around the world.
- S. Gelb shared thoughts on "no false solutions" and to not export our problems, not to burden communities outside of ours.
- S. Valentine wonders if a "just transition" can live in the GND Definitions, and is related to "no false solutions" portion of the values statement. Wondering how this will fit into the values as they get further defined.
- T. Madrigal shared that it is important in a values document to not use jargon that is not defined.
- M. Batayola offered an open thought on moving away from extracted to generative ways of doing things well in the economy.
- T. Madrigal shared thoughts on having some kind of language how our value is to set the ceiling of what is expected in regard to climate change action, being that Seattle is one of the leading cities in which ideas like the Green New Deal are being advanced. Rather than working on raising the floor, Seattle will be working on raising the ceiling when it comes to climate justice related policies through the Green New Deal.
- K. Chu asked to send a When2Meet and draft document for drop-in feedback sessions and additional opportunities to provide feedback to the Values Statement.

Public Comment

- No public comment was offered at this meeting

GND Definitions Workgroup – J. Vasquez, Green New Deal Advisor

- J. Vasquez shared information from the GND Ordinance, which establishes the GNDOB calls for the board to submit a yearly workplan to City Council and the Mayor, and provide an annual update thereafter. This workplan should include a definition of what constitutes a program, policy, or project that advances a Green New Deal for Seattle. As part of the foundational work for this board, and as a continuation of the Values Statement development, we would like to establish a GND Definitions Workgroup to help craft them. A request was made for volunteers who would like to join the GND Definitions Workgroup.
- Members who have volunteered: Deepa, Andrea, Maria, Jess, Emily, Steve, Keith, Dennis
- BOARD ACTION: M. Batayola motions to establish an Ad Hoc Workgroup, E. Myers seconds.
- BOARD DECISION: Approved
 - A “Yes, I approve” – (12)
 - B “Yes, with reservations” – 0
 - C “Not voting until we have further discussion” – 0
 - D “I don’t approve, but I don’t block” – 0
 - E “I block, with serious concerns” - 0
 - F “Stand aside. Recuse myself” - 0
-

Board Meeting Time – S. Valentine, GNDOB Co-Chair

- There was a request made last week from M. Batayola to look at a possible new board meeting time to make sure that we have our regularly scheduled time accessible to everyone that is in the community and the general public. Possibility to have our board meetings after the workday so that folks who have a typical 9-5 schedule are still able to attend.
- T. Madrigal brought up a good point that folks who are parents can’t necessarily go very late. D. Banarjee also expressed the same constrains as a parent and cannot go past 7pm. May be able to stretch it to 7:30pm. In particular the Nov 4th meeting, the holiday of Diwali may conflict for attending anytime after 6pm.
- E. Myers has a conflict with another board meeting starting at 5pm every first Thursday of the month.
- J. Vasquez shared results from the original survey on which date worked for most members. The best option based on the original survey was the first or fourth Thursdays of the month. The challenge with fourth Thursdays is that it falls along several holidays towards the end of the year.
- K. Weir has a conflict on every first Wednesday for other board meetings.
- D. Sivarajan: There may be some confusion from the Doodle Poll, where you had to change your time zone to PST if it was set to something else. Some members recall not seeing at 5pm – 7pm time option.
- S. Valentine: The option that works best based on the Doodle Poll is first Thursday from 5pm – 7pm. Emily Myers has a conflict with 5pm – 7pm and would not be able to attend.
- November and December pose challenges with several holidays we would have to schedule around.

- Lots of options were offered, for November the board wants to consider keeping the regular 4pm – 6pm time and looking at a possible new time in the new year.
- T. Madrigal asked about including a community engagement process to have community input on the 2022 calendar. Shared a community engagement plan (p. 62) from the EJ Council to take some inspiration from:
[https://healthequity.wa.gov/Portals/9/Doc/Publications/Reports/EJTF%20Report_FINAL\(1\).pdf](https://healthequity.wa.gov/Portals/9/Doc/Publications/Reports/EJTF%20Report_FINAL(1).pdf)

Level of Involvement for 2022 Proposed Budget – M. Batayola, GNDOB Co-Chair

- M. Batayola: This next item is of importance to all of us in regards to the 2022 proposed budget. We recognize that many organizations and individuals are commenting in the budget. Do we as a board want to get involved in commenting in the budget?
- There are a couple of options to consider:
 - Comment to Council and Mayor based on our responsibility, our values that we are taking on, and our commitment to being more active in the 2023 budget.
 - Uplifting the 6.5M allocation for GNDOB recommendations.
 - Is there a strong emerging area to include in those comments to Council?
- S. Gelb asked about our duty to understand where JumpStart funding is coming in and where its being allocated, there has been some questions about that.
- J. Wallach mentioned that Matt, Debolina, and Jess have been a part of a broad coalition to participate in the [Solidarity Budget](#) in making a robust set of recommendations for the 2022 city budget. These recommendations are about investing in community-led solutions to meet all the crises that we’re facing, and as you know the Green New Deal touches a lot of these areas.
- There are a lot of things in the Solidarity Budget that are relevant to our work regarding housing, transportation, essential services. There is also a specific Green New Deal and Environmental Justice section. Wanted to lift up some of these recommendations for this board to consider:
 - There is a recommendation for \$280,000 to invest in indigenous led sovereignty and sustainability projects.
 - Some really cool stuff that Duwamish Tribal Services is working on.
 - There is a recommendation for \$100,000 to create a roadmap to make all community centers in Seattle serve as clean air and cooling centers and having rooftop solar as emergency backup.
 - There is a big ask for \$85 Million to accelerate the transition of low-income homes off fossil fuel infrastructure. Came out of the understanding that it will take about \$250 Million to fully cover the costs for all low-income households and make sure that folks don’t have to be fronting the cost and they can get the support they need.
 - Recognition that in the mayor’s proposed budget, there is funding to accelerate the transition of homes off of oil heat, but it just covers transitions for 125 homes. Maria is really the expert here around the needs around those transitions and making sure that folks aren’t impacted, particularly seniors on fixed income if the oil heat tax goes into effect. 125 homes is a good start, but nowhere near enough.
- J. Wallach wanted to look at those 3 specific budget recommendations from the Solidarity Budget report.
- D. Banarjee wanted to offer full transparency that 3 members of the board are engaging directly with the Solidarity Budget. The numbers from these recommendations comes from the understanding that the departments that are supposed to implement these bodies of work are really strapped for cash. They are not funded enough and the amount of funds that they need is much bigger than what we usually see and what they are given.

- When we are talking about the Green New Deal, a lot of the things are interconnected and a lot of us agree what the interconnections are. So thin the Solidarity Budget, we talk about criminal legal defense, vital services, housing, and participatory budgeting. A lot of the things are led by experts who weight in. We would love for you all to take a look at what the Solidarity Budget actually highlights in this.
- A lot of concerns about JumpStart is that we are unclear how some of the JumpStart money is being appropriated to fund other things that the mayor wants to move. At the same time, we find a shortfall in JumpStart funding, which is being managed by a one-time ARPA funds. A lot of clarity is needed on where the source of funding is coming from.
- Looking at the budget not only from an environment point of view but looking at all the other social justice points as well. For example, where the Office of Housing is getting some of their dollars that would be linked to our work. Where is Department of Neighborhoods getting their dollars related to this work.
- M. Remle: There are a lot of crossovers, obviously with EJ issues and housing. When we're talking about retrofitting homes and weatherizing homes, we're also talking about jobs. When we're talking about affordable housing, we're also talking about jobs. So there's clearly a crossover intersection with all of our respective roles on this board. Recommends to check out the Solidarity Budget and would like to hear any feedback.
- M. Batayola: Appreciates the transparency from members involved in the Solidarity Budget. Because of the shortness of the timeline, this board can think about the need to influence and/or be involved in this year's budget, the two ways we can think of influencing is sending a general letter and adding any emergent issues that we want to uplift.
- Seeking transparency from government as far as what projects are being funded and what percentage goes to frontline communities. This is the type of information that we will be asking for a budget briefing in December.
- A group consisting of Maria, Steve, Syris, and Deepa sketched out an Excel spreadsheet that identifies areas of the Green New Deal work that were identified in the GND Resolution. We would like to crosswalk what programs, which departments are leading these areas, where the money is coming from, what level of changes from 2019 to 2020 in budget allocations. We would like to add what is the source of the revenue.
- Another set of data that we would like to ask if what is actually happening to the Green New Deal dollars and how they are allocated this year.
- J. Vasquez shared a summary of GND related funding in the 2022 budget at the last meeting. Happy to work with the board to get more specificity on what level of data the board would like to hear from Central Budget Office for the December briefing as we are planning that.
- S. Gelb the question is not just what the GND portion is, but what is the total income from JumpStart and how much went to housing, how much went somewhere else. The question that advocates are asking generally is how some of that money is being used to supplant other budget items. We would like to ask the budget office that we want to understand the big picture.
- J. Wallach made an ask of the board to consider lending our support for those community defined priorities and include them in our budget statement letter to City Council and Mayor that we support the funding for indigenous led sovereignty sustainability projects, funding for road mapping community climate resilient centers, and increasing the funding for home energy retrofits for low-income households.
- T. Madrigal suggest that we should have a public comment from the Solidarity Budget entity, rather than that ask coming from within the board. That way we're responding to the

community. We can then deliberate and agree to then act as a board. Process wise, we want to make sure that we are meeting the due diligence that's required from a governance board.

- D. Banarjee echoed what Tomas brought up. We can reach out to the coalition to come and present to the board. There is a recognition that our next scheduled meeting isn't until Nov 4th, and it may be too late for us to act. Therefore we would need to consider when is the perfect place for this. One of the flags that comes up, is because some board members will be doing public comment we must know what hat we are wearing when we register for a public comment.
- J. Vasquez shared the implications for the board to add Special Session meetings. Shared the original timeline presented at the retreat. Based on the conversation that the board is having today, an overlay of the Council's budget timeline was presented and what shifts the board would need to take to be able to respond on time.
- The board would need to add 2-3 Special Session meetings to expedite the Values and GND Definitions work in order to engage in budget deliberations before the end of October.
- S. Valentine asked if the board chooses to adopt the draft letter that Maria put together would require a shift in the board's timeline. Maria shared that she drafted the letter in reference to the GND Ordinance and the work that we need to do and that it is very clear that we don't have the operational pieces yet in place.
- **BOARD ACTION:** T. Madrigal moves that the Green New Deal Oversight Board hold special session meeting regarding the proposed 2022 budget in order to receive community input. D. Banarjee seconded.
- **TEST FOR CONCENSUS:** Moves forward
 - 5 "I like this a lot, I think it's the best possible decision" - **(1)**
 - 4 "This is fine" - **(6)**
 - 3 "I'm in the middle somewhere" - **(1)**
 - 2 "I don't much like this but I'll go along" - 0
 - 1 "I'll just barely go along" - **(1)**
 - 0 "I vote no" - 0
- **BOARD DECISION:** Approved
 - A "Yes, I approve" – **(5)**
 - B "Yes, with reservations" – **(3)**
 - C "Not voting until we have further discussion" – **(1)**
 - D "I don't approve, but I don't block" – **(2)**
 - E "I block, with serious concerns" - 0
 - F "Stand aside. Recuse myself" – 0
- M. Batayola asked for help designing how these meetings will be run.