

**Green New Dean Oversight Board (GNDOB)  
Meeting Notes**

<b>MEETING SUMMARY</b>	<b>Date:</b> October 28, 2021 <b>Time:</b> 4:00pm – 6:02pm <b>Location:</b> WebEx
<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	<b>Maria Batayola</b> <b>Tomas Madrigal</b> <b>Matt Remle</b> <b>Kristina Chu</b> <b>Syris Valentine</b> <b>Debolina Banerjee</b> <b>Emily Myers</b> <b>Andrea Ornelas</b> <b>Keith Weir</b> <b>Jess Wallach</b> <b>Steve Gelb</b>
<b>MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>	Rachel Heaton, Dennis Comer, Deepa Sivarajan
<b>GUESTS:</b>	Office of Sustainability & Environment: Lisa Chen, Lylia Allala Public: Ramani, Jennifer LaBrecque

<b>DECISIONS MADE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board approves 10/21 meeting minutes</li> </ul>
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FOLLOW-UP ACTION ITEMS			
#	ITEM	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)	TARGET DATE
1	Conflict Resolution Process	Executive Committee	11/04
2	GND Definitions workgroup accepting feedback via shared online document ahead of next meeting	Deepa, Andrea, Maria, Jess, Emily, Steve, Keith	10/28
3	Discussion for work planning for next year, on how the GND Definitions filter will be used logistically and practically by city departments.	Full Board	01/06
4	GND Statement on 2022 Proposed Budget will solicit feedback from board members during the following week.	Debolina, Keith, Jess, Tomas, Deepa	10/28

**Meeting Notes**

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

**Welcome, introductions, and recap of last meeting**

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- M. Remle led a land acknowledgement.
- Recap of last meeting:
  - Board discussed, voted, and adopted a GND Values Statement as they were presented.
  - Discussed a conflict resolution process for discussions moving forward to reflect the strong values and vision statement.
  - A draft of GND Definitions document was presented and board provided feedback.
  - Budget Workgroup was formed comprised of K. Weir, J. Wallach, T. Madrigal, D. Banarjee, D. Sivarajan.
  - Public statement was heard from 12 community members.
  - Land acknowledgement signup sheet is available in the GNDOB Google Drive for board members to sign up.

### **Approval of Oct 21 Minutes**

- BOARD ACTION: K. Weir motions to approve minutes. S. Gelb seconded.
- BOARD DECISION: Approved
  - A “Yes, I approve” - 9
  - B “Yes, with reservations”
  - C “Not voting until we have further discussion”
  - D “I don’t approve, but I don’t block”
  - E “I block, with serious concerns”
  - F “Stand aside. Recuse myself”

### **Conflict Resolution – M. Batayola, GNDOB Co-Chair**

- Request for volunteers to serve on a Conflict Resolution Workgroup to help shape and develop a process/training opportunities.
- S. Valentine and M. Batayola, with support from D. Banerjee have volunteered.
- BOARD ACTION: S. Gelb motions to approve minutes. R. Heaton seconded.
- BOARD DECISION: Approved
  - A “Yes, I approve” - 9
  - B “Yes, with reservations”
  - C “Not voting until we have further discussion”
  - D “I don’t approve, but I don’t block”
  - E “I block, with serious concerns”
  - F “Stand aside. Recuse myself”
- T. Madrigal asked for a Conflict Resolution Process for the board to have ahead of time in relations to the values.

### **GND Definitions – D. Sivarajan, S. Gelb, J. Wallach, GNDOB members**

- J. Wallach present process of GND Definitions to clarify what constitutes a Green New Deal program, policy, or project. These were built based on the values that were just approved. There will be opportunities for the full board to provide comments directly into the document within the next week.
  - 3 Pillars for what makes a GND program, policy, or project.
    - Addresses the climate crisis and environmental injustice
    - Building an inclusive low-carbon economy
    - Promotes community health and well-being
  - These 3 pillars can act as a filter

- There is recognition that there is a lot of jargon in these documents. The workgroup has included a Term Glossary to help de-jargon language from the GND Values and Definitions. This Term Glossary can be a living document that evolves with the board's work.
- M. Batayola asked about the principles on how the board wants departments to drive this work.
- J. Wallach provided an overview of the guidance for city departments in implementing GND work.
  - The needs assessment, planning, development, implementation and evaluation of an effective and sustainable GND program, policy, or project must include:
    - Urgency in addressing the intertwined climate, environmental, economic, and health injustices.
    - Led by community wisdom, leadership, and partnership to sustain the GND PPP benefits.
    - Is culturally and linguistically sensitive and competent.
    - Aligns with the City's commitments to racial and environmental equity, as defined in the Race & Social Justice Initiative, the Equity & Environment Agenda, and the Seattle Green New Deal Resolution.
- D. Sivarajan offered some context that came up in the workgroup's discussions around how these definitions would be used. How does the board engage with city departments? This was more of a substantive discussion about how the board wants to operate and is something the board would like to address when they initiate their work planning for next year. This will act as a filter, and the board hasn't quite figured out how this filter will be used logistically and practically.
- J. Wallach appreciates bringing this forward for live comments and questions and wants to invite the rest of the board to chime in directly into the shared doc between now and Tuesday.
- T. Madrigal asks to make sure that this document provides definitions of jargon used in the values statement that were just passed and cross checking these documents.
- T. Madrigal shared a podcast that speaks to Consumption in a capitalist setting: <https://directory.lubsyn.com/shows/view/id/therednation>
- A test for consensus was request to determine if the board will move forward with the GND Definitions.
- CHECK FOR CONSENSUS:
  - 5 "I like this a lot, I think it's the best possible decision" - 3
  - 4 "This is fine" - 7
  - 3 "I'm in the middle somewhere
  - 2 "I don't much like this but I'll go along"
  - 1 "I'll just barely go along"
  - 0 "I vote no"

#### **2022 Proposed Budget Statement Workgroup – M. Batayola, GND OB Co-Chair**

- A workgroup is established to draft and move forward the 2022 Proposed Budget Statement.
- Workgroup members: Debolina, Keith, Jess, Tomas, Deepa

#### **Public Comment**

- Neal Anderson: First meeting attended, appreciates thoughtfulness that's going into this around things like balancing urgency with mindfulness. Wanted to talk about gas stoves. We've been learning a lot about the indoor air pollution that they cause, and we know that this is a lot worse

for children since their lungs are still developing. But as more people get the message about how harmful it is to burn gas indoors. In a lot of cases, wealthier families are able to get rid of their gas range and replace it with electric, while for lower income families that's often not an option. We know from the health disparities map that residents in poor communities already breathe more polluted air. But if this trend continues, it means that children in those communities will be more likely to breathe toxic fumes when they're at home too, and we can't be a city that allows climate progress to leave behind our most vulnerable residents. This is why I'm asking that you include the recommendation from the Solidarity Budget to allocate 85M dollars a year for the next 3 years to transition all low-income homes to transition to use clean energy. We know that today's children will be the ones who experience the worst effects of the climate crisis.

- Alexa Fay: Registered nurse that lives in district 4 and works in Seattle in Madison Valley. Testifying today to ask the board to support the Solidarity Budget that would divest funds from and ensure true public and environmental health and safety. As a nurse, works with a lot of vulnerable populations that, including those that are immunocompromised, who are homeless, and who suffer from mental health issues. I've seen 1<sup>st</sup> hand the effects of the climate crisis on my patients, including dehydration from heat waves and increased respiratory issues during wildfire season. As well as struggling to find shelter when extreme weather events hit. The Solidarity Budget of 85K to accelerate building and home transition off fossil fuel gas would greatly benefit my patients as well as the greater Seattle community. This gas used in homes releases toxic carbon monoxide, lead, and other harmful pollutants that can lead to increased rates of asthma and heart failure. A lot of my patients live in these low-income housing and it's important that they have the same equitable change for good health as those are able to transition off of fossil fuels do. The Mayor's current proposal only allocates less than 1% of the general fund to GND investments. Since climate change is already here, we need the Solidarity Budget's more comprehensive GND demands to promote the safety of all Seattle communities. Furthermore, fully funding climate solutions will save money in the long run by addressing preventable disasters as well as addressing the health impacts caused by pollution before they happen and create healthy and thriving communities. Funding the Solidarity Budget would provide a more equitable and just Seattle that addresses the root causes of health issues and creates a sustainable future for all.
- Katherine Leggett: I live in district 5 and organize with 350 Seattle and 350 Washington. I organize in my community to advocate for just and sound climate policy. I am strongly in favor of the Solidarity Budget. The fact is we need to raise progressive revenue to make real transformative investments in our communities. To raise these funds, I am strongly in favor of divesting funds from police and reinvesting in climate justice. I support the Solidarity Budget's call for 85M per year for the next 3 years to transition all low-income homes in Seattle to clean energy. Transitioning Seattle homes is urgently needed. Buildings are the fastest growing source of greenhouse gas emissions in Washington State. There are so many co-benefits for transitioning homes off fossil fuels, reduce utility bills, cleaner air in the home and community, and unlike oil or gas heat, heat pumps do heating in winter and colling in summer. The recent adoption of the updated energy codes in Seattle in February 2021 shows that there is momentum in this city to transition to clean energy and we must do it equitably. If we truly want all communities to be healthy and to thrive, then we must divest from police and we must reinvest those funds into these specific GND recommendations.
- Travonna Thompson-Wiley: I am an organizer and am completely passionate about helping Seattle. I am a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation black woman that is from the Central District. My family came here during the Jim Crow era, during the great migration, to find a better life for themselves. As we

know from history that black, indigenous, and brown folks have not gotten what they need. That comes in the form of brutalization from SPD. I'm calling in today and supporting the Solidarity Budget recommendations for Seattle's GND. I fully support this demand for environmental justice and a GND that adequately addresses the scale of the climate crisis and we have the money. We have the funds and where we can get that money and those funds is from the Seattle Police Department. The Mayor proposed a budget that fails to address the safety needs of Seattle by neglecting the scale of the climate crisis, and instead continues to overinvest in a failed system of policing. With 26 dollars spent on policing for every dollar spent on Seattle's GND. Why are we continuing to invest in a policing system that does more harm than good. I was one of those many protesters last year that was brutalized. I saw one of my friends' head being runover by a bicycle cop. It is important that we divest from institutions that cause harm, and we need to invest in the community and the community deserves investment now. The 2022 City budget can lay the groundwork for this equitable energy transition while meeting urgent needs for utility assistance, building community climate resistance, and creating pathways to good living wage jobs. How can we get to this equitable transition, this energy transition? There are 3 great recommendations from the Solidarity Budget. One of them is 100k dollars to create a roadmap for community climate resistant hubs in every Seattle neighborhood. Investing 280K dollars into indigenous-led clean energy and sustainability and cultural preservation projects. Our indigenous community members have stewarded this land for over 10k years, and I believe that they should take the lead on Seattle's Green New Deal. We have the funds; we have the money. The City's budget alone is 6 billion dollars. The Mayor's proposed budget for SPD in 2022 is 2.5M higher. However, there are quite few responsibilities that were taken away from SPD. Right now, SPD is sitting with 47M dollars more in their budget. That is to say the city's budget is a moral document that prioritizes the needs of our city. I will conclude by saying support the Solidarity Budget because it can literally save the lives of our communities and our future generations.

- Shaun Glaze (they/them): District 2 resident. I'm black, queer, non-binary, a parent. Here to support the Solidarity Budget and the GND demands within it. The Solidarity Budget is something that's been developed by the work of several people and something that I feel is near and dear to my heart as someone that has been participating in the Black Brilliance Research Project, where we talked to literally thousands of people around the city about what they want to see. The previous speakers talked about a lot of the concerns that people addressed when we were collecting data. Concerns around the fact that our world is really not the world that we had expected to inherit. That there is quite a bit of devastation that's happened to our climate and that now is the time to do everything we can to save any semblance of a habitable future for humans and for our fellow inhabitants of this planet. The one thing that I want to make sure comes across really clear is that part of where we need to go next is supporting the Solidarity Budget in terms of a Green New Deal and in terms of divesting. When we look at our budget in Seattle, typically about half of our general funds goes to our police. By the police's own data, and their own reporting, half of those calls that they get are not calls that require a police response. They have room in their budget to really trim that down so that we can invest in things like the retrofitting we need, and the anti-displacement policies that we need, the workforce development that we need to create union well-paid wage jobs in green energy. Closing the gap so that our low-income community members can really access full use of the tools to get them to having clean safe housing, as well as climate and resilience hubs. The two most significant investments in the Solidarity Budget are the 280k towards indigenous-led energy solutions. For anybody that supports indigenous sovereignty, 280k sounds like a great starting point. The 85M in the Solidarity Budget to bring all of these houses off of fossil fuels and

to make significant dent as we try to save our warming planet. All of that money that is on the table now to do those things is here. We're not going to divest from our schools so that we can save our homes, we're not going to divest from childcare so that we can have clean air. We're going to divest from the things that had been hurting our community that has been harming people exercising their right to free speech. That has been harming our black and indigenous communities as we've been trying to live our best lives. With that, I really urge you all to support the Solidarity Budget both in terms of the investments which I know we all serve, but also support the divest strategy. Because what people typically try to do is peel off that divest piece because it doesn't seem politically expedient, but now is the time to stay in solidarity with each other to push for the world we want to see.

- Annemarie Dooley: District 4, doctor and member of physicians for social responsibility. Last month editors of 200 medical journals for the first time ever called our climate crisis a bigger threat to public health than Covid-19. That's after 750k have died. We need a Solidarity Budget to address climate justice without delay. Last June we had a heat dome that should never had happened. Over 400 people died in Washington State. I saw our ERs overflowing and not just any people, but particularly those who work outdoors, the unhoused, the poor, and the sick, the patients that I see every day. Thousands will die every year from heat in the coming years, unless we act. We need a large investment in people. With 240M will help from the Solidarity Budget in removing toxic fossil fuels from homes and hundreds of thousands to build climate resiliency projects. We need to get people off the streets for weather extremes alone is going to kill many. That means committing to investing at least 65% of JumpStart revenues into housing. I would like the committee and the Council to understand that the survival of people in Washington is more important than a commitment to the status quo. That status quo has meant rising greenhouse gas emissions every single year. The Solidarity Budget isn't just a wish list, it is absolutely vital to keeping people alive here in Washington State and in Seattle.
- Jacob Schear (he/him): Organizer with Real Change. Calling on behalf of Real Change and our vendors to ask the GNDOB to support the 2022 Solidarity Budget in order to dramatically readjust the mayor's proposed budget. To align with the actual needs of our community. The Solidarity Budget provides a deeply researched community-centered blueprint for providing true community care and safety, which was achieved by participatory process that included people like Real Change vendors. Our vendors need the commitment to funding deeply affordable, social, and green housing laid out in the Solidarity Budget. Not austerity in the hiring more police, to perpetuate racist violence in the criminalization of poverty prioritized by Mayor Durkans' budget. We urgently need bold solutions, like developing progressive sources of revenue to supplement JumpStart Tax and for bringing housing funding to levels that can actually address the city and regions longstanding housing deficit as well as establishing precursors to housing like land banking and emergency shelters and maintain consistent and stable housing programs like tenant legal aid and eviction protection. Real Change hopes that the GNDOB will fully support the 2022 Solidarity Budget to create a new path forward for our city. One that centers housing as a human right and addresses the climate catastrophe head on and creates new and vital ways to ensure that people like Real Change vendors can live and thrive in Seattle.
- Olivia Johnson: Duwamish Tribal Council member from District 1. Calling in support of the Solidarity Budget proposal, which includes GND investments of 380k for indigenous-led clean energy, sustainability, and cultural preservation upgrades for the Duwamish Longhouse and Cultural Center. This proposal asks the Council to begin addressing the long-standing environmental injustices, experienced by the members of the Duwamish Tribe, while investing in climate resiliency, which benefits residents throughout the city. We thank you for your support.

- Jake Theonnes (he/him): District 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> year grad student at the UW Evans School and current intern at Duwamish Tribal Services. I'm calling to echo CM Olivia Johnson's support of the Solidarity Budget's 380k investment in indigenous-led clean energy, sustainability, and cultural preservation upgrades to the Duwamish Longhouse and Cultural Center. In addition, I'd like to bring attention to an amendment proposed by the Solidarity Budget Coalition to invest 1.5M in indigenous sovereignty in order to improve the health and safety of members of the Duwamish Tribe. These funds will provide vulnerable individuals with equitable access to comprehensive healthcare, including mental and behavioral health services focused on drug and alcohol addiction, treatment and rehabilitation. This investment will have a transformational effect on these individuals who are currently experiencing accessibility barriers to adequate healthcare services. We ask for your support to follow through with this community proposed investment in the health and safety of this historically under-funded population that remains extremely vulnerable with our city.
- Andrew Grueter: District 1 and also work in the Duwamish Longhouse and Cultural Center. Calling in support of the Solidarity Budget in general and specifically the proposal to invest 380k in upgrades to the Duwamish Longhouse and Cultural Center. To be specific, this would include 200k for rooftop solar panels to be installed on the Duwamish Longhouse to support the energy independence, sustainability, and sovereignty of the Duwamish Tribe. 100k for multiple water systems, catchments, and water filtration systems to support the tribe sovereignty. This will include thousands of gallons of water systems and other materials to construct the catchment and filters. 80k for raingarden infrastructure on the South slope of the Duwamish Longhouse roof and the retrofit part of the roofing to fasten the infrastructure for this green roof. This is also important in light of the comments that one of the previous speakers made about the heat dome and the increasing effects of climate change. If we're able to model and spread locally collected and filtered water systems that can support our needs for drinking water. It can relieve pressure from our centralized system. It can support agriculture and gardening in the urban area. This can support not only the Duwamish tribal members, but anyone in the city and the Duwamish Valley as we experience more and more droughts that are driven by climate change and the overuse of our centralized resources. Decentralized water collection and drainage can also alleviate some of the core effects from losses in snowpack that will continue to get worse from droughts and keep a consistent flow of clean and cooler water going into our watersheds and sustaining all of the people that live in our city.

The Board opened an opportunity for board members to discuss budget deliberation process questions or consistency questions.

- J. Wallach shared appreciation for members of the public participating in today's meeting.
- M. Remle thanks everyone for sharing such heartfelt comments.
- S. Gelb wants to be sure that all GND OB members have a chance to provide input into the Budget Workgroup.
- S. Valentine offered a plan for the Budget Workgroup to offer drop-in feedback sessions, similar to how the Values and Definitions Workgroups operated.
- S. Gelb asked for further documentation or background material from Solidarity Budget.
- T. Madrigal – Wants to ask asked for a report back from CBO. Wants to know specific areas of funding and what are items that are existing programs and what items are going to be completely new.
  - GND Investments summary from JumpStart Tax was provided to the board at a previous meeting. It includes some information about oil heating conversion funds.

- S. Gelb is interested in other funding in the budget that's not JumpStart related that goes into weather insulation.
- D. Banerjee would like the city to provide the board data on where money is coming from and where it's going, it will be easier for the board to track.

**Meeting Evaluation** – S. Valentine, GNDOB Co-Chair

- K. Weir Public appreciates that public comment was moved back to after 5pm to allow for the public to join.
- M. Remle appreciates mindfulness of setting back the time for allowing for public comment.
- D. Banerjee appreciates flexibility with time for board participation and public comment.

DRAFT