



City Light Review Panel Meeting Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: September 27, 2022 | 9:00 – 11:00 AM |
Meeting held in SMT 3517 and via Microsoft Teams “Final”

MEETING ATTENDANCE					
Panel Members:					
Names		Name		Name	
Anne Ayre	√	Leo Lam	√	John Putz	√
Mikel Hansen		Kerry Meade	√	Tim Skeel	
Scott Haskins		Joel Paisner	√	Michelle Mitchell-Brannon	
Staff and Others:					
Debra Smith	√	Jen Chan		Karen Reed (Consultant /RP Facilitator)	√
Kirsty Grainger	√	Mike Haynes		Craig Smith	
Jim Baggs		DaVonna Johnson		Michelle Vargo	
Kalyana Kakani	√	Emeka Anyanwu		Maura Brueger	√
Julie Moore	√	Chris Ruffini	√	Chris Tantoco	
Greg Shiring	√	Carsten Croff	√	Leigh Barreca	√
Eric McConaghy	√	Caia Caldwell		Angela Bertrand	√
		Josh Walter	√	Brian Taubeneck	√

Welcome and Introductions. The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m.

Public Comment. There was no public comment.

Standing Items:

Review Agenda. Karen Reed reviewed the agenda.

Approval of July 26 and August 25, 2022 Meeting Minutes. Minutes were approved as presented.

Chair’s Report. No report.

Communications to Panel. One email was received inquiring as to how to find out the schedule of upcoming Panel meetings. Leigh Barreca directed provided the link to the Seattle.gov Review Panel page to the individual.

Review Panel Chair & Co-Chair Elections Mikel Hansen was reelected as Chair, and Leo Lam was elected as Co-Chair.

General Manager’s update. Debra Smith updated the panel on the following items:



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- a. Rate Ordinance at Council – Committee presentation on 8/10 and 9/14. Thanks to the Review Panel for their support of this path. Full council adopted the plan on 9/20 with a vote of 7-2 with CMs Pederson and Sawant voting “no”. In her endorsement of the rate ordinance, CM Nelson expressed her great appreciation for the work and advisory support of the Review Panel. More thanks to Mikel for attending the meeting and for so eloquently voicing the Panel’s support of the rate plan.
- b. Help with Utility Bills (Road to Recovery) – Throughout the summer, SCL and SPU promoted resources to help with utility bills in advance of resuming shutoffs. Both utilities are directly communicating with customers in arrears as well as conducting community outreach including tabling at United Indians’ Seafair Indian Days Powwow and the Chinatown International District Celebration (SCL Outreach & Engagement Advisor Kristian Alcaide at the CID event pictured below), working with Age Friendly Seattle and DON’s Community Liaisons program, distributing flyers through the Food Service Program, and providing flyers to King County Library branches in SPU and SCL’s service territories. SCL and SPU have updated our Urgent and Final Shutoff notifications to include key information in Seattle’s top tier languages and to promote financial resources including flexible payment plans, the Utility Discount Program, and Emergency Assistance. Prior to resuming shutoffs, SCL and SPU will communicate with interested parties including franchise cities, City departments, and community partners. SPU resumed sending notifications the week of August 29, with first shutoffs slated to occur the week of October 3. SCL is intentionally staggering our resumption by one month. SCL will resume sending notifications to delinquent accounts the week of September 26 with shutoffs resuming the week of October 17.
- c. Utility Assistance Portal – On Monday, Aug. 29, phase one of the new Utility Assistance Program (UAP) online application went live, allowing City of Seattle utility customers to apply for utility discount and emergency assistance programs via a single mobile-friendly online platform. The system is designed to improve the application process for customers and City program staff. UAP supports longstanding, citywide goals to increase the number of qualified households enrolled in utility assistance programs. In the three days following Monday’s soft launch, the portal logged 135 customer logins, with 97 applications submitted. The UAP Project Team is comprised of representatives from Seattle IT, Seattle City Light, Seattle Public Utilities and Human Services.
- d. Solar Panels at Burien’s Highline High School – This is the result of a project that the school’s Environmental Club instigated and advocated for, including a \$12,000 community fundraiser and successful applications for a \$110,000 grant from Washington State Department of Commerce and \$125,000 in future renewable energy credits from the Seattle City Light Green Up program. The solar installation will generate approximately 115,400 kWh in its first year of operation, which is the equivalent of \$10,000 in energy savings. As a result of the successful award of a grant, the solar array is estimated to achieve a simple payback within 2.5 years.
- e. Inflation Reduction Act – Debra was able to join U.S. Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., on Tuesday, August 16th to mark President Joe Biden’s signing of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) into law. We were joined by commissioners from the Port of Seattle and Port of Tacoma at a media event at Seattle Housing Authority’s all-electric Hinoki building, an affordable housing project where a 52-kilowatt solar installation generates renewable energy for Seattle City Light’s renewable energy purchasing



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program.

The landmark act brings the biggest investment ever in the U.S. to fight climate change. It will provide around \$375 billion over the next decade to incentivize and subsidize technology like solar panels, improve home energy efficiency, help reduce air pollution in low-income communities, enhance renewable energy sources and provide tax incentives for electric vehicles, among other things.

- f. Visit to Kobe – Debra planning to visit Kobe, Japan, Seattle’s sister city, in November as a part of a contingent working to understand the possibilities around hydrogen power.
- g. Return to Office – Employees will be notified around the next phase of return to office on Thursday. Non-field employees will be expected to be in the office for a minimum of 2 days a week. All employees will be submitting new Alternative Work Agreements (AWAs.) There is an exception process that we are still working through ourselves.

Q: How is City Light planning to take advantage of the funding available under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)?

A: We are part of the City’s taskforce working on this. This group is focused on interagency cooperation and support in addition to providing information about funding opportunities. It will be about 4-6 months before we have detail on what projects the City will propose.

Q: I spoke to a customer who experiences a delay in getting service and did not get billed for almost a year. Do you know anything about this?

A: Yes. We still have a 15% vacancy rate, so we’re missing some of our performance targets. We will not meet our pole replacement goal. Smart meter installation has been slowed a lot by supply chain disruption. We are working on presumptive consumption billing—targeting 80% of average and SCL will not back bill, the utility will eat any under billing.

SCL is also working on a project to coordinate with homebuilders, SCL and other City departments to improve on concerns and streamline processes.

Bonneville Power Administration. Josh Walter presented. The presentation is in the meeting packet.

Q: Does City Light have a position on the Regional Transmission Organization (RTO)?

A: Yes, we believe that is the direction the region is moving. Jim Baggs is working as part of his work on the Western Market development.

Q: I haven’t heard much about the 2028 contract – do you have a rundown of that?

A: As of now, the products will stay the same with the caveat of the possibility of a capacity product. This may be a constraint through a net peak requirement to assess BPA’s ability to



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provide capacity to meet customer peak load requirements. It's historically been contemplated but never implemented. It's being considered now due to stressed conditions.

Review Panel Workplan. Karen Reed noted that a draft workplan for the Panel's next two years is in the meeting packet. Submitting a two-year work plan is an ordinance requirement for the Panel. Panel members provided feedback and suggestions. Workplan will be finalized at our October meeting.

Acronyms in the draft workplan:

- IRP: Integrated Resource Plan
- OCM: Organizational Change Management
- BPM: Business Process Improvement
- P&C: People & Culture
- RSJ: Race and Social Justice
- TOU: Time of Use
- SP: Strategic Plan

Status Report. Angela Bertrand and Leigh Barreca presented. The Strategic Plan status reports for Q1 and Q2 as well the July Executive Dashboard are in the meeting packet.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

Next meeting: Oct. 25, 2022, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. There will be both virtual and In-person meeting options.