

# Green New Deal Oversight Board Meeting Minutes

MEETING SUMMARY	Date:	4/15/2024
	Time:	5:00pm – 7:00pm
	Location:	Zoom
MEMBERS PRESENT:	Steve Gelb, Nina Olivier, Andrea Ornelas, Peter Hasegawa, Emily Meyers, Debolina Banerjee and Keith Weir	
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Ken Workman, Matt Remle, Rachel Heaton, and Eunice How	
CITY STAFF & GUESTS:	Elise Rasmussen (OSE), Sara Cubillos (OSE), Jessyn Farrell (OSE), Akshay Iyengar (CBO) Pending GND OB Appointees – Lizzy Baskerville, Camille Gipaya, Hannah Lyndell Smith,	

DECISIONS MADE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>APPROVAL of the March meeting minutes.</li><li>APPROVAL of the Board comment letter on the Transportation Levy Proposal and draft One Seattle Plan.</li></ul>
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FOLLOW-UP ACTION ITEMS			
#	ITEM	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)	TARGET DATE
1	Follow up with City Light on grant Letter of Support and Board questions over email	Elise Rasmussen	April/May
2	Coordinate submission of the Board's Transportation Levy and One Seattle comment letter.	Elise Rasmussen and Jess Wallach	April

## MEETING NOTES

Peter Hasegawa and Nina Olivier (GND OB Executive Committee members) and Elise Rasmussen (Climate and Environmental Justice Associate) facilitated the meeting.

Notes taken by Sara Cubillos (Climate Justice Advisor).

## WELCOMES AND INTRODUCTIONS

**Debolina Banerjee** started the meeting, reviewed the meeting agenda, facilitated introductions, and provided a land and legacy acknowledgement.

## APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

**Steve Gelb** moved to approve the March 2024 minutes. **Andrea Ornelas** seconded the motion. **The Board unanimously approved** the minutes.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

## STAFF UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Elise Rasmussen** provided staff updates.

- New appointees were approved at the Sustainability, City Light, and Arts committee on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Then on April 16<sup>th</sup> the appointees are slated to be appointed by the full City Council.
- The GND Oversight Board retreat is being postponed until later in the summer for scheduling and attendance.
- Community Assemblies Training occurred on March 29<sup>th</sup> and was a good time for anchor organizations and partners to learn about the community assemblies process. The anchor organizations will continue participating in more trainings with People's Economy Lab in the near future before launching the assemblies.
- EJ Fund Grantees were announced last week. Largest award in the 5-year history of the EJ Fund.



- Transportation Equity Workgroup is now accepting applications for new members until May 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Discussion

- **Steve Gelb** asked if the EJ Fund growth is directly connected to Green New Deal funding. **Lylianna Allala** responded saying yes, it is.

## POSSIBLE ACTION: Letter of Support to City Light for a Federal Grant Application

This item is to follow up on last month's request from City Light for a Letter of Support from the Green New Deal Oversight Board for their [GRIP Federal Grant](#) application.

## Discussion

- **Peter Hasegawa** notes that the hope is the grant will provide opportunities to increase implementation on solar installation, clean energy, etc. **Peter** recommends that the Oversight Board hold off on providing a letter because the work needs to be larger scale and there are questions about labor standards.
- **Nina Olivier** notes that there is confusion about their building standards and would like to learn more.

- **Jess Wallach** also agreed that the funding would focus on homeowners or people who already have the means to participate in the program and should provide more opportunities for renters.
- **Steve Gelb** noted it was also about updating the grid.

The Board decided to hold off on providing a Letter of Support for City Light until the Board's questions are answered and will follow up with them over email.

## **POSSIBLE ACTION: Comment Letter on Seattle's Transportation Levy Proposal and the Draft One Seattle Comprehensive Plan**

The Board drafted a comment letter on the Transportation Levy proposal and the draft One Seattle Comprehensive Plan for the Board to review. This effort is in response to the public comment at the GNDOB March meeting urging the Board to comment on these two items.

### **Discussion**

- **Andrea Ornelas** stated that she liked the letter and does not have further feedback.
- **Keith Weir** uplifted the need for significant investment in electrification and supports including this in the letter.
- **Debolina Banerjee** also supports the inclusion of the resilience hub language and the inclusion of frontline communities.
- **Steve Gelb** asked that the letter include a response request from the departments that will be reviewing the letter.
- **Peter Hasegawa** moved to adopt the letter. **Keith Weir** seconded the adoption. **The Board voted unanimously to adopt and submit this letter. Jess Wallach and Elise Rasmussen** will coordinate to submit the letter.

## **PRESENTATION: Seattle's Revenue Forecast**

**Presenter: Akshay Iyengar, City Budget Office - Fiscal and Policy Analyst**

- The City is on a biennial budget cycle. The 2025 –2026 budget development occurs in 2024.
- The City is legally required to maintain a balanced budget.
- Typical process:
  - The baseline phase occurs in March.
  - The Budget Office provides guidance in April.
  - Departments submit proposals in June.
  - The Mayor proposes their budget in September.
  - The City Council reviews the budget in October.
  - The Budget is adopted in November.
- The major sources include: the General Fund, rate revenue from utilities, SDOT revenue from fees, levies and districts, other restricted sources like grants and other fees, including the payroll tax.
- Updates:

- The City is facing a major budget shortfall for 2024 and will continue to face shortfalls for 2025 and 2026.
- The payroll tax revenue is up, but it is a volatile revenue source.
- Other tax streams are down.
- The next opportunity to hear about the budget is on April 17<sup>th</sup> at City Council's Select Budget Committee.
- **Director Farrell (OSE)** stated that OSE continues to aggressively pursue climate funding at the State and Federal levels.

## Discussion

- **Debolina Banerjee:** What does the volatility look like now? Are there other reasons for the volatility?
  - **Akshay Iyengar:** The only reason it is up is due to the stock market which also adds to its volatility and there will be an overall budget shortage which is also part of the picture. There is a \$70 million increase for 2024, but it likely won't affect the outlook of 2025 or 2026.
- **Steve Gelb:** Where does the Federal and State funding appear in the budget?
  - **Akshay Iyengar:** Typically, grants are not received during the budget cycle and are typically added into a budget update. Thus, making it not as trackable or transparent.
  - **Director Farrell:** OSE can share at another meeting what funding OSE is receiving and applying for at the State and Federal level.
- **Steve Gelb:** Can Council change where PET funds are spent within the City budget?
  - **Akshay Iyengar:** Yes, that is within their purview.
- **Peter Hasegawa:** Can Council change the percentage of how PET funds are allocated?
  - **Akshay Iyengar:** Yes, they can.
- **Jess Wallach:** Would that require legislative action or what is the process that would need to occur before those percentages are changed?
  - **Akshay Iyengar:** We will need to get back to you on that specific process.

## DISCUSSION: Budget Recommendations

The GNDOB's Policy, Projects, and Programs (PPP) Committee has been working on drafting budget recommendations and requested feedback from the Board. The GNDOB provides budget recommendations every year to the Mayor and City Council for how to implement and invest in the GND.

### Process Updates:

- May 8<sup>th</sup> – When the first draft of recommendations will need to be complete.
- May 8<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> – Solicit feedback from the full Board and other subject matter experts and community partners.
- Late May – Refine recommendations.
- Early June – The Board will vote on the recommendations.
- June 7<sup>th</sup> – The recommendations will be transmitted to the Mayor and City Council.

## Discussion

- **Steve Gelb:** We are missing a theme focused on carbon reduction goals.
- **Lizzy Baskerville:** Would food justice be considered under environmental justice?
  - **Peter Hasegawa:** Yes, but it would be good to have a specific proposal because maybe there is state and federal funding.
- **Hannah Lindell-Smith:** For climate resilience, could we also include proposals or recommendations about the recovery after an event?
  - **Peter Hasegawa:** That is an important consideration, and it might be happening in areas of the city that we don't know about that are playing that role.
  - **Debolina Banerjee:** Resilience Hubs planning work will also be taking this into consideration but having some specific ideas might be helpful.
  - **Peter Hasegawa:** It's helpful to hear what you know and what you would like to share.
- **Camille Gipaya:** Where does the year 2035 come from as a time frame for eliminating health disparities?
  - **Elise Rasmussen:** The board has a mission of eliminating pollution by 2030.
  - **Steve Gelb:** It was a first guess at a number. What is the fastest we could realistically achieve the goal?
  - **Camille Gipaya:** If we are setting a goal, we should be tracking whether we are making progress to achieve that goal.
- **Camille Gipaya:** Is there a recommendation that focuses on tracking data and GND investments in the form of a reporting tool?
  - **Peter Hasegawa:** There is a list of data sources that the City has created but the Board has advocated for additional data sources.
  - **Camille Gipaya:** Front and Centered has been meeting with a few state agencies to understand better what we mean and how we report on pollution. Front and Centered is advocating for a tool that can be used statewide.

## **NEXT STEPS & ADJOURN**

**Keith Weir** moved to adjourn the meeting. **Steve Gelb** seconded the motion. The **Board voted unanimously** to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.