

GREEN NEW DEAL OVERSIGHT BOARD



MEETING MINUTES

May 18, 2026
5:00 – 7:00 PM

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT Nancy Huizar, Matt Remle, Brittani Cain, Akiksha Chatterji, Leah Wood, Jamie Stroble, Rachel Heaton, Nina Olivier, Rosalund Jenkins, Peter Hasegawa, Fatima Kabba, Elizabeth Baskerville, Emily Pinckney

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT Stephanie Ung, Camille Gipaya, John Sanchez, Hannah Lindell-Smith,

GUESTS OSE Staff: Elise Rasmussen, Ashlyn Gonzalez-Soriano, Marion Romero
Public: Alexander Booth, Megan Stachura, Anthony Geren

ACTION ITEMS Approval of April Meeting Minutes

MEETING NOTES

Emily Pinckney, Matt Remle, Nancy Huizar (GNDOB Executive Committee) facilitated the meeting.

Meeting notes were taken by **Elise Rasmussen** (Climate Justice Advisor), **Marion Romero** (Climate and Environmental Justice Associate) and **Ashlyn Gonzalez-Soriano** (Climate and Environmental Justice Intern).

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Nancy Huizar started the meeting, reviewed the meeting agenda, and facilitated introductions.

The Green New Deal Oversight Board (GNDOB) continued its welcome routine where a Board member shares about themselves and their work for Board members and the public to get an understanding of the wide array of work that Board members are a part of.

Akiksha Chatterji, an Emissions Reduction Specialist on the Board who works for 350 Seattle, shared 350 Seattle's statewide campaign, "Make Polluters Pay". This campaign aims to pass a Climate Superfund Bill at the state level. Modeled closely to the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund program, the bill would work to hold fossil fuel companies financially responsible for the climate harms they have caused in Washington State and local communities by introducing a retroactive penalty. Funds from the penalty would lead to a new revenue source for the state that can be used for climate adaptation and local climate resiliency measures. Akiksha shared similar legislation has passed in New York and Vermont and is being introduced in twelve other states. **Matt Remle** asked how individuals can get involved in the

work to which Akiksha suggested joining one of three campaign work groups and signing and sharing the petition with their networks. **Rosalund Jenkins** asked clarifying questions regarding the structure of the legislation and how polluters will be assessed to pay. Akiksha highlighted the legislations structured retroactive penalty, the price of oil set at the global scale, and the criterion to identify penalized companies which would lead to competition between companies and incentivize companies to limit price increases. **Brittani Cain** was selected to present at June's Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

VOTE: APPROVAL OF THE APRIL MEETING MINUTES

Emily Pinckney motioned to approve the minutes. **Leah Wood** seconded. **The Board voted to approve the April Meeting Minutes. Unanimous approval.**

STAFF UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Staff provided the following updates and announcements from the Office of Sustainability and Environment (OSE).

- **Elise Rasmussen** shared positive reactions and gratitude for the Board's work from Mayor Wilson, City staff, and subject matter experts regarding the Board's 2027-2028 Budget Recommendations which were transmitted to the Mayor's Office, City Council, and City Departments Leadership. Elise outlined the next steps of the budget process and how the Board's Budget Recommendations can shape department budgets. Elise shared further context of Seattle's Climate Action Plan (CAP) update and its community engagement process including the next phase which includes a 10-minute survey asking for people's climate priorities. Elise requested Board members share the survey with their networks.
- **Marion Romero** provided updates on the Board Appointment Process including that OSE staff is meeting with Appointing Councilmembers to confirm the timeline and approach for recruitment and selection process. Marion is in the process of requesting Meet and Greets with City Council members on behalf of the Board. Marion outlined the process to receive Board Budget Stipends for current Board Members, which are offered to Board members who are dealing with financial hardships. The process requires a Financial Hardship Compensation form, updated bank information, and memorandum of agreement. Stipend requests are due by June 2nd.
- **Rachel Heaton** shared more information on the Board Field trip occurring on June 18th, including what to expect and what to bring. The itinerary includes a tour of the land, educational activities, cleaning trails and creek, and conversations around climate impacts.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board's Executive Committee shared the following updates and announcements.

- **Nancy Huizar** provided a summary of the Seattle Social Housing Board (SSHB) Appointee process being led by the Policies, Projects, and Programs (PPP) Committee and announced the Executive

Committee's selection as **Nina Olivier** as the Green New Deal Oversight Board Appointment to the SSHB. Board members have until May 22nd to provide feedback on the chosen candidate. If no feedback is given, the Executive Committee will proceed with appointing Nina to the SSHB.

- **Emily Pinckney** summarized data center updates and community conversations occurring in Seattle. City Council introduced an emergency moratorium at the Sustainability and Land Use Committee's meeting on May 20th. The moratorium calls for impact studies from data centers. The Mayor's office also released a statement in response to City Council and will work with Council to direct departments to take coordinated action. The Executive Committee will meet to discuss strategizing around data centers and priorities. **Peter Hasegawa** raised the point of data centers increasing employment for labor unions as well as concerns regarding data concerns and sustainability. Peter would like labor unions to be included in conversations regarding data centers. OSE staff suggested that the Executive Committee strategize and identify possible moments of engagement for the rest of the Board and the PPP committee who is working on drafting a Board stance on data centers. Members can join an upcoming PPP meeting to discuss the topic. **Rosalund Jenkins** also spoke to employment as individuals working as electricians are often a part of constructing data centers, but was also clear about the harm data centers may cause. She suggested that the City holistically consider the cost of data centers, aside from just the potential for monetary gain.
- **Matt Remle** discussed connecting with other City advisory councils and commissions such as the Indigenous Advisory Council to support one another's work and amplify each other's policy recommendations. Matt shared the Executive Committee will be strategizing about the process to connect with other City advisory councils and commissions and request Board members share any councils or commissions the Board should connect with. Board members suggested connecting with the Planning Commission and Seattle Energy Code Advisory Council. Matt also summarized the PPP Committee's latest lunch and learn which focused on legislation aiming to ensure banks hired by the City and City's pension system can cut off new financing for fossil fuels. The PPP Committee will discuss next steps for possibly supporting that legislation at their June meeting.

UPDATE: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Brittani Cain briefed the Board on the Community Engagement Committee's first meeting. The Committee spent time grounding each other on their purpose for being on the Committee, reviewing priorities discussed at the Board Retreat, and discussing current priorities, Board work, and members' capacity. The Committee decided to focus on Climate Action Plan engagement and Board Budget Recommendations by prioritizing community engagement and building out a communication and messaging toolkit to ensure a standardized way to promote the Board's work. **Matt Remle** shared his enthusiasm for the Committee's purpose and future work.

NEXT STEPS & ADJOURN

Nancy Huizar moved to adjourn the meeting. **Jamie Stroble** seconded. **The Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:03PM. Unanimous approval.**