

Green New Dean Oversight Board (GNDOB)

Meeting Notes

MEETING SUMMARY	Date: 09/19/2022 Time: 5:00pm – 7:00pm Location: Webex	
MEMBERS PRESENT:	Debolina Banerjee Syris Valentine Keith Weir Andrea Ornelas Emily Myers Nina Olivier	Peter Hasegawa Maria Batayola Dennis Comer Kristina Chu Steve Gelb
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Tomás Madrigal, Ken Workman, Eunice How, Matt Remle, Hibo Sahal, Rachel Heaton, Jess Wallach (on leave), Deepa Sivarajan (on leave)	
GUESTS:	Vincent Valentino, Office of Economic Development Sandra Mallory, Office of Sustainability & Environment	

DECISIONS MADE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting Minutes Approved for August 15th Meeting • Decision to form a committee to provide input on the Building Emissions Performance Standards policy
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FOLLOW-UP ACTION ITEMS			
#	ITEM	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)	TARGET DATE
2	Executive Committee to refine Standing Committee recommendation in writing for full Board consideration and possible vote	S.Valentine, M.Batayola	
3	Small group to meet with OSE's Sandra Mallory to learn more about Building Emissions Performance Standard to provide input; OSE to share additional info with this group	M.Batayola, S.Valentine, T.Madrigal, S.Gelb	
4	Advance work on Community Benefits Agreement	S.Gelb,	TBD

M. Batayola, S. Valentine, & D. Banerjee GNDOB Co-Chairs and Lylianna Allala, OSE Climate Justice Director facilitated the meeting. Michelle Caulfield, OSE Deputy, took notes.

Welcomes and Introductions

- Debolina started the meeting, facilitated introductions of members, and led the land acknowledgement.
- **BOARD ACTION Motion:** Steve moved to approve the notes from August 15, 2022. Keith seconded the motion.
- **Motion to Approve the Minutes:** Unanimously approved – 11 members

Public Comment

- No one registered for public comment.

Updates and Announcements

Maria introduced three items:

1. 2022 GND Budget Legislation Process & GND Advisor Hiring Process (L.Allala)
2. Financial Institutions Policy (M.Remle)
3. Follow-up: Community Benefits Agreement (S.Gelb)

Hiring process for the GND Advisor

Lylianna updated Board on hiring process for the GND Advisor. Application period is closed with good response. Application review underway and scheduling first round interviews. Matt is not able to join and Debolina will step in for first round interviews.

GND Legislation:

Lylianna provided overview of the GND 2022 budget:

- 8/18: OSE Director Farrell and Chief Equity Officer Adiam Emery met with Maria, Syris, and Debolina to discuss GND investments.
- 8/31: Akshay and Executive's Office transmitted legislation to City Council; second meeting with Maria, Syris, and Debolina to walk through details.
- 9/6: Legislation introduced in Council
- 9/7: Finance & Housing Committee took up legislation. Lylianna, Jessyn, Akshay, Debolina, and Maria presented on the process and the investments. Council Committee approved and recommended to full Council.
- 9/13: Council unanimously adopted 2022 GND Legislation; back with Mayor for signing. Tentative plan for Mayor signing at a shared event on 9/22.

Akshay discussed approach to shaping budget legislation. Looked at the Board's recommendations wholistically, as one large investment spread across 2022 stand-alone legislation and the 2023-2024. Looked to Board's recommendations and departments for what could be one-time funded with the 2022 stand-along legislation. There are some differences between Board's recommended and legislation but there is alignment with 2022 and 2023 overall.

Several Board members asked questions and shared perspectives:

- Steve asked about the budget development process and expressed concern that the budget seems to reflect other City needs more than what the Board recommended. Steve maintained an openness to seeing the rest of the budget. Akshay responded that a lot of the funding supports resilience hubs. Health indicators investments also come from Board recommendations. Clean Heat and workforce will be reflected in the 2023 proposal. Steve acknowledged support for resilience hubs but questioned the affordable housing and Library funding. Raised issue about a longer negotiation process to blend City and community priorities.

- Debolina shared that Board members raised some of these comments during the Executive meetings, including the lack of Clean Heat funding and funding for City building decarbonization; Maria shared that she asked that the affordable housing investments to focus on extremely low-income housing.

Lylianna reminded the Board of the advisory role they play. The role isn't to negotiate but to make recommendations for the Executive and Council to consider. Negotiations are not typical. There is the opportunity for the Board to pen a response and weigh in with Council during the public process. Lylianna reminded Board members to be clear in differentiating between their advocacy role as Board members and representatives of community organization and coalitions when advocating to Council on budget and policy issues.

- Maria is holding judgement until seeing the 2023 budget. Maria was pleased to see the planning investments. Maria invited others to share their perspectives.
- Syris shared a wait-and-see approach. Thankful to see any of the Board's recommendations, given the history of government responsiveness to black communities across the nation. Appreciated climate resilience hubs. While affordable housing wasn't explicitly in the Board's proposal, it is associated with the single-family homes. Cautiously optimistic.
- Andrea agreed about seeing the 2023 budget and asked about any early insights. Akshay responded that there was no information to share at this point; will brief co-chairs the morning the budget is released (9/27).
- Debolina echoed Maria and Syris' perspectives and shared experience with the limits of budget advocacy. At the same time, Debolina expressed excitement for resilience hub, research, and planning investments – sees those as a partial win after years of advocacy and considering the budget context. Debolina also noted the advisory role of the Board, especially as it is in the early stages of this work with a new Administration. Noted the work ahead to build relationship and alignment with the Mayor and Council.
- Kristina chatting a question about other advisory boards or departments influencing the Mayor's decision on the \$6.5M (i.e. what other factors influence the budget) and asked about climate justice groups that do have strong connection to the Mayor and Council. Akshay responded that Board and department input mostly shaped the \$6.5M recommendation.
- Dennis underscored perspective that investments not recommended by the Board not be touted as approved by the Board just because they are GND funded.
- Steve expressed high expectations for this Board, given the very intentional representation and dedicated funding. Hopes the Board is different from advocates. Looking for strong influence.
- Maria reiterated the opportunity to take a larger look at 2022 and 2023 and to comment and expressed appreciation for the conversation, the integrity, and the voices.

Financial Institutions Policy

Matt was not able to attend.

Community Benefits Agreement

Steve is working on this item. Will be convening volunteers to move this forward. Maria asked folks to add their names to the chat if they were interested in supporting the work.

VOTE: Policy, Programs, Project Review: Standing Committee

Syris brought forth a recommendation to create a Standing Committee to advise on policy, programs, and projects. Considering two levels of involvement: 1) Permanent membership on the Committee; and 2) ad hoc membership for priority interests. Maria added that this would be a policy vetting group that would offer a recommendation back to the Board for action; Debolina clarified that the standing members would ensure the policy experts in the group be involved to lend their voices and expertise.

Context: There have been several national, state, and regional lobbying initiatives around climate emergency declarations. Seattle has yet to declare a Climate Emergency. Syris had suggested the GND OB take up this issue. Maria also shared information about a County-led effort to declare racism as a public health crisis. Free Prior and Informed Consent Financial Policy is another policy area of interest to Board members. The challenge with these initiatives is the limited Board bandwidth and how to decide which to take up.

- Peter asked what problem the Board trying to address with this proposal. Syris clarified the Board has limited bandwidth and this structure could help prioritize advocacy and workflow. Maria shared the Board has a rich diversity of voices and strong advocacy experience. Hope is to put a team in place to help the Board take on policy. Could also engage more Board members in the work. Peter asked for the proposal to be put in writing for clarity.
- Steve expressed support for policy but underscored budget as a key role for the Board. Syris responded that Board's policies, procedures, and programs document/definitions would be the focus of this Committee for recommendation to the full Board.
- Maria responded that the Board needs a way to do things like Stop Actions or perform an auditing function for GND values alignment.
- Peter asked about capacity to do this work well. Syris shared that the crux of the challenge is prioritizing what comes to the Board.
- Maria and Debolina expressed a desire for more Board involvement and suggested this Committee may spark Board member interest and passion.

Maria suggested delaying the vote and continuing with input and crafting a proposal to bring back to the Board. Syris agreed to work with the Executive Committee and expressed appreciation for the thoughtful feedback and questions.

In chat: "The recommendation is to establish a standing "Policy, Program, and Project" (PPP) committee that would be responsible for reviewing PPPs to check for alignment with the definitions established by the Green New Deal Oversight Board and whether the Board should pursue supporting those PPP initiatives that are brought to the board's attention -- Such as, racism and climate as a public health crisis, the financial institutions FPIC policy, and the declaration of a climate emergency"

Presentations

Building Performance Standards, Sandra Mallory, Office of Sustainability & Environment

Sandra presented on Seattle's Building Emission Performance Standards, currently in development. Sandra walked through a slide deck about the policy and answered questions.

- BPS is a near-term action to decarbonize Seattle’s largest buildings
- Set carbon targets (greenhouse gas intensity targets) that larger buildings meet over time – commercial and multifamily to achieve net zero by 2050
- Offer predictability and prioritize investments in communities that need it
- Alignment with WA State Clean Building Standard (energy), with a focus on emissions
- Policy development and engagement with stakeholders underway; legislation in 2023
- What we’ve heard: set expectations, offer flexibility, grow the workforce
- Phase in compliance so largest building go first. Offer ramp up for multifamily and affordable housing. First compliance date in 2026. Offering some allowances for the first compliance cycle.
- Consider alternative compliance approaches and exemptions for certain cases (historic properties)
- Technical assistance and support under-resourced buildings; Clean Buildings Accelerator recently launched; alignment with Board recommendations to expand this program
- Anticipate up to 250 jobs per year and opportunities to expand career pathways and WMBEs

Board Q&A:

- Vincent chatted question about funding generated from alternative compliance. Sandra noted it will vary and money would come later (2027-2029=8). Has some rough estimates.
- Emily chatted question about if exemptions are time-limited? Sandra said yes – we want to avoid too much burden at once, depending on the building situation.
- Steve and Syris expressed concern alternative compliance, given urgent need to reduce GHGs.
- Maria chatted question about community engagement with BIPOC communities and projected BIPOC impact? Sandra shared the biggest concerns from engagement to date have centered on displacement and rent increases. Sandra added that additional time and support for affordable housing and smaller buildings is one mitigation strategy.
- Steve asked about implementation delay and if administrative issues was the driver. Sandra said phasing helps manage significant workload but also gives building owners time to make costly upgrades, aligns with the State’s standard, and reduces burden.
- Debolina asked about absorbing costs and tenant communication. Sandra shared the City is seeking external resources to help with costs; buildings owners will absorb some costs as they improve assets. Currently don’ have a way to verify or restrict costs to tenants given lease structures. Intend to do strong engagement with tenants and residents.
- Maria noted hearing general support for the policy but raised questions about impact on frontline communities. Asked if a small group might be willing to meet with Sandra for a deeper dive. Steve asked if the Board could play a role in getting long-term commitments to fund to help mitigate burden. Michelle shared information about racial equity toolkits and programmatic approaches to reduce disparate impacts on BIPOC communities. Maria, Tomas, Steve, and Syris expressed interested in participating in a deeper dive.

Executive decision to end the meeting.

Upcoming Dates:

- GND Leg on 9/22
- Mayor’s budget on 9/27
- Next meeting is October 17