

Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund (PCEF) Grants Committee
February 24th, 2021 - MEETING MINUTES

Committee members present: Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie, Shanice Clark, Maria Sipin, Robin Wang, Ranfis Villatoro, Michael Edden Hill, Jeffery Moreland, Faith Graham, Megan Horst

PCEF staff present: Sam Baraso, Cady Lister, Janet Hammer, Jaimes Valdez, Angela Previdelli, June Reyes

Public comment

- Danel Malan - Teatro Milagro
- Quincy Brown – We All Rise
- Marcelino Alvarez – Fresh Consulting
- Hannah Skutt – Sunrise Movement
- Susan Bladholm – Frog Ferry application support
- Peter Wilcox – Frog Ferry application support
- Willie Levenson – Frog Ferry, Director of Human Access Project

Grant recommendations discussion

- Sam provided a review of the agenda, read the guiding principles, provided an overview of timeline and reviewed the grant review process.
- Ranfis: Thank all community groups that applied. Thanks staff for shepherding. Appreciate all of the work. Thanks to many of the experts who stepped in. There is a lot of work behind the scenes. That said, hope there is opportunities to continue to engage with the public on these committees. Thankful for the clarity here. Much to learn. Thank you to the whole team.
- Megan: We really did read all your applications very closely. We applied the scoring criteria and guiding principles. Process will be refined and that is part of the process. It was robust and intentional and transparent as much as possible. Feel good about that. Thank you to everyone who helped complete due diligence as community stewards of this fund.
- Cady provided overview of applications received and Sam described the portfolio options prepared for consideration. Committee members did not have access to specific project information within each portfolio.
 - Committee requested additional option, examples of types of projects to characterize the portfolios further, request to break bar charts showing application dollar amount by project type,
- Sam: Note that workforce grants don't have physical improvements, clean energy and green infrastructure/regenerative agriculture do have physical improvements. All GHG impacts are associated with projects with physical improvements. There are currently no specific GHG goals but that will be something we should discuss in the future.
- Megan: Thinking a lot about location, since it was called out in the code. I see the overall number – hoping for more disaggregation. What kinds of projects? Curious about the ones that are not in East Portland, understand that maybe we can't show them.
 - Sam: We will see if we can characterize that a little more. We only asked if a project with physical improvements was east of 82nd, some other applicants provided location, but not all so it may not be the complete picture.

- Maria: Excited to continue deliberating in this space about interpreting the code. Justice oriented work, how much confidence do we have in the GHG estimates/impacts? Maybe we can unpack how we got there so that we can think about it more.

Committee comments on Portfolio B

- Robin: Can we characterize who is doing these planning grants?
- Robin: Many of them had an intent to do something nearby. If you can capture that generally, that would help give me a better sense of potentially where future activity would be happening.
 - Sam: We have addresses, but that may not be representative. We can look through proposals to see which are place-based proposals. We will look into it but not sure what will come out of it.
- Cady: We can say right now that we have representation in most parts of Portland. More heavily on the east side of Portland. We can try to get more granularity.
- Ranfis: Want to recognize for those that are at home. This is their baby. This is the coldest aspect of what we are doing in this process. This is not the heart of what we've been doing for the last several weeks. The thing that will keep us up at night will be not who did we fund, but who did we not fund. Want to make that clear for folks that are watching us tonight. Seems like we are trying to pick the cutest baby, but all the babies are cute. The need is great but the funding is limited. For the broader community, this is not going to be any kind of easy decision. I hope this isn't discouraging. Want to share this reflection and recognize the tension we have as a committee. I am inspired by this committee and this deliberation.
- Faith: I have been appreciating the deliberation but have this feeling that is a little off. Looking at these portfolios doesn't reflect the depth of the process that has taken place so far. Something that is not coming through is the work that went into the panel conversations and meetings.
- Shanice: I am resonating with what folks have shared. It helps me understand and am in a similar place. I appreciate all of the time and energy that folks have put into this process.
- Jeffrey: Appreciate everyone's hard work. This is a milestone that we've hit. We've put our best foot forward and I am looking forward to see what comes next. I think this will be successful.
- Michael: I am looking for narrative. What I am missing personally is a feeling. I am not feeling one way or the other at this point. I have no feeling about it either.
- Sam: We will come back and think about a better way to give a better sense of the proposals within each portfolio. The difference between Portfolio A and B is planning versus implementation. We will think about how to further characterize the difference between them but not sure if we can fully do justice here.
- Maria: I am holding on to every word that my colleagues are sharing. I hope people watching this will reach out and share your reactions. We will depend a lot on some of that feedback to ground some of our thinking. The scoring is done and there is a lot that went into that. Things that have happened in the last few weeks have been difficult.
- Robin: It is very difficult to feel the community in these deliberations. Apologies if I am going to upset the cart. Are there other ways to slicing the cake? Is there a Portfolio C?
- Faith: I am guessing Sam will say that of course there are other ways. I wanted to respond to Michael and Maria particularly. I don't think that the additional information that we ask for is going to give us the feeling we are looking for. The trust we are placing in one another and what happened in the panel meetings is what we decided. We are going to be going out with more solicitations. I totally get how unsatisfying this is right now.

- Ranfis: I agree with Faith. There was so much that went into the panel discussions. I want to avoid getting into pro camps on either A or B. I want to honor what others have said about needing to know and having the heart. I don't know if having a summary from staff is going to do that either. I am supportive of making this more accessible for more committee members to read more full applications in the future.
- Maria: I want to be clear that I don't have the capacity to reread all of the applications. We are doing our best to interpret what is in front of us. These guiding principles are helpful.
- Sam: Two portfolios is a starting place. We can come back with other iterations. Happy to talk that through here. There are phenomenal proposals here.
- Michael: I am right there with Maria, I don't have the capacity to read any more proposals. I just wanted to hear, like what Faith was saying, what is the feeling of the implementation versus planning. I just wanted to get some feelings. I trust that we all did an amazing job scoring and ranking the applications. I am not doubting what is at the top score and what is not. We have come through all of this and it just felt like numbers, I was trying to get a little more feeling instead of looking at a bunch of graphs. That's all.
- Megan: I am realizing that we aren't going to be able to fund many great projects. Looking ahead to more funding. On the whole, I can see merit in either approach. What stuck out to me from A is the immediate impacts. I am thinking about Texas and I want to help doing work now. That really hit me today.
- Amanda: Through this whole presentation, everything that was said really resonated. I didn't know how to approach this conversation. I am very new. Very thankful for the many voices that contributed to this process. I keep clicking on the number of participants that are on here and the number of people that are part of this. So many folks that cannot communicate with us right now. They are watching us deliberate on the projects they have had so much time working on. I am wondering as a committee, can we see what questions have been brought up from the viewers? I would love to see what questions were brought up through this conversation that we had this evening. The guiding principles is community-powered but the community isn't part of this deliberation tonight. I am thankful for all of the work that went into this whole journey to get to where we are at right now.
 - Sam: We will make sure that we post the email and do accept comments before and after the meetings. Staff will provide summary of those comments. We also have done a lot of direct one on one communication with priority groups throughout the process to get to this point. We don't see it right now, but it has been present throughout. I acknowledge that feeling is real but also want to acknowledge of the work we've done to hear community thus far.
- Michael: We as a committee decided on the funding ranges. That is why it was on the RFPs. We should stay within those.
- Ranfis: Digesting this and coming back next week feels right.
- Faith: I am curious, in the ranges we are talking about, if you evaluated the full portfolios with a score threshold. Given the number of applications, ranges, if we had a cut off, what would the result be? If there was a cut off at 78, what would happen? Is there a threshold, we aren't going to fund anything below a certain number. My sense is that it may not make a big difference.
 - Cady: We didn't establish a threshold this round. We may have to do that next time. All the applications in both portfolios scored well.
- Michael: This is my first granting experience. I have to say that this doesn't have anything to do with next week, I wanted to fund all the ones that we got. Some of the ones that didn't score were are the ones that I wanted fund. Numbers aren't everything and that is why I don't want

minimums. That is that same colonial approach, 72 on your test, you don't get to go on to 4th grade. That is why I have a hard time with minimums to be qualified.

- Ranfis: Similar vein, because of the scoring were there any other unintentional disparities. Might not be the case in the portfolios. We talked about unintentional disparities, whether related to bias or something else.
- Sam: This is something we paid very close eye on this. There are definitely tweaks but having kept an eye on this, there wasn't any big ways that we missed the mark.

Committee closing comments:

- Robin: Really appreciated this conversation, very enlightening.
- Shanice: I want to affirm folks comments. To all the people watching, there is a wealth of ideas of experience and expertise, that will benefit all of the communities we touch. Especially the Black and Native folks. Echo what Amanda said in terms of providing channels to express yourselves. That is important to me. This is a manifestation of whiteness in organizations. I am excited to dive deeper in a more thematic way with our vision and principles. I appreciate you all, was grappling with how to have trust. Until next time, thank you everybody.
- Jeffrey: I'll keep it brief, I appreciate all of my committee members. A lot to process, appreciate the staff. Thanks everyone.
- Megan: I already spoke a lot so I will pass to hear from others.
- Faith: Real honor to be in community with you all, including our community members. So just, thank you.
- Michael: Thank you to all the community members who dropped so much knowledge on us. This has been a long and educational process for me, excited about giving out some money and finishing up this first round. We have been diligent about involving community and I hope we don't start slacking. Continue to have that community first focus.
- Maria: I am grateful for everyone who has put energy into this work. Move at the speed of trust. There is a lot of urgency but need to take on the pace that it needs. Appreciate everyone.
- Ranfis: Keep chiming in. It doesn't get easier but appreciate everyone here. We are baking this cake together. This is your fund. There is no super special expertise needed to be here.
- Amanda: I want to echo everyone's appreciation for staff, community, committee. Such an educational experience. Want to acknowledge the wealth of lived experiences we are privileged to touch through this journey. As we try to decolonize this system while being forced to be data driven. Thankful for everything that is being shared in this space.

9:00 pm

Meeting closed