

Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund (PCEF) Grants Committee
March 3rd, 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, Jay Richmond, David Grandfield

Decisions

- Committee selected Portfolio B to recommend to City Council for funding
- Committee approved draft council report with three edits (noted in minutes)

Maria opened the meeting by inviting Committee members to state in the chat all the people and communities they were bringing into the room and to PCEF work with them.

Public comment

1. Sergio Lopez – expressed affiliation with a Cully based environmental justice non-profit and full support the process and the fund
2. Anissa Pemberton, Coalition of Communities of Color – expressed appreciation on behalf of the Coalition for the work the Committee and staff has done to realize the vision.
3. Simeon Jacob, APANO – expressed gratitude for the process and the way the program development has been happening.
4. Jamal Dar, with a community organizations supporting east African populations in Portland – provided Committee with information about their work focused on building leaders and creating opportunities.
5. Sharon Maxwell, Bratton Construction – is a woman and African American owned business who partnered with Soul District Business association on applications to build capacity and create workforce opportunities.

Discussion of portfolio options continued from prior meeting

To see details on portfolios please see meeting material: [PCEF Grant Committee Meeting – Mar 3, 2021 | Portland.gov](#)

Committee discussion

- Jeffery – talked about difference biases, noticed differences related to planning grants and priority populations
- Megan – support for investments in east Portland, note that there are no applications focused on communities of folks with disabilities
- Faith –this is fantastic information, thanks for additional detail, leaning toward option C
- Robin – last week was leaning B, Megan made comment about urgency, “we need to move fast”, pandemic, comments that planning grants makes lots of jobs, perhaps more than implementation grants. Talks about greenhouse gas from portfolio C.
- Ranfis – acknowledges that all plans seem balanced, more information has made the decision more difficult, most of the planning grants will not be completed until after RFP 2, 3.
- Shanice –sees power in implementation, has had proximity to planning proposals

Temperature check on the portfolios:

- Maria preferred A then B
- Shanice preferred B or C
- Amanda preferred B or C
- Robin preferred C okay with B
- Megan had a small preference toward A, would support any
- Ranfis preferred B
- Michael preferred B
- Jeffery C was okay with B
- Faith supports any preference for B

Discussion

- Megan shared that she liked the idea of a portfolio that addresses energy costs reductions now, which Maria agreed with that rationale
- Recognizing the overall Committee preference for portfolio B and the value of supporting the development of a robust pool of projects for future funding rounds, Committee felt moved to make a proposal
- Megan proposed to recommend Portfolio B to City Council for funding
 - Committee members unanimously voted to support the proposal

Council report - discussion

The Committee was provided a report that will accompany the funding recommendations as part of the packet that is sent to City Council.

- Maria –the document’s purpose is to summarize the process, the highs, and the challenges, along with the things that have been happening in the community. It is a snapshot for folks to be able to catch up on what has happened, and what to look forward to
- Sam – this is an opportunity for committee to speak to what has happened.
- Ranfis – still opportunity to set the bar and build connection with how they want to connect with Council; potential for progress reports to Council
- Michael – considering new city council members , this report is good info and intro to PCEF
- Shanice – appreciate the dialogue about the importance of the document, the material states that future reports will be longer.
- Michael – the narrative of how we have done is important going forward, what is the impact on a personal level?
- Based on the conversation, Sam captured three edits to make in the final report:
 1. We acknowledge that this is a first-year summary, add that into the document. The intention is to come back and dive deeper into the projects
 2. Reiterate that we will learn and improve with every round
 3. Add why Portfolio B was selected - more projects, local jobs, providing funding for folks who have not historically been funding to do planning.
- Faith - it would be wonderful to tell stories about community impact.
- Ranfis made a proposal to move forward with the report to Council with the edits provided this evening

Committee members unanimously voted to support the proposal

9:00 pm

Meeting close