

PORTLAND CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITY BENEFITS FUND (PCEF)

GRANTS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

October 20, 2022 • 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Zoom Meeting Call

Committee Members	Position	Affiliation	Present
Michael Edden Hill	Co-Chair	Journeyman Electrician, Multnomah County	Yes
Dr. Megan Horst	Co-Chair	Associate Professor, School of Urban Studies & Planning at Portland State University	Yes
Shanice Brittany Clarke	Member-at-Large	Director of Community Engagement, Portland Public Schools	No
Faith Graham	Member-at-Large	Principal Director, West Coast Strategy and Development, Elevate Energy	No
Maria Gabrielle Sipin	Member-at-Large	Technical Assistance Manager, Safe Routes Partnership	Yes
Ranfis Villatoro	Member-at-Large	Oregon State Policy Manager, BlueGreen Alliance	Yes
Robin Wang	Member-at-Large	Vibrant Future LLC	Yes
Sam Baraso	Program Manager	PCEF	Yes
Cady Lister	Deputy Director	PCEF	Yes
Jaimes Valdez	Org. Development & Policy Manger	PCEF	Yes
Kris Grube	Program Manager	PCEF	No
Mika Barrett	Project Manager	PCEF	Yes
Tracy M. Smith	Facilitator	Inhance LLC	No
Camerina Galván	Notetaker	Galvan Consulting LLC	Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Huda, EECRC; Willy Mazzara Myers, Columbia Pacific Building and Construction Trades Council; Ciara Pressler, Consultant and Coach, Pregame; Marissa Kate, Consultant, Coach and Facilitator, Pregame; Gayle Palmer, East Portland Resilience Coalition; Chris Rhoads; William; Linea Hoffman; Estevan Rios

INTRODUCTIONS

- Cady Lister called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- No public comments.

PROGRAM UPDATES

- The PCEF Program has been recruiting and onboarding new program staff.
- The RFP #2 Grantee Convening was held at Rossi Farms for networking and knowledge exchange.
- PCEF staff is attending community and grantee events. Staff are thinking about ways to share these opportunities with committee members
- City Council hears code changes. One change will expand the eligibility of committee members to include people who do not live in the city. Conflict of interest will be largely mitigated with the eligibility expansion.
- City Council had the first hearing of the PCEF structural changes. Themes that emerged in public comments included:
 - Inclusion of people with disabilities as a priority population.
 - Ensure community-responsive grants are maintained.
 - Robust community engagement in developing the Climate Investment Plan (CIP) and subsequent programs.
 - Concerns about the term "trainees" because they would be excluded from the family wage standard.
 - Concerns about the city backfilling existing budgets.
- The second reading has been scheduled for October 26, 2022. The code can be reopened for council members to entertain amendments.
- PCEF staff has continued learning and working with partners to eliminate barriers for communities with disabilities. The request for people with disabilities to be a priority population is new.
- A community member emphasized representation of the disability community and Tribal and indigenous community is important. He is concerned the family wage standard is a loophole.
- Another committee member raised concerns that if City Council passes the package without changes from testimonies, it will leave issues unresolved.
- Staff acknowledged plenty of opportunities to focus on certain populations and continue learning through administrative rules or initiative focuses.
- In the proposed code, the committee can continue to make recommendations for changes to the code, and the Bureau Director of Planning and Sustainability has the authority to adopt, amend, and appeal administrative rules.

PRESENTATION: DEVELOPING INAUGURAL 5-YEAR CLIMATE INVESTMENT PLAN

- Ciara Pressler provided an overview of Pregame's previous work with PCEF, their strategic planning framework, and the timeline of activities and deliverables from October 2022—July 2023 to complete the CIP.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** By next month Pregame will have a work plan.

DISCUSSION & ACTIVITY: DEVELOPING INAUGURAL 5-YEAR CLIMATE INVESTMENT PLAN

- Ciara Pressler asked what would define success in the product and the process. Committee members responded:
 - Community involvement and input at multiple touchpoints.
 - Use the PCEF process and principles as a model for community engagement.
 - Define the roles of the director, staff, and committee in the Climate Investment Plan. Staff and the committee agree on what is "in" and "on."
 - Move through the process at a deliberate speed and have transparent conversations.
 - Incorporate RFP criteria.
 - Incorporate the voice of workers and contractors.
 - A concise plan with accessible language.
 - Measures, Goals, and Numbers for evaluations, metrics, and accountability.
 - The plan should draw on past knowledge from studies, community partners, and the city.
 - Include a vision with each initiative.
 - Create a clear path for community involvement and changes in governance, as well as name outcomes and those responsible.
- Ciara Pressler led the committee members through a SWOT analysis to answer, "What could work for and against us when it comes to creating the best plan possible by July 2023?" The committee members and staff identified the following:
 - **Strengths**
 - A knowledgeable and passionate team.
 - Experience with a similar process.
 - Community engagement experts.
 - Have relationships for community engagement.
 - Some committee members are planners.
 - Sector-specific expertise.
 - Community buy-in.
 - **Weaknesses**
 - Have not developed this type of plan before.
 - Trust.
 - Time constraints. Committee members are volunteers.
 - Need to recruit committee members.
 - Lack of Native representation. Perspectives are missing.
 - Meet once a month.
 - It can be a bubble and echo chamber.
 - Committee members don't know the PCEF staff well or their expertise.
 - **Opportunities**
 - Community interest and attention.
 - PCEF funding can be collaboratively invested with other government funds for maximum climate and community impact.
 - Excited community implementors mean different values and priorities. It will need a high level of scrutiny.
 - Include the voices of systemically excluded populations in the planning.
 - Have political buy-in and potential for increased Council participation.

- Cross-sector collaboration.
- Focused efforts in East Portland.
- Identified projects and partners in East Portland.

- **Threats**
 - Possibility of too much community interest.
 - Distractions from media scrutiny and elections.
 - Staying on course when unexpected issues emerge.
 - Responding to emergencies.
 - Bad actors that want funding, including city agencies and their contractors.
 - City agencies will use the funding for backfilling.
 - Communities have planning fatigue.
 - Manage expectations. Tell the community what to expect and what not to expect.
 - Lack of trust and relationships will hinder collaboration.

- Ciara Pressler asked who the different stakeholders are involved in the planning process. Committee members identified:
 - PCEF Committee and staff.
 - People most impacted by climate change.
 - Partners / Community Organizations.
 - Young people.
 - Systemically excluded populations.
 - PCEF priority populations.
 - East Portlanders (Project impacted populations).
 - Minority Contractors.
 - Labor Unions.
 - Experts about transportation decarbonizations and low-cost financing.
 - Indigenous / Native Community / Tribal Nations.
 - Disability Community.
 - State, county, city, and federal agencies around aligned investments.
 - Tenants.
 - Housing Providers.
 - Public health.
 - Labor / Workers.

It would be helpful to know the following:

- Young people's priorities, actions, and methods for meaningful participation.
- Universal design and disability inclusivity in all projects from people with disabilities.
- Experience of tenants with retrofits and displacement.
- Worst-case scenarios.
- What critics think.
- Lessons learned from the public health sector about responsiveness and who has lost access to resources during the pandemic.
- Determine opportunities or barriers to prepare laborers, apprentices, and workers for entering the green industry.
- What has worked for and what hasn't for grantees?
- Labor shortages and labor implications for minority contractors.

ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- A committee member would like all stakeholders to talk to one another to avoid siloed conversations.
- Another committee member emphasized the need to talk to individuals, not organizations, who may have a plan. Organizations act as conveners.

CO-CHAIR APPOINTMENT ANNUAL REVIEW

- Michael Edden Hill stepped down from the Co-Chair position.
- If the quorum is met, nominations for a new co-chair can occur at the next meeting.
- The Working Agreements documenting the co-chair's roles and governance were not finalized.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** The Working Agreements will be reviewed, updated, and completed at subsequent meetings and will be integrated into the work plan.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Sam Baraso will circulate the last version of the Working Agreements with the committee members next week.
- Ranfis Villatoro conveyed interest in being a co-chair. He recommended the co-chair position be rotated among committee members to avoid burnout.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CLOSING COMMENTS

- A committee member appreciated the work done by staff and committee members during the pandemic and emphasized the need for representation of voices missing from the committee, such as workers. He asked the committee to think about labor protections and job creation. He feels it is a travesty that the code change will not include trainees. It is a missed opportunity to ensure trainees have access to benefits and health care. He hopes conversations inclusive of workers occur.
- A committee member hopes in-person meetings will lead to greater cohesion, which was not felt during the summer months when changes were unfolding. She shared that the committee was hesitant about the process but supported the direction. She hopes trust can be rebuilt between PCEF staff, the committee, and City Council.
- A committee member shared they hope trust can be rebuilt and shared concerns that the changes were not transparent. It is unclear to him what problem is being solved with the added code language exempting volunteers and trainees from the family wage standard.
 - A PCEF staff member responded this would be worked through administrative rules, and he advised the committee member to speak directly with the Commissioner's office.
- Another committee member voiced concerns that the PCEF program is becoming a government agency with a top-down approach which was not the original intention of PCEF. He doesn't want to be part of this type of organization.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:58 PM.

NEXT MEETING: The next hybrid meeting will be Thursday, November 17, 2022.

Submitted by Camerina Galván, Notetaker, Galvan Consulting LLC.