

PORTLAND CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITY BENEFITS FUND (PCEF)

GRANTS COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

June 29, 2023 • 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Hybrid Meeting—Zoom Call & Open Signal

Committee Members	Position	Affiliation	Present
Dr. Megan Horst	Co-Chair	Associate Professor, School of Urban Studies & Planning at Portland State University	Yes
Ranfis Villatoro	Co-Chair	Oregon State Policy Manager, BlueGreen Alliance	Yes
Faith Graham	Member-at-Large	Elevate Energy	Yes
Maria Gabrielle Sipin	Member-at-Large	Community Member	Yes
Michael Edden Hill	Member-at-Large	Community Member	Yes
Robin Wang	Member-at-Large	Vibrant Future LLC	Yes
June Reyes	Community Engagement Coordinator	PCEF	No
Sam Baraso	Program Manager	PCEF	Yes
Cady Lister	Deputy Program Director	PCEF	Yes
Jaimes Valdez	Org. Development & Policy Manger	PCEF	Yes
Kris Grube	Project Manager	PCEF	Ni
Wendy Koelfgen	Project Manager	PCEF	No
Rachel Gilmore	Administrative Specialist	PCEF	Yes
Elizabeth Stover	Senior Communications Strategist	PCEF	No
Tracy M. Smith	Facilitator	Inhance LLC	Yes
Camerina Galván	Notetaker	Galvan Consulting LLC	Yes
Ciara Pressler	Consultant	Pregame	Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Karol W, Participatory Budgeting Oregon; Aquene, Participatory Budgeting Oregon; DJL; Brandon Holmes; Isaac Barrow, Seetha Ream-Ruo.

INTRODUCTIONS

- Tracy M. Smith called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM.
- The quorum was met.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: TRACY M. SMITH, FACILITATOR

- Karol W is a first-generation Burmese-Korean immigrant and youth steering community member for Participatory Budgeting Oregon. Karol asked the committee to consider implementing participatory budgeting because it aligns with PCEF's core values and brings deeper community engagement to democracy through its youth-led and community-driven process.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL: SAM BARASO, PCEF

- Ranfis Villatoro moved to approve the May 18, 2023, and June 2, 2023, Meeting Summaries. Robin Wang seconded it.
 - Approved: May 18, 2023, and June 2, 2023, Meeting Summaries. Unanimously approved.

CLIMATE INVESTMENT PLAN (CIP) PUBLIC COMMENT OVERVIEW: SAM BARASO, PCEF

- Sam Baraso overviewed the CIP process, timeline, and the number of participants in the engagement process.
- Sam Baraso overviewed public comments regarding the May 2023 CIP Draft.

PUBLIC SECTOR FEEDBACK—CITY COUNCIL, BUREAUS, AND OTHERS: SAM BARASO, PCEF

- Sam Baraso overviewed comments from City Council, bureaus, and public sector partners on the May 2023 CIP Draft.
- Sam Baraso asked the committee, "Have we applied the Equity and Climate Framework well from your perspective?"
- Committee member questions and comments:
 - What is the definition of community leadership?
 - Response: This came from the frontline panel we convened as they reviewed the Equity and Climate Framework. When discussing the benefits to frontline communities, they felt it excluded supporting leadership from frontline communities. There is a fundamental belief that the investments will be most impactful if frontline community leadership is centered.
 - I like the addition of community leadership because it leads to the inclusion of diverse stakeholders to improve and enhance the project.
 - A committee member was not surprised by anything presented because the committee has been led here through informative briefings. They have done very well. What lies ahead is striking a balance between driving the desired impact, leveraging other projects in the city, and knowing when to acknowledge when a comment or another project is important but not aligned with the plan's integrity.
 - A committee member would like to be expansive in interpreting community leadership. There are stakeholders outside visible participation structures, such as nonprofits and bureaus. Some stakeholders need to be acknowledged, such as folks who cannot vote, youth, low-income workers, renters, and the unhoused. They hope for further discussion.

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE MAY 2023 DRAFT CIP: SAM BARASO, PCEF, AND JAIMES VALDEZ, PCEF

- PCEF staff developed a new strategic program, Strategic Program 15: Federal Climate and Equity Grant Opportunities. This program emerged because the City of Portland is uniquely-positioned to receive funding opportunities. The council offices asked many questions regarding how PCEF can be leveraged to be opportunistic and bring additional funding to the city aligned with PCEF values. Staff

wanted to be more explicit about how city bureaus can leverage PCEF. Staff doesn't know the funding opportunities yet; they want a program ready to respond to when the opportunities arise.

- Jaimes Valdez overviewed the framework and structure of Strategic Program 15: Federal Climate and Equity Grant Opportunities.
- The new program is responsive to public and community organizations' comments. Public and community organizations shared. For example, questions about how the community can use e-bikes without adequate and safe transportation infrastructure were raised in the transportation program. Strategic Program 15 will allow the city to invest in boosting safety, transportation access and infrastructure, and decarbonization.
- Committee member questions and comments:
 - Can the program include other public sectors in the city, such as schools? Will it strengthen the proposal to include schools?
 - Would this require another grant review process?
 - There is an opportunity to create a hub to ensure that public government, private sector, and frontline communities work together to develop a community benefits plan. Lacking a community benefits plan hinders agencies from being competitive. He feels the need for a community plan is a limiting factor for not seeing much funding enter Oregon.
 - Response: The state legislature passed a bill that funds a navigator function within the Oregon Department of Energy to help community organizations and municipalities coordinate better in applying for federal funding opportunities.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Staff will track whether the community benefits plan is developed at the city or state level.
 - The community benefits plan is different from an application navigator role. Most agencies could not develop a community benefits plan worth 20% of application scoring.
 - Response: City bureaus have yet to apply for funding opportunities due to lacking staff capacity. The staff can think through this more and set up a framework for a community benefits plan to be developed if asked for in an application.
 - The matching funding will make Portland very competitive. Other cities struggle with raising the matching fund. This is a good use of PCEF funding.
 - How did you arrive at \$20 million? Is it too much or insufficient? Which strategic program is losing \$20 million?
 - The success of this initiative will be in the details. When is an opportunity for the committee to comment on how the funding will be deployed? Will it be on a first-come, first-served basis?
 - Response: PBOT's comment explained how one application needs \$1.5 million in matching funds annually. Other bureaus also need matching funds. Strategic Program 15 is a good starting place and can be revisited two years from now.
 - Response: Staff envisioned this would be a pool on a first-come, first-served basis with guardrails about the amount that can be requested. Bureaus will fill out an application. The committee will review the draft application, and staff will regularly report on the strategic program.
 - Will the committee members provide additional feedback on the details of the program?

- Response: Yes, there is an opportunity for a committee member to be intimately involved in the program, given that it needs to be highly responsive with quick turnarounds. The committee can review the draft application to ensure it aligns with the Equity and Climate Framework.
- Will Multnomah County have access to the funds? The county runs some programs that are large community spaces across Portland, such as libraries.
 - Response: In this strategic program, the staff proposes that only the city will have access to the funds because the funds need to be invested within the City of Portland, and the program needs to be fast and responsive. Staff are happy to talk through this more.
 - Response: Multnomah County would be eligible to apply for funding from the strategic program addressing energy efficiency upgrades for severe weather response.
- Sam Baraso highlighted a few of the proposed changes to the May 2023 draft of CIP to have more time for discussion.
- Jaimes Valdez shared in the chat the [document that outlines all the proposed changes to the May 2023 draft of CIP.](#)
- Committee member questions and comments:
 - One committee member is a contractor with Prosper Portland's Inclusive Business Network. It may be a conflict of interest.
 - What is congregate housing?
 - Response: Congregate housing is group homes. Organizations that serve people with disabilities or serve elders might own homes to provide in-home care.
 - Should comments and questions be shared with staff via email?
 - Response: Yes.
 - With reductions in fair and flexible capital, how did you engage with stakeholders? Did you reconvene a roundtable? Are they aware of the changes?
 - Response: Staff are waiting to see their reaction and will make folks aware of the changes in funding and Strategic Program 15. This is the first time staff are publically discussing it. The information was posted to the website last week.
 - Youth stakeholders are interested in how Strategic Program 16 would evolve. The committee member thanked the staff for including participatory budgeting. How did staff arrive at \$150,000 per district? Are we locking ourselves into an arbitrary amount? What if young people feel this amount should grow over time? Is this an area that youth and district stakeholders can still provide comments on?
 - Is it fair for Portland Public Schools and smaller districts to receive \$150,000 each?
 - Response: Staff arrived at \$150,000 per district in conversation and research about participatory budgeting. June Reyes was part of the conversation and research. Staff met with advocates of participatory budgeting. From the staff perspective, when it is done well, it needs to be invested in. If you don't invest deeply in the process, the result is a process in which people with a lot of resources and time guide the decision-making. The amount in question is an estimate. It could cost more to guide the process, but not less. Staff allocated the amount per district because they engaged all the districts and the Department of Education to create a formula for the allocation.

- **ACTION ITEM:** Maria Sipin will follow up with June Reyes about success stories in other cities and the district allocations.
- The youth wrote to the city council voicing their support for PCEF staff and the committee and championing the opportunity to include more youth in decision-making.
- A committee member would like to discuss the possibility of the allocation matching the need or the school district's size and understands that a sizable amount will yield transformation.
- A committee member appreciates clarity on the workforce development programs. He encourages thinking about how weatherization and heat pump technicians can be turned into career pipelines for commercial and industrial projects. How can, for example, someone that trains as a heat pump technician transition to those jobs? Job opportunities are coming through an INTEL project. He encourages connections with apprenticeship programs and considers Career And Technical Education programs that are underfunded.
- Regarding Strategic Program 4, are these projects limited to urban renewal areas?
 - Response: Prosper Portland and PCEF still need to determine what the overlap will be or if PCEF needs to use private contractors. Prosper Portland's funds are not limited to urban renewal areas.
- A committee member encouraged PCEF to partner with Work System Inc.
- To address the city council, the committee must continue to tell the story of engagement and how based on community feedback. The plan has room for improvement and opportunities to be more inclusive to reflect the city's needs and injustices.
- It is crucial to continue to ask for balance between the needs of community members and the city council as CIP evolves. We need to continue cultivating a relationship with the city council, and we need them to enact policies to enhance CIP's efforts.
- What if the city council does not approve CIP?
 - Response: CIP is good work. We have a climate crisis, and the council has acknowledged that. Staff will take feedback. It will be necessary for those who have contributed to voice their support.
- This is political. We can present the best story about how this is community-led, and it may not make a difference.
 - Response: The committee's job is to recommend CIP to the city council. They are welcome to have alternative proposals. We'll move forward to be responsive to the PCEF values, the audit, and community critiques and recommendations. City Council is the final decision maker, and we will work with them.
- The committee should spend time crafting the message, which is just as important as what is in CIP.
 - Response: Agreed.
- A committee member feels that incorporating the city council's feedback to refine CIP before making the formal recommendation will lead to a positive outcome.
 - Response: Our job is to listen to and make sense of all the feedback and input it into the framework. We need to continue communication about the tradeoffs and balance all the input. City councils are busy taking in bits of information. Communicating the product is essential.

- Response: Regarding the timeline, we have small group meetings, individual check-ins, and public meetings. Once the committee makes final changes, the staff has a month to make the graphics and visual edits and get CIP on the council's agenda.

COMMITTEE ROLES AND ACCOUNTABILITY: CIARA PRESSLER, PREGAME

- Ciara Pressler organized the discussion from the June 2, 2023, work session regarding the committee's role during the CIP implementation into five areas.
- A description of the committee's role in accountability will be added to the May 2023 draft of CIP.
- Committee member comments and questions:
 - What is the timeline for new committee members to provide input? It would be beneficial to get their input on the meeting logistics.
 - We need the input of new committee members regarding the.
 - Do we need to change the bylaws?
 - Response: The committee does have bylaws and working agreements. The working agreements have yet to be formally adopted. As a recommendation, the subcommittee will bring the working agreements to a July 2023 meeting.
 - A committee member encouraged opportunities for community members to participate in more community engagement.
 - The committee's name should be updated to reflect their new role.
- Committee members are encouraged to email Ciara Pressler directly and copy staff if they have additional reflections or questions.
- The committee's role will be further defined when the CIP implementation plan has clarity.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Ciara Pressler and staff will review the bylaws to confirm if they need to be updated.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:06 PM.

NEXT MEETING: The next hybrid meeting will be Thursday, July 20, 2023, 6:00 PM—8:00 PM

Submitted by Camerina Galván, Notetaker, Galvan Consulting LLC.