



Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund (PCEF) Grants Committee

October 21, 2019, 6:00 – 7:30pm

New Song Church, 2511 NE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Portland, OR 97212

Committee Members present: Maria Gabrielle Sipin, Megan Horst, Michael Edden Hill, Robin Wang, and Shanice Brittany Clarke

City of Portland staff present: Sam Baraso, Cady Lister, Jaimes Valdez, and June Reyes

MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Cady Lister, PCEF Team Member, called the meeting to order and welcomed committee members, staff, and members of the public to introduce themselves. She also requested that any members of the public being considered for the PCEF Committee identify themselves. Two applicants, Jeffrey Moreland Jr. and Andrea Johnson, were present.

2. Public Comment

- Cady opened the floor to public comment and four individuals addressed the committee.
 - Jeff Moreland Jr., Raimore Construction, identified himself as a candidate for the PCEF Committee. He noted his ability to bring a different perspective as a contractor working in the construction industry for 7 years and as someone from the upcoming generation.
 - Tracy Farwell, retired engineer, called attention to Paul Hawken's book, Drawdown and asked the committee to consider rules on materials not allowed on projects especially particularly harmful refrigerants used in some heat pumps.
 - Andrea Johnson, Executive Director at Green Empowerment, identified herself as a candidate for the PCEF Committee. She expressed that she would bring perspective on opportunities and challenges with programs in the Portland energy sector and would be able to help map the fund to existing resources to address equity.
 - Howard Shapiro expressed concern about corporations passing on the 1% surcharge on qualifying goods and services to consumers, especially to the houseless and those in need. He told the committee they should be aware of and prevent something like this from happening and then thanked committee members for their service.

3. Nomination of four committee members

- Cady noted that the nomination of the next four committee members should fulfill the following areas of expertise/lived experience, which is consistent with the Portland Clean Energy Initiative ballot language:
 - Residential energy efficiency and renewable energy
 - Promoting minority owned/women owned businesses
 - Residence east of 82nd avenue

- Cady noted that the nominations will go before the City Council for approval. The City Council has expressed that candidates should be free of conflicts of interest.
- Cady opened the floor for committee members to share reflections on the review process and applicant pool:
 - Members noted that deliberation about individual candidates in a public forum can be delicate and that they would deliberate in a thoughtful and respectful manner
 - Committee members expressed challenges with the requirement to fund candidates that were entirely free of actual and/or perceived conflicts of interest
 - Committee members expressed general appreciation for individuals who submitted their name for consideration
 - Some committee members wondered what the tradeoffs would be for extending the deliberation to potentially bring more candidates for consideration
 - Sam Baraso, PCEF Program Manager, responded that the committee has a busy timeline moving forward and there is a lot of interest in getting nine members seated to begin program development work
 - Committee members acknowledged that they would benefit from hearing additional perspectives and would be looking to develop opportunities to gather input and advice to inform program development
 - Sam responded that staff will come back to the committee with a proposal of options on how we can bring additional feedback to the committee
- Cady reminded the committee of their decision to use a modified consensus model and asked each committee member to provide their top choices for nomination
 - Shanice asked if there was any update on any potential candidates and their status on conflicts of interest.
 - Sam responded that Lisa Watt, a candidate who would bring an indigenous perspective, works for an organization that is likely to apply for PCEF dollars.
 - The following candidates were offered as top choices by committee members:
 - Ranfis Villatoro who some committee members expressed provides a range of experience including fundraising, program development, workforce development, work with the coalition, and as a resident east of 82nd.
 - Faith Graham who some committee members expressed as having rich experience with health, water, and affordable buildings. She also brings experience as an attorney and as someone who has served on committees and boards.
 - Megan inquired whether there was conflict of interest for Faith Graham. Sam responded that though Faith is running a national network, folks within that network indicate no intentions to apply for PCEF grants.
 - Jeremy Hays who some committee members expressed provides experience in environmental justice, organizing, and finance. He also brings valuable experience in high value grantmaking.
 - Andrea Johnson who some committee members expressed provides experience in energy efficiency, renewable energy programs, incentive programs, and brings a global perspective.
 - Robin noted that he resonated with Andrea's application on a personal level with her motivation to serve on the committee.
 - Jeffrey Moreland Jr. who some committee members expressed provides minority contracting experience. Shanice inquired whether there was a conflict of interest for Jeffrey Moreland Jr. Sam responded that Jeffrey

Moreland Jr.'s company does right-of-way and excavation work and they are not expected to participate on PCEF projects.

- Andrea Hamberg who some committee members expressed provides experience in anti-racist work and brings a public health planning perspective.
- Committee members asked staff to identify applicants who live east of 82nd.
 - Sam responded that Ranfis Villatoro and Nate McCoy live east of 82nd.
- Michael noted that he would like this committee to prioritize empowerment of historically marginalized communities in its selection of members.
- Committee members deliberated on how to satisfy the requirements to complete the committee, including eliminating conflicts of interest, while also having adequate Native American representation.
- Robin noted that there was alignment from committee members on choosing three of the four next members and nominating the first three members will help focus the remaining conversation.
- Robin proposed the following for vote by the committee:
 - Nomination of Ranfis Villatoro, Faith Graham, and Jeffrey Moreland Jr. to the PCEF Committee
 - Shanice, Robin, Megan, Maria, and Michael agreed
- Committee members continued to deliberate the tradeoffs on holding the last nomination to bring in a Native American perspective, the impacts of delaying the decision, and inquired what the process would be if another solicitation was opened.
 - Sam responded that if we released another solicitation, we would need to bring the committee back a week before Thanksgiving and be ready for City Council to appoint members in December, which would delay full committee formation by at least one month.
- Committee members expressed that it will be critical to provide other ways for people to influence the process without having to forego the opportunity to apply for funds and expressed understanding that there can be avenues outside the committee to build relationships and intention.
- Shanice proposed the following for vote by the committee:
 - Nominate Andrea Hamberg with a request to City Council to provide guidance on bringing an indigenous perspective to committee deliberations, a request for staff to prepare options for bringing in voices, expertise, and lived experiences not reflected in the proposed committee, and acknowledging the absence of indigenous representation on the committee
 - Shanice, Robin, Megan, Maria, and Michael agreed
- Sam asked committee members to hold November 7th for the City Council meeting at which the four nominations will likely be considered by City Council.

4. Update on outreach and engagement activities

- Cady noted that there was not time to cover this agenda item and it will be saved for the next committee meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:27pm.