

Green New Deal Oversight Board Minutes

MEETING SUMMARY	Date: 04/21/25 Time: 5:00 - 7:00 PM Location: Zoom
MEMBERS PRESENT:	Nancy Huizar, Hannah Lindell-Smith, Keith Weir, Steve Gelb, Emily Pinckney, Andrea Ornelas, Nina Olivier, Lizzy Baskerville, Rachel Heaton, Debolina Banerjee, Nina Olivier, and Peter Hasegawa
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Ken Workman, Eunice How, Camille Gipaya, Emily Myers, Matt Remle, Stephanie Ung, Jess Wallach
GUESTS:	Elise Rasmussen (OSE), Sara Cubillos (OSE), Jazzmin Fragiacomio (OSE), Rebecca Zaragoza (OSE), Megan Doiron (OSE), Akshay Iyengar (OSE),

DECISIONS MADE	VOTE: Approval of the March Meeting Minutes
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MEETING NOTES

Peter Hasegawa, Nina Olivier, and Emily Pinckney (GNDOB Executive Committee members) and **Elise Rasmussen** (Climate and Environmental Justice Associate) facilitated the meeting.

Meeting notes were taken by **Rebecca Zaragoza** (OSE).

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Peter Hasegawa started the meeting, reviewed the meeting agenda, and facilitated introductions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

VOTE: APPROVAL OF THE MARCH MEETING MINUTES

Keith Weir moved to approve the minutes. **Nancy Huizar** seconded the motion. The Board voted to approve the March Meeting Minutes. **Unanimous approval.**

STAFF UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elise Rasmussen provided the following updates and announcements from OSE.

- Upcoming Events:
 - April 22nd: Executive Order signing for the Climate Action Plan update.
 - Board Member Emily Pinckney will be a featured speaker.
 - April: Earth Day/Month Events!
 - Tentatively June 6th: GNDOB Field Trip – more information to come soon.
- Grist recently published an article highlighting the [2024 Community Assemblies](#) and work of the GNDOB.
- Board appointments process is underway.
 - Interviews will take place in April and May.

- Staff is also undergoing Tribal engagement for the Tribal Representative seat which will follow a different timeline.
- The goal is to have most new Board members appointed by the end of June.
- Board stipends: In May, staff will follow up with the Board on the stipends process.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peter Hasegawa and **Nina Olivier** provided the following Executive Committee updates:

- Low-Carbon Concrete Pilot Support Letter
 - **Peter Hasegawa** is working with OSE staff to send a letter to the Mayor’s Office. Peter Hasegawa met with the City to look into this topic more in depth and there was a lot of enthusiasm for this type of alternative.
- **Nancy Huizar** shared that Board Members met with Councilmember Rink this month to discuss the Board’s recommendations. The Councilmember has a big focus on workforce development and is interested in knowing how to support sustainability work. She was also very interested in the Resilience Hub work and finding opportunities for collaboration.
 - **Nina Olivier** asked how staff and Board members can encourage Councilmembers to sign up for the GNDOB newsletter or improve communication to ensure they stay informed on the Board’s work.
 - **Nancy Huizar** suggested having a follow-up meeting with Councilmember Rink and others after submitting the Board’s Budget Recommendations.

POLICIES, PROJECTS, AND PROGRAMS COMMITTEE UPDATES

Nina Olivier and **Elise Rasmussen** provided updates from the PPP Committee.

- The PPP Committee is gathering input and feedback from the full Board throughout the Budget process and wants to hear from all Board members.
- The deadline for the Board to adopt recommendations is May 19th.
- We are in the second year of a budget biennium and continue to be in a budget deficit, but the Board has multiple avenues for influence.
- Budget Recommendations Process and Timeline:
 - April 25th: Deadline for Budget Proposals from Board members
 - April 21-May 6th: 2nd Feedback Period
 - May 14th: Final Review
 - May 19th: Board Meeting – **BOARD VOTE** on Budget Recommendations
 - The PPP Committee will categorize ideas based on proposals.
- Examples of Board Member and Community Partner ideas to consider so far:
 - Funding for Resilience Hubs and Community Assemblies
 - Community Advisory for city-owned resilience hubs
 - Interest in “recovery” piece of resilience
 - Investments for minority and women-owned contractors to perform energy upgrades and related work.

- Neighborhood Resource Guide specifically for climate-related issues.

PRESENTATION: SEATTLE'S REVENUE FORECAST + BUDGET OVERVIEW

Presentation by **Akshay Iyengar** (City Budget Office)

- Seattle has a Biennium Budget – adopting a budget for year 1 and endorsing a budget for year 2. The endorsed budget is only a framework and not a legally binding.
- The Budget process runs from March – November. The proposed budget is developed by the City Budget Office and the Mayor's Office between June and September based on economic and revenue forecasts, department-proposed changes, and mayoral priorities.
- 2025 Adopted Budget: \$8.5 Billion Total Funds – Broken down by Program Area:
 - 47% Utilities and Transportation
 - 22% Administration
 - 11% Public Safety
 - 8% Arts, Culture, Recreation
 - 7% Livable and Inclusive Communities
 - 6% Education and Human Service
- Payroll Expense Tax Breakdown for the Green New Deal Program:
 - 2025 Adopted: \$18.5 million
 - 2026 Endorsed: \$19.3 million

Board Discussion:

- **Nina Olivier** asked if there is an expenditure breakdown for non-salary and benefits expenses?
 - **Akshay Iyengar** will follow up on this question.
- **Peter Hasegawa** asked if the cuts were proportionate to the budget shortfall in PET collection revenue, how much smaller would our budget be?
 - **Akshay Iyengar** shared that compared to the revenue assumed by the 2025 Adopted Budget, the April forecast projects 18.5% lower payroll tax revenue in both 2025 and 2026. And including revised 2024 revenues (which impact 2024 year-end balances and contribute to total available 2025 resources), total 2025 PET resources are projected down 22% from the Adopted Budget (\$454.8 million vs \$582.8 million). A direct proportionate reduction to PET-GND is tricky to calculate for a variety of reasons, since year-end balances contribute to total resources. Purely as a point of reference, an 18.5% reduction in PET-GND resources would leave \$15.3 million in revenue for GND in 2025 (down from \$18.5 million) and \$15.7 million in 2026 (down from \$19.3 million). That said, the City has not made any decisions about how these shortfalls will be addressed. City Departments, the Mayor's Office, and the City Council are currently considering a variety of options. Various actions will also be considered during the 2026 Budget Process beginning in the summer.
- **Steve Gelb** noted that some priorities funded under the GND were not proposed by the GNDOB, rather priorities identified by City Council. There are also some priorities that would fall under the GND are funded by other sources. He suggested that this be reconsidered in the future.
- **Nina Olivier** suggested creating a visual to compare budget items based on proposing entity (i.e. GNDOB or City Council, etc.)

- **Steve Gelb** noted that there are other important budget items relevant to the GND that might not be considered GND policies or programs.

BOARD DISCUSSION: BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Elise Rasmussen** went through the remainder of the Budget Recommendation Development process for the Board to be prepared to vote on the recommendations during the May 19th meeting.
- The PPP Committee reviewed budget recommendations they have heard to date with the full Board. The Committee took questions and comments on those ideas. (Refer to the meeting materials for more detail.)

NEXT STEPS & ADJOURN

Peter Hasegawa moved to adjourn the meeting and **Keith Weir** seconded. The Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:00pm. **Unanimous approval.**