

Green New Deal Oversight Board Meeting Minutes

MEETING SUMMARY	Date: 09/18/2023
	Time: 5:00pm – 7:00pm
	Location: Zoom
MEMBERS PRESENT:	Keith Weir, Andrea Ornelas, Tomás Madrigal, Emily Meyers, Steve Gelb, Maria Batayola, Jess Wallach, Nina Olivier, Peter Hasegawa, Eunice How, Debolina Banerjee, Matt Remle
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Ken Workman and Rachel Heaton
GUESTS:	Elise Rasmussen (OSE), Sara Cubillos (OSE), Sandra Mallory (OSE), Joshua Morris (Urban Forestry Commission), Elizabeth Arsenault (member of the public).

DECISIONS MADE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APPROVED: August Meeting Minutes • APPROVED: Board training on community assemblies. • APPROVED: Board members to reach out to new Council members about BEPS in 2024.
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FOLLOW-UP ACTION ITEMS			
#	ITEM	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)	TARGET DATE
1	Get in touch with People’s Economy Lab to request a training on Community Assemblies	Community Engagement Committee and staff	October
2	Organize a lunch and learn focused on the City’s Building Accelerator Program	Staff	February
3	Stand up the Policy, Programs and Projects Committee	Executive Committee and staff	October
4	Send out foundational document list to the Board	Staff	September
5	Send foundational documents to staff	Board members	Ongoing

MEETING NOTES

Peter Hasegawa, Nina Olivier, Debolina Banerjee (GNDOB Co-Chairs) and Elise Rasmussen (Climate and Environmental Justice Associate) facilitated the meeting.

Notes taken by Sara Cubillos (Climate Justice Advisor).

WELCOMES AND INTRODUCTIONS

Debolina started the meeting, reviewed the meeting agenda, and provided a land and legacy acknowledgement.

APPROVING PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES

BOARD ACTION Motion: **Jess** moved to approve August’s meeting minutes. **Eunice** seconded the motion.

BOARD VOTES TO APPROVE the August meeting minutes unanimously.

UPDATE: GNOB PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE TREE PROTECTION ORDINANCE

Maria provided an update to the Board on the collaboration with the Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) to put forward a proposed amendment to the Tree Protection Ordinance. The UFC provisionally supported this proposed amendment because they did not have quorum at their September 5th meeting. **Maria** invited members of the Board to join this work.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joshua Morris, the Co-Chair of the Urban Forestry Commission, thanked the Board for their work and for their desire to work together on a proposed tree protection ordinance amendment. **Joshua** invited GNOB members to attend a UFC meeting and shared that the Commission meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month.

UPDATE: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Maria, Eunice, and Tomás, Community Engagement Committee members, proposed a structure for engaging communities around Seattle's Draft Comprehensive Plan and the Green New Deal:

1. Adopt and embed co-governance principles across all of the Board's community engagement efforts.
2. Engage communities using the Community Assemblies model for engagement. The Committee is proposing contracting with four organizations to facilitate and host four community assemblies—either by issue area, demographics, or geography—and would also weave in community stories. They are hoping to contract with the organization, the People's Economy Lab, for training and support to thoughtfully stand up this model of engagement.
 - a. Assemblies would be organized and facilitated by an assembly anchor. These anchors should be trusted community-based organizations and/or grassroots groups with deep relationships and buy-in from frontline communities.
 - b. Proposed anchors: Duwamish Valley organizations, Puget Sound Sage, People's Economy Lab, and a labor union represented on the Board.
3. The Community Engagement Committee then reviewed their next steps:
 - a. Seek Board approval for this community assembly strategy.
 - b. Host an educational workshop on community assemblies, led by the People's Economy Lab, and invite potential community contractors and other City Boards and Commissions to co-learn with the GND Oversight Board.

Board members asked questions and provided comments after the Committee's presentation.

Steve asked if the assemblies would be ongoing. **Maria** answered that the assemblies would happen over a finite period of time and would be focused on engaging communities around the draft comprehensive plan.

Nina commented that the Just Futures Co-Governance Tool Kit is supposed to be released in November and might be a great addition to the proposal the Committee outlined. **Maria** replied that if the Board were to receive a training from People's Economy Lab it could include learnings from this toolkit. **Eunice** added that there is a timeline for the Office of Planning and Community Development to release a new draft of the comprehensive plan and that November may be too late.

Debolina asked if Puget Sound Sage is an example of an organization and not set in stone. **Tomás** affirmed that yes, Sage was just an example and that the Committee included Sage after a conversation with Sage staff focused on organizing around a GND.

Jess said she liked the structure and noted that the comprehensive plan is just one aspect of this engagement work. Jess asked how this engagement might go beyond getting community feedback on the draft comprehensive plan that might come up during the Assemblies. **Tomás** shared that this pilot approach is not governed by the comprehensive plan and these assemblies will be a place to generate broader ideas to advance a GND. These assemblies do 3 things: (1) Identify problems, (2) come up with solutions, and (3) commit to action.

Steve asked how the \$100K allocated to this engagement would be spent. **Maria** replied that each of the anchor organizations would receive \$20k to plan, host, and report on assemblies and then the remaining \$20K would be for training and tools. **Steve** shared that he was concerned this may be overcomplicating what is needed around co-governance and that he would like to also sort out what information gathering means and who is making decisions. He asked if the funding would go to smaller organizations. He also asked how we might set up a structure to get broad feedback over time. **Tomás** replied that there currently is no space for communities to voice their problems, ideas, etc. and the assemblies would be a space for that information. Funding this type of engagement is important to show that the Board and the City supports hearing this information. By having a successful pilot, there may be room in the next budget cycle to recommend funding for future assemblies. Tomás then shared a [successful community assembly in Whatcom county](#) that can be found here as well as [this resource](#).

Maria asked for clarification if there was support for the training, framework, and structure. **Nina** replied that she will post the question in the chat for the standard voting process.

BOARD ACTION Motion: **Nina** moved to approve Community Engagement Committees proposal for Community Assemblies. **Peter** seconded the motion.

BOARD VOTES TO APPROVE a training on community assemblies.

- Note: Steve and Keith chose not to vote until there was further discussion and Tomás recused.

In response to the votes, **Maria** proposed to move forward with the training, and then will continue to check in with the Board on next steps in this process to move forward together.

Steve shared that he was concerned that only having four anchors might mean missing out on important partners or audiences. **Maria** invited Steve to join the community engagement committee meeting to keep learning more about this pilot.

UPDATE: BUILDING EMISSIONS PERFORMANCE STANDARDS (BEPS)

Jess brought a proposed next step for BEPS for Board review and discussion. She provided additional context of previous Board work related to BEPS, including previously sending a letter to City Council and the Mayor in support of the proposed legislation. Jess proposed having the Executive Committee meet with new Council members and the Mayor's office to advocate for the passing of the BEPS policy in 2024.

Board members asked questions and provided comments.

Steve asked if the Board could support City Council to introduce the BEPS either way this year. **Jess** replied that the time available with the budget process and elections doesn't allow for adequate consideration and it would be better to introduce BEPS in the 2024 legislative session.

Nina reminded the Board that one of their goals from the retreat is to develop a better relationship with the Mayor's office and this is a good opportunity for that. Nina also asked if there was a reason why Jess is proposing that only the Executive Committee meet with local electeds, and wondered if it would be better to bring in other Board members to those conversations. **Jess** replied that it is powerful to have a few consistent individuals to build relationships with elected officials.

Debolina asked what happens to the dollars associated with BEPS if the policy doesn't move forward. **Sandra (OSE)** replied that OSE is currently hiring a staff person to stand up the under-resourced building accelerator program and there is still a need to utilize this capital for engineering technical assistance. Whether or not the legislation passes, Sandra said the money will still be used to decarbonize buildings.

Maria stated that she would like to include the GHG reduction and technical expert Board members when building relationships with the Mayor's office. She asked if it was possible to host a lunch and learn about BEPS for new members. **Nina** added that it would be good to get a Lunch and Learn with the new staff member focused on the Accelerator Program once they are hired on.

BOARD ACTION Motion: **Nina** moved to support the proposal for Board members to reach out to new Council members about BEPS in 2024. **Peter** seconded the motion.

BOARD VOTES TO APPROVE the proposal unanimously.

DISCUSSION: STRATEGIES & GOALS FOR INFORMATION GATHERING ON GND WORK

Elise brought the Board's attention to their workplan that includes an Information Gathering activity to support their Board Function and Capacity priority and their 2025 -2026 budget recommendations. Then she shared the goals for this Information Gathering activity:

- Understand problems to solve.
- Learn about existing GND related data and work in the City and in communities.
- Build out the role of the GND Oversight Board, future goals, policies, and budget recommendations.
- Be realistic about how much information they can gather and digest.

Peter shared the proposed strategy for information gathering.

- Strategy 1: Review Foundational board nominated GND related documents.
- Strategy 2: Optional, recorded monthly lunch and learn from City Departments.
- Strategy 3: Presentation during Board Meetings for select topics.

The proposal is that the Board incorporate all three strategies to gather information.

Peter and Elise had two asks of the Board:

1. Send Elise foundational documents that you recommend for Board review.
2. Volunteers for the Policy, Program, Project (PPP) Committee. The PPP Committee will be a working group that will dive into ordinances, policies, and GND related topics. This group will

review those items and bring the information to the full Board. One of the main goals of the PPP Committee is to figure out how to advance concrete strategies for a GND within the City.

Board members asked questions and provided comments.

Maria had a request to articulate the division of labor between OSE and the PPP committee because OSE is tracking policies locally, nationally, and internationally.

PPP Committee Volunteers: Steve, Debolina, Jess, Maria, Keith, and Peter

Nina asked if there is a folder or a place where shared resources can be saved? **Elise** confirmed that that the Board will have a SharePoint that will act like a google drive. The google drive content has migrated to the SharePoint and the link to the drive via email after the meeting.

Steve offered a suggestion that it would be helpful if the reading list was curated for Board members and highlighted the most relevant documents. He offered another proposed strategy and asked if the Board meetings could include 5 minutes for a learning moment to highlight one foundational document. **Peter** said that the Executive Committee will take that idea into consideration.

UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elise reviewed the process for Board members to receive stipends for their participation on this Board, if they so choose.

Board Appointments Process Update: Deadline for applications for the vacant Board seats was extended to October 13th.

NEXT STEPS & ADJOURN

Nina moves to adjourn, Keith Seconds motion. Peter adjourned the meeting at 6:57pm.