



Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Meeting summary

Meeting: Nature in Neighborhoods Capital Grants Pilot Program Design and Review Committee Meeting #4
Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2022
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Place: Zoom
Purpose: Rulebook development
Outcome(s): Finalized goals & values, plan for idea-generating event; outline of project development

RECORDING: <https://vimeo.com/683417977/f6817b8e08>

Links: [Feedback Jamboard](#)
[Idea Collection Mural Board](#)
[Process Goals Mural Board](#)

Attendees

Committee Members

Kevin Hughes, he/him, City of Hillsboro Parks and Recreation Department
Alisa Chen, they/them, Grow Portland
Jairaj Singh, they/he, Unite Oregon
Blanca Gaytan Farfan, she/her, East County Rising Community Projects
Jeffrey Lee, he/him, (City of Portland, BES)
Theresa Huang, she/her, Urban Greenspaces Institute

Absent: *Anthony M. Bradley*

Staff

Amanda Hudson, Participatory Budgeting Oregon (PBO)
Humberto Marquez Mendes, Metro
Crista Gardner, Metro
Brandon Goldner, Metro
Gabrielle Brown, Metro (PSU Fellow)
Ariella Frishberg, JLA Public Involvement

Welcome and Introductions

Ariella Frishberg, JLA Public Involvement, opened the meeting and reviewed Zoom logistics. Crista Gardner, Metro, reminded the committee that text messages and emails are considered public record and to refrain from using text messages for committee communications to stay in compliance with public meeting recordings. Crista also shared a land acknowledgement. Committee members then introduced themselves.

PN Bond Funding & Project Development Overview

Crista presented an overview of the Parks and Nature Bond Funding and Project Development. The project is currently in the design process phase and these discussions will help develop part of the program guidebook. The next phase is for brainstorming and developing proposals.

The committee's role is to define the goals and criteria of the project development and then outline a project development process with the project implementers and *Budget Delegates*. Additionally, the committee will help identify project implementers and how they can work together with budget delegates.

Crista reminded the group that Capital Grants can only fund capital projects. The Oregon Constitution and the 2019 Bond does not allow Bond funding to be spent on project development; therefore, Metro staff are exploring other funding options and how the funding might affect the project development process.

Crista shared contact information for herself and Humberto and then opened the meeting for discussion.

- **Q:** Is there a process for how Metro is allocating resources in an equitable fashion? How do we know if the right communities are being reached or served?
 - **A:** There are several approaches to this question. The next two meetings we'll discuss project evaluation and how to keep equity in mind.
 - **Comment:** The group is here to help those who have not been able to navigate through the system due to lack of resources or capital. Many groups who have benefited from these processes in the past had the means and financial stability to do so. This committee member also voiced how critical it is to have money for capacity support.
 - **Comment:** It is important that we keep historical context in mind when we are looking at examples from other countries. The specificities of the way our country was founded is important for how laws were created and maintained over the years.
- **Q:** What are the components of the project development phase?
 - **A:** The participatory budgeting stages are as follows:
 - Stage 1: steering committee
 - Stage 2: idea collection, including crowd source and big data input
 - Stage 3: project development where ideas are sorted and subcommittees are formed to transform those ideas into project options
- **Q:** How long is the project development phase and what is the costs associated with that effort?
 - **A:** Metro will put together options for what project development might cost and emphasized that it could take a significant amount of time and money
- **Q:** How are we supporting projects that have strong partnerships between community organizations and public agencies?
 - **A:** The language contained in the PN Bond supports the effort to create partnerships between community organizations and agencies. It is a requirement for funding, and the way those partnerships are formed is flexible. The language gives preference to projects that have a tie with community-based organizations or grassroots efforts.

Finalize Goals & Values

Amanda Hudson, PBO, gave an overview of the topics being discussed in this section, which includes revisiting the targeted populations and PB themes as well as exploring principles to guide the establishment of participant eligibility, goals and priorities set by the committee.

Amanda reviewed the Process Goals below and asked for comments.

- General process goals for Metro:
 - Activate and develop new community leaders
 - Increase transparency in decision making process
- Once geography is established:
 - Clearly define and establish what communities on which the project is being centered
 - Through a community-led process, develop process goals and establish how to measure for successful outcomes

A few members asked for an additional bullet to the general process goals to include “providing support to already established community leaders.”

Amanda then reviewed the themes for the Targeted Populations based on the committee’s discussion and asked whether she captured the information correctly or if anything needs to be added.

- Committee recommendations for targeting participants and investment
 - Environmental Justice: Communities that are impacted by pollution, environmental hazards, and/or impacted by or vulnerable to climate disasters
 - Neighborhoods that have been historically redlines, underinvested, and/or gentrified
- Instead of focusing on a particular population (e.g. youth or people with disabilities), use a targeted universalist approach:
 - Bring in the general population for crowdsourcing ideas, then engage underserved voices to ensure their voices are being heard
 - Engage multi-generational audiences to get a complete understanding of the community’s needs

One member asked for specific language to address areas or communities that have low-income populations, and another member asked for clarification of the gentrification language, pointing out the difference between being “at risk for gentrification” as opposed to neighborhoods that have already been gentrified. The people versus place discussion also adds to this conversation. It was noted in the chat that past Metro projects included the phrase “targeted nature-deficient areas, affordable housing, and/or low-income communities.” Additionally, this resource was shared to further explain targeted universalism: <https://belonging.berkeley.edu/implementing-targeted-universalism>.

Finalize Idea Collection Goals and Principles

Amanda reviewed best practices for establishing participant eligibility and lead the discussion of what principles the committee would like to use to decide who can participate via an interactive poll.

Committee members offered the following suggestions:

- Live, work, play, and/or pray in Metros’ urban growth boundary
- Live, work, play, pray in neighborhoods experiencing disinvestment... (insert clause from target community)

- Meaningful time spent present and future within Metro’s boundaries and dedication to implementing equitable solutions within Metro’s parks and nature areas

One member asked if “work” should be included, and Amanda clarified that “work” has been included in the past to give small business owners a voice in the community. Credentialing is the standard method for proving eligibility.

Amanda then asked “What principles should be established when considering how we should demonstrate their eligibility? (e.g., how should they prove they are allowed to participate?)” Committee members offered the following suggestions:

- Personal identification or letter w/ mailing address
- Personal connection to place (residency, school ID, connection to someone with official identification (like parent with child registered at local school), etc.)
- Provide their lived stories connected to the place
- Addresses/major intersection, name of businesses, name of place of worship, name of a place one plays/recreation
- Relationship building conversation as participants show up
- Open to everyone

The next question discussed was “What age should be used to determine participants?” and committee members suggested the following:

- No age limit
- Age 18 or above
- Review typical age turnout patterns from other spaces like voting or civic engagement in local government and prioritize age groups who don’t typically participate
- Age 6 and above
- As young as 12 years old

Develop Process: Project Development/Matchmaking

Due to the length of discussion, the agenda item “Develop Process: Project Development/Matchmaking” was not addressed during this meeting.

Next Steps and Closing

Ariella and Crista closed the meeting with the following items:

- Committee members are invited to share their thoughts on meeting process improvements and topics they’d like to discuss using a [Google Jamboard](#). This will be open for committee members to fill out until the next meeting.
- The Jamboard will also include additional slides for questions related to bond funding and project development as well as an opportunity to share thoughts on the gentrification language
- The next meeting is scheduled for March 2nd to continue discussion of project development and start a conversation on the community vote.
- Committee members will need to read the upcoming memo in advance
- On March 15, Metro will share an outline of the guidebook

Crista thanked everyone for their time and the meeting ended.

Appendix A: Zoom Meeting Chat

Ariella Frishberg: Think about an experience you've had where you were tasked with convening a group for the purpose of working on a project together. What made it successful and what made it challenging?

Jeffrey Lee: Past Metro projects included this language: targeted nature-deficient areas, affordable housing, and low-income communities

Jeffrey Lee: ** and/or

Crista Gardner: "Neighborhoods are at risk of further gentrification"

Jeffrey Lee: <https://belonging.berkeley.edu/implementing-targeted-universalism>

Gabrielle: Could you clarify what 'participate' refers to? Is this voting? Submission?

Amanda Hudson: pollev.com/pboregon240

Crista Gardner: On the geography question, Metro Parks and Nature leadership made a policy decision that Capital Grants Pilot Program Design and Review Committee members should reside in the Metro UGB.

Ariella Frishberg: Weds March 2 - 4:30-6:30

Tue March 15 - 4:30-6:30

Brandon Goldner: Ya'll are amazing. Thank you all so much for your time and energy!!

Appendix B: Land acknowledgement – Oversight Committee

The greater Portland area is built upon the ancestral homelands, villages and traditional use areas of multiple Indigenous tribes and bands who have stewarded these lands we cherish since time immemorial.

The lands at the confluence of the Willamette and Columbia rivers have long served as a major crossroads for the economic, social and political interactions of tribal nations for thousands of years and a place of significance in the homelands and traditional territories of many tribal nations.

We owe a special acknowledgement to the many tribes and bands and their descendants who ceded these lands in treaties with the United States.

We recognize the strong and diverse tribal nations and Native communities in our region today and offer respect and gratitude for their stewardship of these lands past, present and future.

Metro seeks to establish meaningful relationships and explore opportunities to collaborate and consider tribal priorities and interests in our work, including our parks and nature bond work.

We are building our understanding of tribal interests in the greater Portland area as we implement our parks and nature work.

As we learn more, we hope to refine Metro's approach to land acknowledgements in the future;

We recognize land acknowledgements are important and can be sensitive. We are hoping to learn more to integrate this into our work appropriately and in a good way honoring tribal interests going forward.