



Community Involvement Committee



Community Involvement Committee

January 21, 2020, 6:00-8:00 pm
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Room 126

MEETING MINUTES

In Attendance: Richard Barker, Claire Carder, Desiree' Duboise, Michelle Kosta, Rhiannon Martin, Sahar Yajani Muranovic, Marvin Peña, Emily Purry, Juanita Santana, Mike Savara, Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie, Sachini Weerawardena

Excused: Mi Lovejoy

Staff: Dani Bernstein, Olivia Kilgore

Guests: Anna Marie Allen (Chair's Office), Marina Baker (Board Clerk), Arianna Kupras, Yamini Naidu

Agenda Item	Action Item
<p>Introductions, Review Agenda & Approve Minutes Emily welcomed everyone to the meeting, including a guest, who is a graduate student from PSU at the School of Social Work, studying groups.</p> <p>Emily led the group through an icebreaker, asking them to pick from one of five shapes they identify with in a group setting. Emily then provided a handout explaining the personality types of each shape and invited reflections.</p> <p>Emily let the committee know that she and Marvin will be meeting with Chair Kafoury, and invited the committee to brainstorm questions and comments for the Chair's Office to share at the end of the meeting.</p> <p>The committee approved the November meeting minutes by consensus.</p> <p>Emily reviewed the remainder of the agenda.</p>	
<p>Multnomah County Public Budget Hearings, Anna Marie Allen (Chair's Office) & Marina Baker (Board Clerk) Marvin introduced Anna Marie Allen from the Chair's Office and Marina Baker, Board Clerk.</p>	

Anna and Marina introduced themselves. They are the point people for the public budget hearings. The hearings are one way, but not the only way, the County hears from the community on the budget.

This year, departments submit their budgets to the Chair's Office on February 14th. The budget is made up of program offers, which are run through the Budget Office for checking and then sent on to the County Chair. The Chair will release her executive budget on April 23rd. At that time, the remainder of the Board can offer amendments. This year, the budget will be officially adopted on May 28.

There is a detailed budget calendar on the County's Budget website. It includes the schedule of work sessions, where departments provide presentations to the Board on their budgets.

In gathering input, the Community Budget Advisory Committees (CBACs) are part of the review. Recommendations sometimes come from other advisory groups within the County. Departments have their own staff who are responsible for community engagement activities. The Chair's Office often utilizes community events to engage with executive directors, program staff and front line staff about community priorities. The office does a lot of tours of organizations. The Chair's Office and departments do year round engagement on the budget.

If cuts are anticipated, departments are asked to notify organizations about potential cuts to their contracts, and the County monitors whether cutting a contract could destabilize an organization. Anna organizes the quarterly meeting with the Coalition of Communities of Color.

In addition to those informal engagements, the public can formally provide comment at Board meetings and send emails or call the Chair and commissioners.

Marina provided the committee with dates for the upcoming budget hearings this year: May 6th (East County Building), May 13th (Multnomah Building) and May 20th (APANO in the Jade District). On April 29th, the Community Budget Advisory Committees will present their recommendations to the board. Food is provided.

The public budget hearings resemble the public testimony portion of board meetings. Members of the public can sign up to testify - forms are available online and onsite. Forms will be available in several languages. Interpreters will also be available during the meeting - Russian, Somali, Spanish and Vietnamese. Two more interpreters can be added if there is a request. The County can also accommodate ASL, but the request needs to be received ahead of time. Extra time is provided for people providing testimony that require translation services.

Typically testimony is two minutes per person, and written testimony can also be submitted. The length of testimony can be three minutes if there's time, but it is shortened to two minutes depending on the number of people that sign up. The Multnomah Building now has closed captioning. For the other locations, the closed captioning happens after the fact before the video is posted online.

The County partners with the Coalition of Communities of Color for one hearing - this year it's the one at APANO. The coalition handles the community outreach for that hearing, in addition to the County's outreach.

Testimony is typically first come first serve, but if there are elders, parents with children, people with disabilities - they can ask to be accommodated and testify earlier.

These hearings came about because the board meetings and budget worksessions happen in the daytime and the Board wanted to provide an evening opportunity for the public to attend and offer comment.

Emily asked how people could offer public comment after closed captioning is posted. Anna said community members can provide written comments to staff at any point up until the budget adoption.

Budget hearings are a very formal process because it's a quorum of the Board, so board members cannot ask questions or engage in deliberation.

Richard asked if there were thoughts about adding a Saturday hearing. Anna said it has been talked about. Changes have been made over the past couple of years - the number of hearings, adding the CBAC presentation night. The CIC could elevate the recommendation for a future Saturday budget hearing.

In terms of potential CIC involvement, the Chair felt it was important the committee knew the dates and process. The Chair's Office and Board Clerk will share flyers with dates and locations and invite the CIC to attend the hearings.

Sahar asked if there is childcare. Anna said typically the public hearings do have a lot of children, and staff will prioritize parents providing testimony. The County tries to partner with the community organizations and will cover the cost of the childcare that the partner provides.

Emily asked if there are communities they aren't hearing from and if they collect demographic information. Anna said it is always tough as a government body to ask for demographic information. Hearings can be a triggering space for people and any collected info would be public record.

Juanita asked how the County informs the community and disseminates information early in the budget process - and how people who provide testimony receive feedback. Anna said there isn't currently funding or capacity to track and respond to each person testifying.

Based on testimony, commissioners will ask staff for additional information or request contact information for further information.

Rhiannon asked if the only way someone would find out if a proposed cut wasn't made (for example) is when the final budget comes out. The Chair does release a statement on the budget, outlining what's been cut and what's been prioritized. Commissioners will also offer comments at budget adoption about the reasons cuts had to be made. Many departments follow up with impacted community organizations.

Desiree' asked about the impact of public testimony on the budget decision-making. Anna said that the testimony happens during the time that the commissioners have the ability to issue amendments, once the executive budget has been released. Public testimony does impact the commissioners. Marvin asked how the County reaches out to the community, through other organizations, through its own outreach plan?

<p>Staff work with the Communications Office to create materials in multiple languages. Anna sends it to her community contacts. Commissioners post it on their social media. The Communications Office posts it on the County website, as does the Office of Community Involvement. Department heads are asked to share it, as are departments' engagement staff. It is sent to any community organizations that the County knows of. Chair Kafoury also mentions it on the public record leading up to the hearings. The libraries will post notice of hearings.</p> <p>Juanita asked if the County has thought about offering some type of training on the budget. She also observed from the testimony that she watched, most people offering testimony were organized by organizations receiving funding. Anna handles the Budget 101 training for the Chair's Office, and has five trainings this fiscal year. She can't speak to whether the other commissioner's offices offer this training. The Chair's Office and OCI have been in discussion about a County 101 and Budget 101 training. Juanita said she would like to be kept informed of any future trainings. Claire also added that trainings would be helpful.</p> <p>Olivia sent the document with questions and comments to Anna and Marina, and committee members can email them with additional questions.</p> <p>Anna also added that it's difficult to approach new organizations about the County budget process when there isn't additional funding available.</p>	
<p>Community Outreach & Engagement Subcommittee: CIC Input and Determining Values</p> <p>Marvin informed the committee that the Community Outreach & Engagement subcommittee has decided to update the County's community involvement resolution, adopted in 1995.</p> <p>Olivia provided additional context that the resolution could provide a useful foundation for the committee going forward in its work. The subcommittee could use the full committee's feedback on the principles and values to write into a new version.</p> <p>Olivia set up a small group activity, with the goal of getting the committee's input on values that should be reflected in the resolution. The subcommittee reviewed similar documents from other jurisdictions and based on that, identified some areas to gather input: equity & inclusion in community involvement, origins of our democracy and Oregon's history of exclusion &</p>	

<p>engagement, and the county’s commitment to community involvement & defining success.</p> <p>Olivia explained that the document isn’t one that necessarily has action items or plans, but is more about values and principles. They also provided each small group with examples from the City of Portland proposed City Code for the Office of Civic Life and the City of Seattle Executive Order. The documents don’t serve exactly the same purpose as the resolution the subcommittee is working on, but it provides some ideas around values and language.</p> <p>Michelle added that the subcommittee struggled to find its focus for the year. This document emerged as one thing the group could look at and revise. The subcommittee doesn’t yet know how they want the document to look, but having the input of the full committee will be important in making this a guiding document. The values piece is really important to capture - what values do we want the County to carry and how is that talked about in this document?</p> <p>Claire asked for clarity on the process - Olivia clarified that with the input of the full committee, the subcommittee will continue working on the document and bring it back to the full group for input at the March meeting.</p> <p>Michelle added that people shouldn’t let the document’s format/structure get in the way and should focus on generating ideas.</p> <p>Small groups reported out on their brainstorms on each topic. Olivia collected the flipcharts and will type up the notes.</p>	
<p>Public Comment There were no requests for public comment.</p>	
<p>Subcommittee Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Membership Subcommittee</u>: Richard provided an update. The subcommittee reviewed the criteria for evaluating CIC applications and some of the weighted criteria. The application was edited and will be posted on Friday January 24th, with a deadline of February 21st. Desiree’ added that the subcommittee added more emphasis on people with lived experience, adding a note for evaluators. Olivia asked all members to forward the application to their networks. The subcommittee will start reviewing applications once they are turned in - the next subcommittee meeting is in March. • <u>Community Outreach & Engagement Subcommittee</u>: Claire provided an update-- during the last subcommittee meeting, they talked more about priorities and dove into working on the resolution. The subcommittee 	<p>Olivia will send out the CIC application once it is posted.</p>

<p>hopes to bring a new resolution to the county board to help develop the relationship between the committee and the board, and update a document that is 25 years old. Juanita added that the subcommittee talked about having two documents- the resolution and a plan with more specific outcomes and measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>Mental Health & Addiction Subcommittee</u>: Richard provided an update that the subcommittee is meeting on February 11th. ● <u>Housing & Homelessness Subcommittee</u>: Mike provided an update - the subcommittee has narrowed down its tasks for the spring. The subcommittee met last week with Scotty Sherington, who is working on the County's relationship with the trans community and building better supports around housing and homelessness for this community. The subcommittee is looking for contacts, and is starting to do outreach to different jurisdictions - Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and San Francisco. The members will be doing research on how those jurisdictions worked with the trans community and integrated community input into their homelessness system. In the next few weeks, the subcommittee will be setting up conversations with community members and government folks in those places to learn how they have done community engagement on that topic. Emily also mentioned that Scotty shared that the City and County do intend to set aside money for this issue, and the subcommittee is hoping they can find information that will help inform how to put that money to good use starting July 1. Sahar mentioned that House Speaker Tina Kotek announced a \$40 million dollar state investment in homelessness. 	
<p>Next Steps & Closing</p> <p>The next meeting is on March 17th at Gresham City Hall. In March, the subcommittees will have the opportunity to present draft recommendations. It doesn't need to be formal, can just be ideas - but it's an opportunity for the full committee to provide input. In May, subcommittees will provide and approve final recommendations.</p> <p>The CIC application is going out this Friday. All applicants will have the opportunity to attend a meeting- either the March CIC meeting or a subcommittee meeting during March/April.</p> <p>Emily asked if any committee members had questions or comments for the Co-Chair meeting with Chair Kafoury. Marvin added that members can email Olivia with any ideas.</p> <p>Olivia added that in March, someone from Commissioner Stegmann's office is going to talk about the 2020 Census efforts. Michelle added that she met with</p>	<p>Dani will share a copy of OCI's current fiscal year budget.</p> <p>Olivia will share calendar invites for the public budget hearings.</p> <p>Dani will ask Anna about any upcoming County or Budget 101 trainings.</p>

Unite Oregon to get a sense for their Census efforts and Michelle can talk about that as well.

Michelle asked what OCI's budget is. Dani will send it out.

Sahar asked for visual information on the public budget hearings. Olivia will send the link to the FY21 budget calendar and calendar invites for the budget hearings.

Claire asked if there are any upcoming County 101 or Budget 101 trainings. Dani thinks the next training Anna is doing is for the NAYA civic leadership program and wouldn't be open to the public, but they will ask Anna.

