



Wednesday May 3, 2023

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Webex

Board Members Present: Willard Brown, Diana Paredes, Sophia Benalfew, Lindsay Goes Behind, Jennell Hicks, Quanlin Hu, Jamie Madden, Mark R. Jones, Evelyn Allen, and Denise Perez Lally

Absent: Kaleb Germinaro, John Rodriguez, Abdi Yusuf

Public: Yordanos Teferi

Welcome & Public Comment

None

Approve Board Minutes:

Bana Abera, EDI AB Facilitator

Minutes revised as necessary and approved by Board Members

- Meeting minutes affirmed by Willard Brown and move to approve April minutes, Mark R. Jones seconds.

Call for additional edits/comments

- All in favor as is – all
- No - Nay or abstain 0
- Abstain 0

2023 Budget Letter

Board member: I edited the letter for formatting and for specific parts related to the roles and responsibilities as designated in the ordinance. Additionally, requests for funding to match 2023 level for 2024, consulting budget level be restored to full amount, changes to how we operate. Currently, Ordinance says Board will provide Budget letter to OPCD Director, and this is the first time we're exercising this and emphasized this and the policy recommendation—support and endorsing Equitable Development zoning and permitting process, permitting fee be reduced, support for staffing increase at least one FTE to provide programmatic support, recommendation for EDI convening and requesting funding to support this convening. Lastly, support for the Indigenous Seattle initiative.

Staff: If Board would like staff/department to forward the letter then EDI staff can send this letter to Rico for his feedback and concerns.



Board member: Hoping to have the letter in front of folks by next week for feedback and input.

Facilitator: next steps, Board Chair will send out the Budget Letter for feedback and input in order to move it forward and send it to Council and necessary stakeholders.

Advisory Board Retreat Debrief

Facilitator: The main focus of this review and debrief is to work on the ordinance update as that is most pertinent. But before we jump in, any initial reactions?

Board member: Being in that space that we had created was special. Stepping into that space I felt grateful. And the work we do moving forward is a testament to that time and space.

Facilitator: Thank you. And let's take a look at the ordinance and also bring those that weren't present up to date. The main aspects of the ordinance folks was around the board's authority, duties, and board term limit. Based on that, what are your questions?

Board member: Can we say, OPCD Director, to the best of their ability will strongly advocate the board's recommendations.

Board member: Where is the board's power?

Facilitator: the more power and financial authority and decision-making the board has, there are strict personal disclosure requirements.

Board member: How do we hold the department and City council accountable even as an advisory board? This is the initial take at expanding the authority of the board.

Board member: As an advisory board, it might be difficult to change this ordinance because saying what we say needs to be enforced, and we should be collaborative. The other point is, can we look at the ordinances of other advisory committees and what kind of language has passed for reference?

Board member: The mayor's office or council must confirm any changes or recommendations with the board. What does this mean?

Staff: Based on the discussions at the retreat, folks wanted the board to approve any changes that may be made by Council or Mayor. This would continuously ensure that the review committee's and board recommendations are respected and transmitted as the final decision.



Board member: City Council votes on the ordinance update, the mayor doesn't. Secondly, last time there was a budget cut, Council put that money back. We currently don't have much relationship with Council and need to organize to advocate for EDI.

Board member: we need to garner more respect and adding language that Council and MO needs to discuss before any changes and also relationship with other departments like SDOT and EOD and funding that supports EDI.

Facilitator: In regards to any language in the ordinance that may be overridden by the City, what is the organizing/advocacy strategy?

Board member: the review committee goes through a very intense process and along with this board and that review committee is accountable to the community and any changes that might be made by MO needs to be in collaboration and discussion with the board.

Board member: we want engagement.

Board member: in the past, we've put together a slate of recommendations and it's been approved. In 2022, we made a decision to do an interim process and have an opportunity to advance projects that are slipping through because of funding or otherwise. MO pushed back. When MO has seen not be transparent about this with EDI stakeholders.

Facilitator: I want to emphasize the previous comment on the language in the ordinance around any changes by MO needs to be in collaboration and with transparency. This seems like a good compromise.

Board member: It makes sense to have that be the spirit of how we approach, in terms of collaborations, but this the language in ordinance can have unintended consequences. And our goal should be to stand up for our communities and not back down. It may take our ability to note that we disagree and take our power away.

Board member: we need to pin the language in the ordinance.

EDI 2.0 Strategy & Subcommittees Report Back

Executive Committee

- Had a discussion regarding onboarding and off boarding board member and the Status of Mr. Brown. Deeper discussion of the impact of Mr. Brown rolling off. We will have one more discussion to flesh that issue out and final decision at next meeting.
- **Storytelling**
 - Worked on internal housekeeping—looked at Q1 and Q2 workload and shared responsibility for those work products. We finalized that we need the monitoring



report that will be compiled by staff. Agreed on the questions in that reporting form. Agreed on a timeline—quarterly capture. PM will be brought up to speed on this request and the form will be standardized. The other discussions were the information that is vital for storytelling. Doing open houses and how OPCD budget can support that.

- **Policy**

- Had a fruitful conversation comparing different public benefit statements and the value of public benefit structures. Good reflections on the substantive changes we want to make to our policy—had to do with transparency and accessibility. Some projects have never been in a contracting process like this and this can be an opportunity to learn. And for EDI to be accountable and for grantee and EDI staff to come together to build that understanding/knowledge and have common ground. How to make the money value more equitable. There have also been regular ongoing challenges like untangling partnership requirements and

- **Youth & Community Engagement**

- Last meeting, we met with Seattle Youth Employment program at HSD and how to engage youth across the City. How to make this program appealing to them. Discussed who would be our partners and SYEP will review the committee's need and come back with ideas on who to engage at next meeting.

Announcements & Adjourn

Adjourn