

# Green New Deal Oversight Board

## Meeting Minutes

<b>MEETING SUMMARY</b>	<p><b>Date:</b> 3/18/2024</p> <p><b>Time:</b> 5:00pm – 7:00pm</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Zoom</p>
<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Steve Gelb, Nina Olivier, Keith Weir, Andrea Ornelas, Peter Hasegawa, Rachel Heaton, Eunice How, and Emily Meyer
<b>MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>	Ken Workman, Debolina Banerjee, Keith Weir, and Matt Remle
<b>CITY STAFF &amp; GUESTS:</b>	Elise Rasmussen (OSE), Sara Cubillos (OSE), Bin Jung (OSE), Shannon Guthrie (SCL), Grecia Elenes (SCL) Pending GND OB Appointees – Camille Gipaya

<b>DECISIONS MADE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>APPROVAL of the February meeting minutes.</li> </ul>
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FOLLOW-UP ACTION ITEMS			
#	ITEM	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)	TARGET DATE
1	Follow up with SCL and the Board to further discuss SCL's grant proposal.	Elise	March

### MEETING NOTES

Peter Hasegawa and Nina Olivier (GND OB Executive Committee members) and Elise Rasmussen (Climate and Environmental Justice Associate) facilitated the meeting.

Notes taken by Sara Cubillos (Climate Justice Advisor).

### WELCOMES AND INTRODUCTIONS

**Nina Olivier** started the meeting, reviewed the meeting agenda, facilitated introductions, and provided a land and legacy acknowledgement.

### APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

**Steve Gelb** moved to approve the February 2024 minutes. **Jess Wallach** seconded the motion. **The Board unanimously approved** the minutes.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

**Robin Briggs** commented that the Board should consider the issues with the Transportation Levy and the Climate Element of the Comprehensive plan (letter on file).

## STAFF UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elise Rasmussen provided staff updates.

- **Board Appointments** – All signatures are in for all of the appointment packets and are with the City Clerk's office.
  - Appointees will attend the April 5<sup>th</sup> Sustainability, City Light, and Arts Council Committee and will then be voted on to move to the full Council for appointments and reappointment confirmations.
- **Community Assemblies** – All day training on Community Assemblies will be held on March 29<sup>th</sup> at the Seattle Municipal Tower. Board members are invited and asked to confirm their participation.
- **Council Meet and Greets** – Elise is working to schedule the meet and greets with Council members. Staff is also preparing talking points and supporting materials for these meetings.
- **Comprehensive Plan** – The Draft comprehensive plan was released and is open for public comment. OSE staff are working with the planning staff to share opportunities for the Board to comment and participate in the comment period. Elise shared a [list of public meetings](#) and other opportunities for public comments on the comprehensive plan.

### Discussion

- **Andrea** asked if participants are expected to be available for the full Community Assemblies training. Elise will check in with People's Economy Lab and get back to the Board with more information.
- **Steve** commented in agreement with Robin Briggs' comment about the importance of tracking emissions as a part of the comprehensive plan.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Comprehensive Plan** – It is important for the Board to review the comprehensive plan, especially the climate element. The Policies, Projects, and Programs (PPP) Committee will be reviewing the comprehensive plan to highlight gaps and share their findings with the Board as they relate to the work that the GNOB does.
2. **Energy Code** – This is still at the Council level but is not likely to move forward because the WA State code is now in effect.
3. **Policies, Projects, and Programs (PPP) Committee** – The PPP Committee will be reviewing initial budget recommendations and hear a presentation from Director Farrell about the budget process this year.

### Discussion

- **Steve** asked to be kept in the loop on the energy code and is happy to work to advocate for this if there are opportunities. **Nina** stated that the Board has not established full support for the energy code and that it might be beneficial to get a status update before discussing sending a letter of support to the Council.

## PRESENTATION & POSSIBLE ACTION: SEATTLE CITY LIGHT LETTER OF SUPPORT

Seattle City Light's Furthering Utility Technology for Urban Resilience and Electrification (SCL FUTURE).

Presentation by **Shannon Guthrie** and **Grecia Elenes**, Seattle City Light (SCL)

## Summary:

- SCL is working on a grant application (SCL Future) for the US Department of Energy Program – Grid Resilience and Innovative Partnerships which helps modernize the Country’s grid infrastructure.
- SCL’s project proposes to create a virtual power plant at Seattle City Light as part of the solution the resource adequacy challenge. This is new technology, so SCL needs to upgrade their infrastructure to make software upgrades and connect customer distributed energy resources into the system.
- Future Community Benefits SCL is proposing:
  - Community Engagement
  - Workforce Development (ANEW program, new positions, working with apprentices and pre apprentices)
  - Working with South Seattle Community College
  - DER Deployment (deploying DERs at Resilience Hubs, Duwamish Valley)
  - Targeted Substation Upgrades
- The project proposal aligns with the GNDOB’s pillars of pollution reduction, equitable and inclusive low-carbon economy, and climate resilience.
- SCL requested a letter of support for the grant application from the GNDOB and to find other ways of engaging with the project.

## Discussion

- **Peter:** What is the timeline for the letter? Have any labor organizations formally supported? Is it a competitive grant? **SCL:** The Letter of Support is due mid-May and they are looking for a project that goes into 2030. Labor organizations signed on last year and are working on getting more support this year. The grant is competitive. SCL applied last year but did not receive the grant. The grant is also nationwide. SCL is requesting \$40-45 million.
- **Peter:** How many jobs will this project create, and will they be part of priority local hire? **SCL:** 50-55 roles, 25 will be filled by existing positions and the rest will be new. Hiring would be dependent on the job type.
- **Steve:** How would the Distributed Energy Resources (DER) deployment work, will it be based geographically? **SCL:** This deployment still needs to be worked out. **Steve** encouraged commitments to diversity and inclusion in priority hiring, but we can explore how to go further.
- **Jess:** Are DER’s city owned or are they just feeding power back into the system? **SCL:** SCL has connected with groups in California about how these distributed energy resources can be helpful to renters. We should also think about the flexible load – heat pumps, batteries. There are more than just solar panels that can count as energy resources. There can be other creative ways to get benefits to renters as the project develops.
- **Peter:** Incentivizing investments continues to be only available to those already holding wealth and further exacerbates income inequality. Will SCL offer incentives in diverse ways that aligns with the Green New Deal goals? **SCL:** Will be rolling out incentive programs to bring DERs to the SCL territory. A lot of incentive programs will have income qualifications similar to Solar for All program specifically targeting low-income individuals. While SCL hasn’t figured out this issue, it is a critical consideration for the programs.

- **Steve:** How will we make sure that businesses and workers are diverse in this process, especially considering Women and Minority owned businesses? **SCL:** SCL is taking these things into consideration and there is a WMBE advisor at SCL that is working to ensure those contractors are included.
- **Peter:** There is a lot of interest and support for the concept, but the details really matter for Board members. There is a desire to get into the weeds of the proposal for the grant before providing a letter of support. Some questions we still have are in regard to equity, business and contractor considerations, program design, and the community benefits plan.

The Board requested more information before they come to a vote on whether to provide a letter of support. **Elise** will connect with Shannon and Peter on best next steps.

## **PRESENTATION: CLIMATE RESILIENCE HUBS**

Presentation by **Bin Jung (OSE)**.

### **Summary:**

- The Office of Emergency Management is developing a needs assessment to inform engagement and recommendations. Some of the gaps identified in the needs assessment so far include:
  - Few buildings with services open during non-catastrophic event disruptions.
  - Lack of resourced response for disruptions.
  - Insufficient coverage for catastrophe and non-catastrophe, especially for frontline communities.
- OSE is developing an economic case for resilience hubs to show the value of everyday preparedness and resiliency.
- In the next year, the focus will be on community engagement, City Department coordination, and development of the final plan. There are two phases of engagement to level set and connect and create and prioritize strategies.

### **Discussion:**

- **Peter:** How are you planning to ask about specific climate change issues? **Bin:** We wanted to share what we have heard over the years and see if those are correct. **Peter** suggested talking about extreme weather events and how these changes in climate look like in this region.
- **Steve:** What is a resilience hub and how much do they cost? How can you get a resilience hub ready? What is needed from the Board? **Bin:** Resilience hubs are trusted community serving facilities that can help communities everyday but can be used during an emergency. The capital investments are just as important as the programmatic investments. There are different tiers/levels of resilience hubs based on location and other considerations. Right now, there is a lot of state and federal funding to do upgrades to work on these facilities.
- **Jess:** What is the status of the 2021 study that the GNDOB worked on for resilience hubs? **Bin:** The plan is to decarbonize all municipal buildings in the City.
- **Peter:** How do we speed up this process to deploy resilience hubs? **Bin:** We find the planning process to be valid and important in developing recommendations. We are doing pilot investments and moving the work forward that way. We are also working to enhance and lead in depth engagement activities.

### **OPEN IDEA TIME FOR BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Steve** started a conversation on how the Board might categorize some of their budget recommendations:

1. Use Jump Start funding for pilot programs, research, and capacity building.
2. Allocate a portion of OSE's general fund dollars toward carbon reduction and climate justice work.
3. Department funding from the general fund could be used to support equitable transportation, affordable housing, and climate justice work in all City Departments that impact carbon emissions.

**Steve** argued that all three of these areas are important to advancing the priorities of the Green New Deal and how to fit the Board's budget recommendations within these categories. There was a short discussion, and Board members offered to work with Steve to refine this framework for possible budget recommendations.

The PPP Committee will draft a budget proposal by June.

### **NEXT STEPS & ADJOURN**

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.