

Green New Deal Oversight Board Minutes

MEETING SUMMARY	Date: 03/17/25 Time: 5:00 - 7:00 PM Location: Zoom
MEMBERS PRESENT:	Debolina Banerjee, Camille Gipaya, Nancy Huizar, Hannah Lindell-Smith, Keith Weir, Steve Gelb, Andrea Ornelas, Nina Olivier, Matt Remle, Rachel Heaton, Jess Wallach, and Peter Hasegawa
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Ken Workman, Eunice How, Emily Pickney, Lizzy Baskerville, Emily Myers, Stephanie Ung
GUESTS:	Elise Rasmussen (OSE), Sara Cubillos (OSE), Rebecca Zaragoza (OSE), AR Lopez (WPZ)

DECISIONS MADE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VOTE: Approval of the February Meeting Minutes. • VOTE: Approval of the Board Workplan. • VOTE: Approval to submit a letter to City Council in response to MLK Labor’s Written Request to support Low-Carbon Concrete.
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MEETING NOTES

Peter Hasegawa and Nina Olivier (GNDOB Executive Committee members) and **Elise Rasmussen** (Interim Climate Justice Advisor) facilitated the meeting.

Meeting notes were taken by **Rebecca Zaragoza** (OSE).

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Nina Olivier started the meeting, reviewed the meeting agenda, and facilitated introductions.

Points from the Board’s check-in question on opportunities for the future:

- A strong impact from the Oversight Board is the effort to pass the Building Emissions Performance Standard. Continue pushing for higher standards such as these.
- Defend the Board’s funding streams to continue this type of Board.
- Advocate for improved electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
- Lead high-level efforts to make broader impact and develop strong relationships with City officials to help increase influence.
- Improve on going beyond budget and policy recommendations.
- Continue Community Assembly discussions, which have been very productive and useful in education and engagement.
- Provide more opportunities for youth involvement.
- Preserve the broad representation and diversity of the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

VOTE: APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

Steve Gelb moved to approve the minutes. **Peter Hasegawa** seconded the motion. The Board voted to approve the February Meeting Minutes. **Unanimous approval.**

STAFF UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elise Rasmussen provided the following staff updates:

Upcoming Events:

- Rescheduling Board field trip to June.
- March 25th – Lunch & Learn focused on Shape Our Water Plan from Seattle Public Utilities about the intersection of water and climate justice.
- Lunch & Learns – Multiple meetings scheduled for March/April to inform budget recommendations (optional attendance, recordings will be available).
- 4 Board members will be meeting with Councilmember Rink in March.

The GND Oversight Board application is now open.

- 9 Open Seats
- 3 Seats for Re-Appointment
- Board Members are encouraged to share this opportunity with their networks.
- The application asks for a short application form, a motivation letter, and resumé.
 - Applicants do not need to be Seattle residents, but they must have direct connection/relationships to Seattle communities.
- The Seattle Green New Deal's funding is protected at the local level.
- Application closes on April 6th. Interviews will take place in late April.
- Tribal representative seat will be filled through direct consultation with Tribes. This timeline for this seat will likely be different than the rest.

Staffing Update:

- Jazzmin Fragiaco will step in as the Interim Climate Justice Associate and will start on March 26th.

Indigenous-Led Climate Initiative Fund:

- Partnership between the City and Seattle Foundation to fund projects at the intersection of Native American and Tribal climate leadership and traditional cultural knowledge.
- The GND OB and the Indigenous Advisory Council (IAC) will support the process.
- This is a great opportunity to deepen relationships and collaboration with the IAC, Tribes, and Indigenous-led organizations.

- The IAC are eager to collaborate with the GNDOB after a presentation from the Board.
- It is important to recognize how Indigenous knowledge about the environment and cultural practices is critical for the climate justice movement.
- There will be more opportunities for future collaboration and knowledge-sharing between Boards.
- Staff is seeking feedback on the draft purpose/goal and vision for the Fund.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nina Olivier provided the following Executive Committee updates:

- **Reminder:** The Executive Committee is gathering feedback for the City's Climate Action Plan update process. The Mayor will be signing an Executive Order on this soon. In the State of the City addressed, Mayor Harrell highlighted 3 goals: climate resiliency, greenhouse gas reductions, and unionized green jobs. This is an opportunity for the Board to be involved and inform this planning effort. Board Members can connect with **Nina Olivier** to share ideas directly.
- The King County Climate Equity Community Task Force is hosting [workshops](#) on climate change and frontline community-led climate action. These workshops are part of the Climate Justice Learning Series. RSVP to participate online on March 20th.

DISCUSSION: DRAFT GREEN NEW DEAL OVERSIGHT BOARD WORKPLAN

Elise Rasmussen provided updates on the workplan development process and **Peter Hasegawa** facilitated the discussion.

Workplan Updates:

- Currently focusing on content.
- Workplan projects are informed by priorities named by the Board at the 2024 retreat and Board duties outlined in the legislation that convenes the Board.
- The workplan is using a 3-year timeline to support incoming and outgoing Board Members and to improve coordination with the City.
- The final workplan will be publicly available.

Board Discussion:

- **Steve Gelb** noted the potential need for the Board to directly advocate for budget recommendations more formally. **Peter Hasegawa** agreed and highlighted the importance in building relationships with Councilmembers and staff.
- **Steve Gelb** expressed the need to allocate more time for Board discussion beyond process issues. **Hannah Lindell-Smith** suggested having a hands-on workshop to better understand partnerships and existing knowledge.

VOTE: APPROVAL OF THE BOARD WORKPLAN

Peter Hasegawa moved to ratify the Board workplan. **Nina Olivier** seconded the motion. The Board voted to ratify the Board workplan. **Workplan adopted.**

UPDATE: POLICIES, PROJECTS, AND PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

- **Camille Gipaya** and **Nancy Huizar** are co-leading the PPP Committee with the support of **Jess Wallach**. The committee will work on building resources for the Board to support transitional periods and continuity of the work.
- Budget Recommendation Process:
 - The Board will vote on budget recommendations at the May 19th Board meeting.
 - This is the second year of a budget biennium.
 - PPP committee will gather feedback from the Board throughout the process.
- Request from MLK Labor:
 - The Labor Council Delegates passed a resolution asking the City of Seattle to do pilot projects with low-carbon concrete in City projects, particularly with sidewalks. Cement material and processing is a big source of carbon pollution globally.
 - MLK Labor is requesting the GNDOB to submit a letter to City Council supporting their proposal for the City to do more pilot projects using less carbon-intensive materials. Union labor stipulations would remain the same.

Board Discussion:

- **Steve Gelb** noted a hesitation about the Board's engagement with proposals or requests of this scale.
- **Jess Wallach** stated that this type of request merits a response because of its potential learning opportunities and benefits of a pilot project that addresses pollution concerns and labor. If requests are connected to GND values at a high-level, the Board's role can be to support and request that the appropriate City departments take further action.

VOTE: APPROVAL TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO CITY COUNCIL IN RESPONSE TO MLK LABOR'S WRITTEN REQUEST

Peter Hasegawa moved to send a letter to City Council. **Nina Olivier** seconded the motion. **The Board voted to submit a letter in response to MLK Labor's request.**

NEXT STEPS & ADJOURN

Peter Hasegawa moved to adjourn the meeting and **Nina Olivier** seconded. The Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:44pm. **Unanimous approval.**