

Metro | Meeting minutes

Meeting: Equity Strategy Advisory Committee
Date: Wednesday, December 16, 2015
Time: 3 to 5 p.m.
Place: Metro Regional Center, Council Chambers, 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland

Attendees

Equity Strategy Advisory Committee:

Carl Talton, Betty Dominguez, Kirsten Kilchenstein, Julia Meier, Rey España, Andrew Singelakis, Amanda Whalen, Camilo Sánchez, Alejandro Vidales, and Israel Johnson

Metro:

Absent: Janet LaBar, Philip Wu, Pam Treece, Ben Duncan,
Patty Unfred, Juan Carlos Ocaña-Chíu, Scotty Ellis, Cassie Salinas, Nyla Moore, Martha Bennett, Catherine Moore

Call to order and agenda review

Carl Talton welcomes new members. All members and Metro staff introduce themselves, including the work they do and why they were interested in joining the committee.

New members include:

- **Israel Johnson**

Queer resource center coordinator,
Portland Community College, Cascade
Campus

- **Janet LaBar**

President and CEO, Greater Portland, Inc.

- **Camilo Sánchez**

Skills development department chair,
Clackamas Community College

- **Andrew Singelakis**

Director of land use and transportation,
Washington County

- **Alejandro Vidales**

Owner, NW-Sol

- **Amanda Whalen**

Chief of staff, Portland Public Schools

- **Desirée Williams-Rajee**

Equity specialist, City of Portland, Bureau
of Planning and Sustainability

Kirsten moved to approve the minutes and Betty seconded the motion. The group agrees and Carl approves the minutes for both October and November committee meetings.

Catherine Moore is introduced to the group. She will be developing the evaluation framework for the equity strategy. She gives a summary of her professional background and work at Metro.

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Welcome to new ESAC members

Scotty introduces the 10 minute introductory exercise. The exercise required five groups of three people or more to compile a list of their similarities. The groups shared them with the entire group.

Public engagement upcoming activities update

Cassie Salinas debriefs the group on the engagement process. Metro contracted with Multicultural Collaborative to work with seven culturally specific community based organizations. The groups consisted of up to 15 people who were compensated for sharing their experiences with equity. We met with the same groups both in the Spring and in the Fall. Metro also met with experts in the housing, parks and transportation areas. In total, Metro engaged over 150 people on the topic.

In the next phase of engagement in Winter 2016, Metro staff are looking to broaden the scope and include other communities that have not yet been engaged. Cassie shares the planned outreach to be successful in this objective. Metro wants to engage all of the metro area; 25 cities and three counties. Cassie asked the group for their input on helping Metro inform this engagement plan. Metro is creating content for different platforms including online, with the goal of having content complete in time for a public comment period beginning Feb. 1.

Some of the activities planned include:

- Reconnect with stakeholders using a presentation kit, talking points, messaging, executive summary, PowerPoint.
- Video-3-5 minute video of council and ESAC members saying why this work is important to them
- Presentations to the Metro advisory committees: MPAC and JPACT
- Online survey-3-4 general questions – this will be added to the RFFA and MTIP survey already scheduled in January/February.
- Additionally survey questions on equity strategy for those who are interested in looking deeper
- Translation of survey and responses will be provided
- Leverage the Opt-In panel by sending email link to 22,000 members (more general audience)
- Email List Serv- currently have about 2000 on Metro list. Would like committee members to forward the email to their contacts.
- Community summits – Work with previous 7 CBOs to convene two community summits, one each in Clackamas and Washington Counties. Have a facilitated conversation with all the groups together, then separate into culturally specific communities for feedback/discussion.
- Presentations to business, local government and community committees and organizations

A committee member asked if council will go out to the neighborhood coalitions. Juan Carlos answers that that varies. We need to prioritize which groups will be best to visit and asked ESAC members for suggestions. Neighborhood associations are disproportionately white and

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homeowners and not those that may be impacted most by this work. We do need to let the general public know where we are with the plan, as well as specifically engaging communities of color.

Metro is looking to hold two community events of up to 150 people in Clackamas and Washington counties to share the equity strategy information with a wider group of community members and not just those involved in this work. This is an opportunity to convene people from early February through March 11.

Suggested senior groups to contact include Elders in Action and AARP. LGBTQ and trans groups need to be included in this work. Some groups to contact are PFLAG Black Chapter and Basic Rights Oregon. Some ways to engage would be through stakeholder conversations and one on one conversations. Disability groups to reach out to include: Incight, City of Portland advisory group access and environment, Alan DeLaTorre at Portland State University

We are considering providing compensation – including contract dollars, transportation and food.

What questions are we asking when engaging these groups? Those still need to be developed. We want to create questions that make sense for community members not immersed in this work on a daily basis and then provide an opportunity for a “deeper dive” for those more connected to equity work. The questions and approach will be different for each group.

Rey shares his concern that six weeks is not long enough to do adequate engagement. Metro needs to decide what the desired impact is in these meetings. Metro must identify who they are. Communities are over asked to assist government agencies trying to do this work. Suggested places to engage the community including sporting team’s parents and churches.

Carl explained the “staffless time” to the new members of the group. The time is designated for the committee to have discussions without Metro staff guiding the conversation. The group has agreed not to have staffless time at this meeting.

Review of new structure for the equity strategy document

Juan Carlos presents the strategic plan draft to the committee. The goal is to have the first working draft by the end of December. Then the document will be presented to internal leadership. On January 11th the document will be sent to the committee for their review and feedback. On February 1st we will release the first formal draft after getting feedback. Feedback received during the public comment period will inform the second draft to be completed in April.

This document is in draft format and has placeholders for information that will be included later. The equity staff team has worked with other Metro initiatives to inform this work, including MTIP and parks systems plan. Metro is also including those and other plans into the strategic plan. The equity work that Metro is doing is impacting work around the region.

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Metro is trying to use different tools to present the strategic plan by way of different models. Juan Carlos presents the “circle” outline to the strategic plan. The objectives and actions continuously change over time. The design is not complete but instead a draft.

Desiree asked who the primary audience is. It seems like a tool for facilitating change. There is also a secondary audience. Most of the information documented is about Metro internally and not the lived experience that happens when change occurs. Why are you doing this? What does it look like? How are you going to make this happen? Israel furthers the notions to say the goal is to include the heart but it seems like it is coming from the head. Internal change should be secondary. People will not read or understand this document as it is.

The intent was to write something for everyone. A lot of the work that needs to be done is within Metro. We need to create a unified way to do equity work at Metro. We must not forget the impact of this work in the region. Martha explains that Metro council is interested in working internally first to address some barriers that have been identified.

Alejandro shares ways to connect with different groups through churches. He also shares how his group has changed the way they are collecting demographic information.

Julia asked to transition to what has been included in the drafted document. “Getting the house in order” is sometimes used as an excuse not to do work outside their agencies. You have to do the work simultaneously. Martha agreed that Metro needs to address both internal and external goals and actions. The goals, objectives, and action items include the engagement feedback to date. Metro staff want to know if there are any red flags that occur when reading over the draft. Betty suggests the group wait to discuss the document after the first full draft is complete and come together in person to discuss it. Not all of the feedback from the discussion groups is included in the drafted document.

Metro needs to set up a meeting to assess the documented goals as a group during the week of January 5th.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

The next ESAC meeting will take place on Monday, January 25, 2016 from 3 – 5 p.m. Location TBA.

Meeting minutes prepared by Nyla Moore