

Minutes of the

MEETING OF THE EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

Committee Members Present: Edward Reynoso, Mohamed Sheikh, Tie Oei, Tommy Sar, David Ketroser, Harry Melander, Sonya Lewis, Samantha Pree-Stinson, Miah Ulysse, Leah Goldstein Moses

Committee Members Excused: Nelima Sitati Munene, Shirley Cain, Jennifer Munt, Aarica Coleman, Ruthie Johnson, Beth Becker, Leslie Redmond

Committee Members Absent: Leon Rodrigues, Metric Giles

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Co-Chair Reynoso called the regular meeting of the Council's Equity Advisory Committee to order at 6:15 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

A quorum not being present at the beginning of the meeting, Co-Chair Reynoso proceeded to the public invitation and subsequent information items.

A quorum being present at 6:50 p.m., Co-Chair Reynoso returned to the approval of agenda and minutes.

The agenda was moved by Oei and seconded by Pree-Stinson.

The meeting minutes from September 25, 2018 were moved by Pree-Stinson and seconded by Oei.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL 2019 BUDGET

Mary Bogie, Chief Financial Officer, presented on the Metropolitan Council's budget. The Met Council's proposed 2019 budget is out for public comment beginning October 24, 2018. Mary provided an overview of the Council's budget development process and discussed the proposed 2019 budget.

After the presentation, committee members had the following comments and questions:

- How much do public comments impact the proposed budget?

Typically, we don't get many public comments. Usually comments we do receive are related to county budgets, so the question is forwarded to the appropriate county.

- What is the projected budget deficit for Metro Transit in 2020 - 2021 biennium?

We do have a structural budget deficit in our transportation budget: \$51 million in 2020, \$67 million in 2021, and it grows larger in 2022 and 2023. We have been preparing for the deficit by saving; the deficit is covered as we move through 2020 and 2021.

- In the future, when the committee has further discussion regarding the budget and an opportunity to weigh in, it would be helpful to see the last two or three years of the budget. This way, the committee can identify where funding is increasing or decreasing and better understand the trends.
- In addition, it would also be helpful to get forecasting information. For example, as there are various new and expansion projects, that must affect the future funding towards maintaining the infrastructure.

Absolutely, we can certainly provide that level of detail. What was presented today was a broad overview; we can also look at the transportation plan and get down to a deeper level in future presentations. The public comment draft will be published soon and I encourage you to look through it; your questions may be answered there as well.

- For this committee to have input in the Council's budget development process, when would we need to get involved?

I would encourage you to think about the principles that the committee would like the Council to consider. I think it's important for you to be involved in the earlier stages. I would encourage sitting through the presentations at the standing committees, as you will go through a steep learning curve about how the Council builds its budget, where we have discretion and where we have constraints.

Reynoso stated that as the committee is preparing for its 2019 work plan, they should plan to get involved in the Council's 2020 budget development early on.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL WORKING WITH UNSHELTERED COMMUNITIES

Chief John Harrington, Metro Transit Police, and Jennifer Keogh, Manager of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), presented on the Council's recent efforts in addressing unsheltered communities, specifically on transit.

After the presentation, committee members had the following comments and questions:

- There should be a common entry point and coordination for social services between local and community partners; this way you would know which shelters have availability. I think it is more a lack of coordination than lack of systems. I recommend you look into the existing systems; you shouldn't develop a new system.
- What happens to people who are homeless who aren't able to pay for the fare?

Typically, Metro Transit Police Officers will ask them to step off the train. Most people will have a fare, an all-day pass, or go to card that has been provided to them from an agency. If they don't have a fare, typically there is a reason, for example, behavior issues or substance abuse.

- What would Metro Transit do if the 24-hour fare policy and procedure were changed?

San Francisco's Bay Area Rapid Transit system (BART) is a good example. The BART has witnessed behavior change with policy change. For example, their 24-hour passes no longer apply during rush hours. BART worked in collaboration with shelters to open earlier so there wouldn't be a gap in service. Shelters have communicated that they would open earlier if there were people who would use their services.

Reynoso said it's up to the committee how they would like to be involved in this initiative. The committee could set up a subcommittee to dig deeper into the topic; however, it would require committee members to volunteer additional time apart from the regular committee meetings. The committee discussed several ideas for future involvement, which included: committee member(s) joining an already existing Council staff work group; committee members(s) creating a subcommittee as well as having a representative of the committee on an established Council staff work group.

EAC RETREAT FOLLOW UP/NEXT STEPS

Co-Chair Reynoso led a reflection and discussion regarding the EAC's October 13th retreat.

Committee members shared the following reflections, comments, and feedback:

- The retreat was a springboard. It was a sacred space to get to know each other. I liked that the facilitator gave us some food for thought. It set us up for our work plan for 2019.
- In addition to getting to know each other, it was a good opportunity to get grounded in the work. We may not agree on everything, but we were working together to get on the same accord—or understood where everyone was coming from—around access, equity, diversity and inclusion. I think we should host retreats periodically to ensure we are still grounded. Our facilitator was perfect from our group. I really feel that this committee, this formation of it, is groundbreaking – the majority of us are marginalized women.
- It was really great to have grounding in the wisdom of my fellow members. As a new member, it was a huge privilege to start with the retreat. I know what wisdom is in the room and I know now when to step back and when to step up.
- How do we envision these group agreements? Did we agree to adopt these engagement values? Or do we want our own?

Reynoso suggested the committee discuss this at the November regular meeting.

- The new Met Council members might have some requests for the committee's priorities. In our work planning, we can stick to themes and principles and then build it out when we know more about the Council.
- We should make sure the committee's work plan timeline correlates with major Council work such as the budget development, and policies and procedures, in addition to our topics of interest.
- The committee should look into Met Council hiring practices.
- For committee members who will not be in attendance at the next meeting, how can they still participate in the 2019 work planning process?

Reynoso said that the minutes will be sent to the committee for members to add input after the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Co-Chair Reynoso had several updates for the committee:

1. Please review 2019 calendar of proposed committee dates, and let Yolanda know if you see any conflicts.
2. In 2017, the EAC weighed in on the Council's decision to raise transit fares. Since then, the Council has worked with a consultant to learn more about how peer agencies handle transit fare policy. The Metropolitan Council received an overview of this consultant report at their October 3rd meeting, so we wanted to distribute it to you as well. We are looking at inviting Metro Transit staff back to talk about next steps regarding fare policy.
3. Fill out a form to receive reimbursements. Yolanda will distribute the form through email.
4. Please fill out the post-meeting survey. It only takes a few minutes complete, and your feedback is really useful. Yolanda will send the survey link.
5. The Shared Mobility Collaborative is looking for people who want to participate on their equity task force. Co-chair Nelima Sitati Munene is on the Shared Mobility Collaborative Steering Committee and can share more information. If you want to know more or you might be interested in serving on the equity task force, please let Nelima or Yolanda know.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Yolanda Burckhardt
Recording Secretary