One Climate Future Steering Committee meeting
Tuesday, May 4, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Zoom recording link
https://zoom.us/rec/share/bMQvBiUla8dEl45md3wLvK2_qgF-EMoPfJgfZB_C13iKIRt-FuVWQOWDODStmUVo.rbw2YelviaXLZFcZ
Passcode: GAF$J5Ec

In attendance
Baba Ly, Resident
April Caricchio, City Councilor
Lucy Perkins, Sustainability Program Coordinator
Julie Rosenbach, Sustainability Director
Tim Honey, Resident
Scott Morelli, City Manager

Absent
Winston Lumpkins IV, Resident
Chris Kessler, Resident
Dawn Eve York, Resident

Minutes
Continued brainstorming & consolidation of ideas: categorized based on last agenda; highlighting what is important.

April:
Reviewed existing notes on purpose of the committee: engaging more residents, educating residents in general, advocacy, community engagement, raising funds, community organizing, continuity in case of change of leadership

Julie:
A lot are redundant, I would cross out raising funds and implementing specific action items unless specifically around community engagement, building ownership and capacity

Tim:
Reading of the raising of funds in there is that this would be raising of funds to expand the community engagement and to invest in tools and techniques stressing in the area of
technology that would help in terms of engagement. There is an issue of funding OCF projects and where that will come from. But that does not have to do with raising of funds as noted in this document; this is more focused on citizen engagement. When asked to clarify distinction between raising funds and allocating funds through budget process

April:
Exploration of ways to raise funds may be a charge for the committee. May be able to say or explore ways to talk to GPCOG or other organizations that can band together to raise funds and meet these goals.

Julie:
That overlaps with City staff, could be tough line. The role of this committee would be to say here is how we do all of these other things - build into budget plan, through grants or city funding - but not for committee to actually raise the money

April:
Want a very full and ongoing discussion, so have to decide what are the points that demand this discussion?

Baba:
Raising funds should be clear whether or not, what it looks like. This is a critical point where a committee whether it will dip into funds from city or can raise its own funds

April:
No opinion, but important to make sure we are funding everything around this plan. If decide we want committee to be a part of PSA work or want to be able to hold events, that could get pricey. Not sure if the sustainability department is set up to fund those things or if that funding would be more focused towards staff actions

Tim:
Feeling frustrated because asked to get to staff ideas that were worth exploring. But haven’t heard anything to suggest that has taken place. Any follow through on Eugene and Canadian municipalities and information on the GoogleDoc in response to the request to look for best practices. In the absence of that, we are just putting out opinions without a knowledge base of what is effective community engagement.

Julie:
Best practices are different for each city. In terms of follow up did read all of the information and in course of facilitating meetings, talked with April to figure out what we need to have done, gaps, goals, and purpose before determining the structure of the committee. Haven’t heard a lot of people in the brainstorming. So what is it we think that we need? Need to look for best practices to figure out what we implement and how we structure engagement.

Tim:
Wealth of information that can be gained from other cities that have been at this for over another decade. Creating nonprofits to lead non profit, or citizen engagement strategy that is as important as policy work. That kind of information is really helpful

Julie:
Looked at a lot of other city models in developing engagement plan. Providence has really created a good model for centering equity. Comes down to what we need as a City.

April:
Will talk more about plan, fundraising, and lets continue on with brainstorming to talk about what do we need to do what are we trying to accomplish. Conversation about best practices, if showcased next week, should expand that agenda a little bit to have fuller discussion around best practices. April will remove duplicates after the meeting.

Gaps we are addressing
April:
Ways that we will engage the community for the long-term in a meaningful way and recognize the challenges we will have, integrating the plan for daily involvement with the community, community organizing and community ownership, means for a back and forth with the city and council. Fundraising, social media planning and campaigning, dashboard capability, apps, and somebody wrote volunteers and money. Lack of specific expertise on policy, citizen engagement with Portland.

Julie:
Would remove: lack of specific expertise on policy, not something that this group needs to address, we have go-to partners and resources on policy, there is no gap in this. Not a lack of labor or resources yet- nothing that we have asked for that we haven’t been granted. This FY enough to suit what we are asking to do. Don’t see this as a current gap in the work that we are doing on OCF. We have robust engagement plan that we will be rolling out with a lot of engagement and room for growth as well.

April:
Lack of specific expertise on policy, I didn’t feel that. We can talk more about advocacy for state and federal- but don’t feel like that needs to be there.

Baba:
Want to learn more about what kind of labor we are talking about?

Julie:
These came maybe from Chris, recognizing we are 3 person department trying to implement a massive plan, that will be implemented through lots of city departments. More bandwidth to implement the plan is what this may be addressing. We have bandwidth to implement the strategies but not to reach out to the community. What is not on this list is the diversity of the community we are engaging
April:
Find ways to engage community for the long-term and deeply?
This is talking more about people that are committed to volunteering their time x hours per week rather than community engagement when we are throwing can in trash.
Find ways to engage community volunteers.

Baba:
Would love to see more of community volunteers because it is a huge responsibility and work that needs specific resources (human resources) to implement this plan. You need coordination at the top that oversee implementation or where you want this piece of an idea to be integrated into the work. Needs more than just a volunteer but paid staff.
Also a matter of paying for this. Whoever made this suggestion was combining ways to engage volunteers and lack of resources. Human resources always need money and funding to make it sustainable and to have commitment. Volunteers are not reliable and hard to sustain.

Tim:
Expressing reality that there needs to be capacity in terms of project implementation (staff and city) and capacity built on citizen engagement. Can’t build that capacity without staff, then there is an opportunities for volunteers to come participate and feel that their time is paying off.

April:
Talking about a community engagement staff person- dedicated to community engagement. Education and engagement coordinator? Is that what we are talking about.

Tim:
May be more than one staff. Talking with communities that have been involved with this and ask what kind of staff capacity it would take?

Julie:
What should this committee be doing or saying that the City staff needs another position?

April:
Believe that the question is should the steering committee- we get to decide- maybe the citizens committee needs to determine whether we need to get more staffing or weigh in on that or explores the possibility of adding staff and engaging in community support for additional staff. Have talked around this in a couple of ways and deserves more discussion. Maybe this committee needs to determine if we need more staff and how many more we need.

Julie:
This is red, feel like again, what we are engaging is what our offices can handle and there is more above and beyond that. Can say we have these great ideas and staff can’t handle everything so can propose new staff person, this should not be dictated by committee.
To set committee up for success, align with gaps: how to we reach out to bigger segment of population in a deep, long-term way. But additional staff determination will not be productive, could set up inefficiencies and contradictory roles in leadership of OCF.

April:
Committees make recommendations to council all of the time.

Tim:
On to fundamental set of issues. Know that other folks have wrestled with this and come up with other ways of dealing it. Have policy and implementation piece which is what julie and staff have been set up to do. And then have community engagement piece so that community has ownership. Should that function be a part of Julie’s operation or does she have her hands full with implementing 127 projects and we need a separate structure and organization with separate staff that are skilled in community engagement not policy. That is a fundamental issue. Julie’s office is going ahead and putting together community engagement plan. And then our job is to figure out how to fill the gaps.

April:
Talked about this and recognized some crunchy pieces, this conversation will continue.

What should committee accomplish or contribute?

April:
More than a policy document, committed to by a large group of residents, create a non-profit to raise funds through GPCOG, that is the gist of what is going on there.

Scott:
Would put a pin in creating non-profit ot raise funds through COG< don’t need a committee to work with GPCOG, what is it that we are raising money for. Do citizen engagement through departments when implementing ordinances, but don’t know yet what we need separate non-profit, director, and funding that could be in conflict with staff. This committee is meant to be in support of staff.

Baba:
Really think this is something that need to discuss more after we have the feedback from the resources Tim provided of communities that have been doing this for a while. Don’t need to reinvent the wheel or go our own way either. If communities failed, learned, or had more resources that guided them, will go faster and more efficiently. Not about taking off items or putting them in. But having a model that is already working will save time and resources. But still would like more discussion about what Scott is saying for no need of non-profit. There is certainly a fear of conflict between city workers and non-profit, this is new and challenging work, not how we used to do things. We need to have problems to discuss the better way of combining safety and productivity. Don’t think we should be avoiding or being scared of conflict
between environmental policies and city work. Would say lets discuss that and explore more about how we bring more voices into the city work.

April:
Next meeting will be presenting OCF engagement plan, then maybe a meeting after that for a best practices meeting?

Tim:
Often try to do too much in limited time.

Julie:
Going over best practices is interested, can bring in more examples. Need to keep in mind the community that we are and what we would need a committee for. We have council and community support for OCF, we are not fighting against that. Thinking about what fits in with community and where we are at.

April:
About to have multiunit residential building developed along biggest polluters in city. Have no policy to stop that. Why are we building a building that you wouldn’t want grandchildren in that building? Don’t have a clear wide path towards a healthy future.

Scott:
Might be helpful to review what is a best practice. Communities of 300,000 people may not work for a community of 25,000. We can look at them as examples. Best practices, someone has written white paper with an analysis of different things. It is a little bit of nuance- but just because another committee did it, we need to do it too.

April:
Add meeting for best practice after presentation meeting. If anyone is against that.

How should newly formed committee accomplish these goals:

April:
Doing research, brainstorming, consider group crafted similar to knightville committee, educational campaign, non-profit. Dashboard would be instrumental, social medial PSAs. Charge from council was that we don’t want a traditional committee but an out of the box committee.

Scott:
Knightville: Mini master plan for knightville area, created a committee, but operated it as whoever showed up was part of the group. When they took votes, everyone would take votes on it. Heard out of the box, loosey goosey structure, sited Knightville. Would include
Add community ambassador program- committee structure, will take votes and operate in a formal manner. You could have people who are key people in the community that are knowledgeable about OCF plan, charged with doing community or overseeing certain aspect and working with city, residents, organizations. Do we need formal committee structure where there is roll call and votes taken? What would you be voting on? Ambassador programs for different programs. This part of best practices.

April:
Ambassadors program will already be done through your office. Age Friendly South Portland, work with other organizations in an informal way. Talks on SPCTV, helps get people into their programs. Library hosts program with Agency on Aging to help with finances or snow. Flexibility and community involvement could be really important for these goals and really effective. Would like to have that type of flexibility with the how. Every third Thursday- straw poll? Engaging the boy scouts

Julie:
In engagement plan, could be shaped or informed by this process. Will touch upon what Tim is talking about. We talked about a cohort program- who is your network that you can reach out to? Building community and other communities of residents, neighborhoods we want to have train the trainer. Would not be a seven person committee, have structure to accommodate new ambassadors. Would be fluid. Fear knightville committee would be one or two usual suspects and not committing more time to something other than speaking to the choir. Need to reach out to more and more partners

Tim:
Think need to remember that all of the transformational changes will be rolled out through projects. That is how the plan is put together. Did analysis and worth taking a look, back of the envelop analysis. Looking at a project and asking question, is this a project that involves small section of the community. Project with several stakeholder groups? Project that effects the entire community? Ambassador program has possibility, but would need to respond to what is being rolled out and getting ahead of the curve. Land Use and Transit section- is density- this triggers negative reaction, communities that have been working at this longer than we have been, have knowledge about how to deal with density. That kind of outreach could be done through ambassadors, would have to be skillfully trained about community discussions. Ambassadors don’t have to take sides, but just getting people to understand what is being proposed.

April:
After presentation will have better understanding of gaps, and a lot of c

Who we will engage:

April:
Residents
People using transportation
People for whom English is not a first language
Marginalized communities
Inclusive

Julie:
Engagement plan is structured with goals and engagement is what we have pulled out of OCF. Start to do a list and it comes down to entire community. But how do we reach different segments of the community. Engagement plan- got together with staff from Portland to structure engagement, fluid how we will approach engagement, framework. How it can be expanded upon in different ways.

Next meeting
May 18th