



BDS Budget Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes

Wednesday, January 23, 2024

BAC Members Present:

Abbot Flatt, BDS Equity Committee
Avaly Scarpelli, Building Owners and Managers' Association (BOMA)
Elysabeth Salazar, BDS Equity Committee
Evelyn Liu, Community Member
Kari Koch, BDS / Represented Staff (CPPW)
Kim McCarty, Community Alliance of Tenants (CAT)
Mary Butenschoen, BDS / Represented Staff (PROTEC)
Romeo Sosa, Community Member
Samuel Miller, Development Review Advisory Committee (DRAC)
Sean Green, Aforma LLC
Wes Bird, BDS / Represented Staff (DCTU)

City Staff Present:

Alice Nielsen, Interim Development Services Manager
David Kuhnhausen, BDS Interim Director
Elshad Hajiyev, BDS Deputy Director
Kathy Lyndon, BDS Budget & Finance
Kyle O'Brien, BDS Budget & Finance Manager
Leesha Posey, BDS Equity & Policy Development Manager
Ray Galinat, BDS Budget & Finance
Sangeen Khan, City Budget Office

Reference Materials

- Draft 1-10-24 BAC Meeting Notes
- Draft BAC Report

1. **Welcome/Convene Meeting**

BDS Interim Director David Kuhnhausen welcomed Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) members and City staff and thanked BAC members for their participation. BAC members reviewed notes from the January 10, 2024, BAC meeting.

2. **BAC Budget Recommendations Work**

BDS Finance Manager Kyle O'Brien opened the floor for initial comments before delving into editing the draft of the Budget Advisory Committee Report.

BAC member Sean Green recommended the committee edit the draft document with the goal of focusing the report for City Council. Some of the recommendations in the draft report may be addressed more appropriately at a different venue and/or in future BAC meetings.

BAC member Samuel Miller asked if Leesha (BDS Equity & Policy Development Manager), Elshad Hajiyevev (BDS Deputy Director), and David Kuhnhausen have reviewed the draft BAC report, and if they had any thoughts. Elshad advised that this is the BAC's document, and their voice should come through; BDS staff are mainly at the meeting to answer any questions that come up. Samuel voiced concerns regarding the overuse of race-based equity language, stating that equity has always been an issue in Portland and overusing such language can diminish actual action around race-based equity.

The BAC prioritizes the work outlined in its Racial Equity Implementation Plan using existing resources *Equity*

Sean proposed removing fiscal responsibility language around layoffs to focus on the City's core values of Anti-Racism and Equity. Kim McCarty recommended keeping the language as it is one of the only places in the document that speak to the core cause of the layoffs. Samuel Miller emphasized that equity has been a long-term issue, stating that many in Samuel's community question the City's stated core values. The fiscal responsibility language was removed.

Regarding language around the effects of mass layoffs on equity, Sean proposed adding language that unions should be involved in understanding the effects of layoffs on equity.

Service Provisions

Kari Koch proposed cutting language around BDS studying where its labor hours are spent, reallocating time not spent contributing to the bureaus core goals, and possibly consolidating citywide redundancies. Avaly and Mary Butenschoen advocated for the language to remain. Kim McCarty recommended removing this language as it seems aimed more toward bureau management than City Council. The language in question was removed.

The BAC recommends BDS review its Business Continuity Plan and make updates as necessary.

Sean proposed removing this recommendation from the report, making the case this should be addressed internally at BDS rather than in a report intended for City Council. Elshad committed to having additional meetings before the next budget process to review the Business Continuity Plan with the BAC. The entire recommendation was removed.

The BAC recommends increasing community engagement with budget decisions

Sean recommended removing this recommendation, stating that while the overall recommendation is important, it does not seem appropriate to include in the BAC Report. The committee agreed to pursue this recommendation at separate internal meetings. The entire recommendation was removed.

The BAC recommends prioritizing the continuous improvement work at BDS

This recommendation was proposed by Sean. Elshad suggested that any language around Single Permit Authority (SPA) be made to the Permit Improvement Transition Team (PITT). Also, Elshad recommended that specifics around implementation of improvements be addressed through the Development Review Advisory Committee (DRAC). Language around SPA organization was removed, while the overall recommendation was accepted.

The BAC recommends the funding structure for permitting in the City be reevaluated

Language around the racial disparity indicated by HR data was proposed to be moved from this recommendation to the second recommendation. Mary advocated to keep the language where it is, or at least reference the reader to the language if moved. The language was moved.

Sean recommended focusing language regarding a review of BDS' current funding structure to the bureau as a whole and removing language that is division specific. Division specific language was removed.

3. Budget Advisory Committee Report / Next Steps

Kyle stated that the Requested Budget is due on February 16, 2024. Changes from today's meeting will be compiled and then sent out to the committee for additional review. Elshad recommended the committee members to collaborate and work on the report. David expressed gratitude to everyone who participated in the BAC process this year.

Meeting notes prepared by Kathy Lyndon & Ray Galinat, BDS