

New Portlanders Policy Commission Meeting Summary

Date: February 11, 2025

Time: 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Location: City of Portland Building (In-person with hybrid option)

Key Highlights:

- **Welcome & Opening:**
 - Quorum was met with 10 commissioners present.
 - Commissioners participated in an introductory activity to strengthen connections.
 - The Commission voted to transition from **WhatsApp to Signal** for internal communications, following privacy concerns raised by Commissioner Stephanie Lauenstein.
- **Updates:**
 - Planned guest presentations from **USCIS, the Mayor's Office, and the Transition Team** were postponed until further notice.
 - Commissioners discussed inviting the **Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement** for a future presentation.
 - Commissioner Mia suggested creating a **centralized website** featuring immigrant community resources and organizations.
- **Educational Presentation – NPPC Structure:**
 - **Presented by Ocean Eale**, City staff with the Advisory Body Programs.
 - Reviewed NPPC bylaws (last approved in 2019), voting process, and leadership roles.
 - Commissioners raised concerns about:
 - The **selection process** for members and the role of the screening committee.
 - The **Mayor's authority** to remove commissioners and the need for legal clarification on power structures.
 - The Commission agreed that the **bylaws need to be updated** and will coordinate with City attorneys to begin the amendment process.
- **Workgroups and Subcommittees:**
 - Members joined the following groups:
 - **Advocacy & Policy:** Mia, Kerri, Sahar
 - **Grant Selection:** Stephanie, Marry
 - **Youth & Education:** Jorge
 - **Community Engagement:** Demet, Sankar, Sahar, Rachel

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- *Commissioners discussed whether to merge **Youth & Education** with **Community Engagement**, expressing mixed opinions about potential overlap and focus areas.*
 - **Discussion Items:**
 - **Meeting with Mayor Keith Wilson:** *The group debated scheduling—some preferred waiting until April for more preparation, while others urged for an earlier meeting due to current city developments.*
 - **Treasurer Role:** *Proposal to create a position to oversee spending, event sponsorships, and food orders; some suggested combining it with the Secretary role.*
 - **NPPC Logo:** *Commissioners discussed hiring a professional designer and invited suggestions.*
 - **Commissioner Items:**
 - *A proposed **Youth & Incarcerated Support Project** will be developed under the **Youth & Education Workgroup**, led by Co-Chair Sahar Wilson.*
 - **Next Meeting:**
 - **Tuesday, March 11, 2025 | 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM**
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Detailed agenda and full meeting notes are available upon request.