

Government Transition Advisory Committee

**Government Transition Advisory Committee
Districts + Council Operations Subcommittee Meeting #6
March 28, 2024, 4:00p.m.
Minutes**

Subcommittee Member Attendance

Name	Present	Absent
Amy Randel	X	
Destiny Magaña-Pablo	X	
Joe Hertzberg	X	
Jose Gamero Cassinelli	X	
Juanita Santana	X	
Juliet Hyams	X	
Lory Hefele		X
Terry Harris	X	
Zach Kearl	X	

Others Attending

Julia Meier, Transition Team
Katie Gavares, Transition Team
June Reyes, Transition Team

Welcome

Julia welcomed everyone, provided Zoom logistics, and reviewed the agenda.

Subcommittee Business

Motion to approve the February 29, 2024 meeting summary.

Motion from: Subcommittee Member Kearl

Second: Subcommittee Member Hyams

Motion passes with consensus

Jose encouraged members to begin thinking about whether they want to serve in the next rotation of co-chairs for this subcommittee especially for the engagement phase in the summer.

Jose reviewed the working agreements.

Next Steps for Existing Recommendations

Jose acknowledged four sets of recommendations released and led a discussion on agreeing on next steps for each.

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1. Council staffing. Sent a letter to City Council on February 8 and propose asking co-chairs to testify at upcoming budget community listening sessions.

Discussion:

- Discussed a protocol for delivering public testimony to ensure the statement was agreed upon and who would be providing testimony, which in the current proposal are the GTAC co-chairs
- Important for the person giving public testimony coming solely in role as part of GTAC
- Terry and Juanita also expressed interest in testifying
- Clarification that co-chairs of GTAC would be asked to testify and not the subcommittee co-chairs though the logistics can be figured out
- Suggestion that those who testify could be those who helped write the letter

Motion to ask GTAC co-chairs to testify on GTAC's behalf at one or more of the three budget community listening sessions in April based solely on the content in the Council staffing letter and only representing GTAC in the sessions.

Motion from: Subcommittee Member Kearl

Second from: Subcommittee Member Hyams

Motion passes with consensus

2. Onboarding. Sent a letter to the Chief Administrative Officer on March 15, requesting monthly meetings between transition staff and GTAC members. First meeting is scheduled for April 23.

Discussion:

- Can materials coming out of those meetings be shared?
- Question whether onboarding timing has implications on the budget timeline
- Attendees tasked with updating subcommittee

3. District offices. Sent a letter to City Council on March 15 addressing considerations on district offices. Proposes GTAC co-chairs also testify on this matter.

Motion to add asking the GTAC co-chairs to testify on recommendations about District Offices at upcoming budget community listening sessions based solely on the content in the recommendations and only representing GTAC.

There were no objections to this motion.

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4. Community engagement. Sent a letter to City Council and Chief Administrative Officer on recommended improvements to community engagement. Becky from the transition team will share an update on the April 8th meeting. There are follow-up questions based on the recommendations, Jose asked folks to put their name in the chat to include folks who would want to receive those questions and help answer them.

Subcommittee Future Council Operations Pre-Engagement

Juliet reminded the subcommittee about what was shared with community during the listening sessions including GTAC subcommittee findings and current thinking on council districts and offices; public input at council meetings; and council structure and procedures.

Future Council Operations Community Engagement Update

Katie Gavares, Transition Team, shared key themes on information collected to-date from listening sessions, employee townhalls, surveys, and public comment.

Themes from listening sessions, surveys, and public comment were reported out on key questions:

1. Challenges engaging with City Council or staying informed about topics
2. Hopes for future city council members improving district outcomes and showing up in their districts:
3. Opportunities for how and when public input is received by the future city council and committees
4. Considerations for developing Council committees

Themes for employee townhalls were gleaned based on questions asked regarding:

1. Role Clarity and Expectations
2. Council committees: policy development and decisionmaking processes
3. Transition and implementation
4. Community engagement and participation

Katie also shared results of feedback surveys from listening sessions including what was well received and opportunities for improvement.

Jose invited subcommittee members to share their reflections, reminding folks they have one meeting after this one before draft recommendations are presented to GTAC. Jose also noted that Juliet, Julia, and Jose will be drafting recommendations for your consideration so please share any ideas with them.

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- Juliet highlighted the low in-person turnout and suggested incorporating this observation into recommendations for enhancing community outreach.
- Joe surprised at the overrepresentation from District 2 and underrepresentation from District 3, and asked for clarification.
 - Katie shared that zip code data was used based on the Districtr map tool
- Jose expressed interest in reviewing detailed notes to understand the community's feedback better.
- Juanita shared concerns prior to engagement about the potential disconnect between the committee's recommendations and community expectations but felt reassured by preliminary feedback indicating alignment with community needs.
- Destiny asked about the influence of money on councilor attention and the accessibility of meeting times, suggesting councilors work during times more accessible to the general public.
- Terry commented on the listening session format and wondered if the report out filters community feedback too much; noted difference in engagement and satisfaction levels among residents with varying degrees of engagement with city council. Suggestion for more focused group discussions, similar to focus groups, for more intentional and representative feedback.
- Jose and Destiny highlighted the issue of losing nuanced feedback through the note-taking and synthesis process
- Julia clarified that the discussion was part of early engagement efforts, with a survey still open and a comprehensive engagement report to follow, emphasizing the goal to refine recommendations based on early feedback.
- Juanita wondered where the four disciplines will land within the council committees; advocated for in-district offices.

Meeting adjourned, 5:30p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
June Reyes, Transition Engagement Coordinator

Meeting Chat:

16:01:08 From Juliet Hyams to Hosts and panelists:

I hear you, Julia.

16:10:16 From Terry Harris to Everyone:

brb -- cat wrangling.

16:12:37 From Destiny Magana-Pablo to Everyone:

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something cosmic must be happening to cause the cats to be goblins right now

16:12:37 From Julia Meier (she/her), staff to Everyone:

The testimony should be on what GTAC voted on and approved.

16:12:55 From Zach Kearn (he/him) to Everyone:

yes @ Julia 100%

16:14:34 From Zach Kearn (he/him) to Everyone:

I would happily provide testimony on behalf GTAC for Council Staffing and/or District Offices

16:16:42 From Destiny Magana-Pablo to Everyone:

do we need to assign people already?

16:18:52 From Zach Kearn (he/him) to Everyone:

The dates for Budget Community Listening Session:
<https://www.portland.gov/council-clerk/events>

16:19:06 From Juliet Hyams (she/her) to Everyone:

April 10, 13 and 15

16:19:33 From Zach Kearn (he/him) to Everyone:

April 10 (6:30-8:30pm)

April 13 (10-12pm)

April 15 (6:30-8:30pm)

16:21:00 From Julia Meier (she/her), staff to Everyone:

April aren't hearings - they are community listening sessions on the City's budget.

16:21:36 From Amy Randel to Everyone:

I am available to rep GTAC the 13th and/or 15th

16:21:38 From Destiny Magana-Pablo to Everyone:

Other language for a motion: GTAC members will be identified and sign up to testify official GTAC recommendations to city council. GTAC members might also testify showing up as just Portland citizens, testimony will likely relate to GTAC's work or not.

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16:22:54 From Zach Kearn (he/him) to Everyone:

I recall a conversation at the full committee this distinction last year. Not sure if we had it in writing

16:23:31 From Julia Meier (she/her), staff to Everyone:

We have do written guidelines for this - I'll resend to the group.

16:24:04 From Destiny Magana-Pablo to Everyone:

I am available to testify for GTAC on April 10th

16:31:39 From Zach Kearn (he/him) to Everyone:

Budget implications are stipends for training for electeds before Jan 1., as well. Could be a discussion for the fall budget monitoring process (BMP)

16:34:13 From Juliet Hyams (she/her) to Everyone:

I'd like to receive the questions from staff about community engagement.

16:34:49 From Terry Harris to Everyone:

I'm interested

16:34:51 From Destiny Magana-Pablo to Everyone:

I'd like to receive the questions

16:34:59 From Zach Kearn (he/him) to Everyone:

me too

16:35:02 From Joe Hertzberg to Everyone:

I would like to receive the questions.

16:35:18 From Juanita Santana to Hosts and panelists:

I want to put my name down to receive the questions regarding community engagement.

16:35:48 From Zach Kearn (he/him) to Everyone:

Thanks for facilitating that Jose

16:36:40 From Jose Gamero-Georgeson to Everyone:

I would also be down to receive those questions

16:45:36 From Zach Kearn (he/him) to Everyone:

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Did we exclude committee members in the survey and participation data?

16:48:50 From Juliet Hyams (she/her) to Everyone:

Does "open testimony" mean the three minutes allowed on any topic?

16:49:27 From Destiny Magana-Pablo to Everyone:

question what does limited financial resources mean or is seen with regard to engaging?

16:50:40 From Jose Gamero-Georgeson to Everyone:

At the town hall I was at, someone said 75% in-district

16:50:49 From Destiny Magana-Pablo to Everyone:

We also heard, more like 80% in district or 20% in city hall

16:50:58 From Destiny Magana-Pablo to Everyone:

Thank you Jose

16:51:15 From Juliet Hyams (she/her) to Everyone:

Was that where only 9 attended?

16:51:31 From Jose Gamero-Georgeson to Everyone:

Yes

16:51:42 From Destiny Magana-Pablo to Everyone:

Yes, just highlighting a different opinion heard

17:01:25 From Zach Kearl (he/him) to Everyone:

This is a great synthesis, Kate. Thank you for providing this to us!

17:05:44 From Kate Gavares to Hosts and panelists:

kate.gavares@potlandoregon.gov

17:08:59 From Katie Gavares to Hosts and panelists:

Heard

17:09:02 From Katie Gavares to Hosts and panelists:

Thank you

17:09:49 From Zach Kearl (he/him) to Everyone:

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There is definitely a digital divide in Portland

17:10:32 From Juliet Hyams (she/her) to Everyone:

I'm curious what the barriers are to in-person participation: transit quality/cost? time? child care? public safety?

17:11:01 From Zach Kearn (he/him) to Everyone:

+1 to Destiny's last point

17:12:09 From Juliet Hyams (she/her) to Everyone:

Me too. I'm not suggesting that we rely more on virtual interactions; only that we learn from those numbers. I think in-person is actually more welcoming and productive, so the data surprised me.

17:14:24 From Zach Kearn (he/him) to Everyone:

Also if I recall correctly, the small group/public input followed our presentations.

17:15:37 From Julia Meier (she/her), staff to Everyone:

I would welcome folks new/revised thinking about recommendations based on the engagement report today - please email me.

17:17:08 From Joe Hertzberg to Everyone:

Julia: I don't understand what you are asking for. Could you say that again in different words?

17:19:51 From Zach Kearn (he/him) to Everyone:

I hear a clear call to action for all of us: Get that survey out in front of people!

17:20:26 From Destiny Magana-Pablo to Everyone:

can we get the link in the chat pls :)

17:20:54 From Julia Meier (she/her), staff to Everyone:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LTF7HYK>

17:22:27 From Zach Kearn (he/him) to Everyone:

Apr 24 is our next subcommittee mtg!

17:23:00 From Destiny Magana-Pablo to Everyone:

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In the listening session they raised adding community engagement, communications into governance and performance

17:23:07 From Destiny Magana-Pablo to Everyone:

in title and scope

17:24:00 From Zach Kearl (he/him) to Everyone:

@Destiny as in a committee focus area? or a metric/expectation of individual council members

17:24:20 From Julia Meier (she/her), staff to Everyone:

^ as in a committee focus

17:25:00 From Destiny Magana-Pablo to Everyone:

In the committee focus area, something like Committee of Governance, Performance, Communication, and Community Engagement

17:26:37 From Destiny Magana-Pablo to Everyone:

it was clarified, future council decides permanent in-district offices

17:29:16 From Joe Hertzberg to Everyone:

Thank you Jose & Juliet

17:29:21 From Juliet Hyams (she/her) to Everyone:

Good job by Jose

Question and Answers

No questions asked using the Q&A function at this meeting.