

# BPS Budget Advisory Committee FY17-18

Meeting #2

Thursday, January 19, 2017

BAC members in attendance:

- Susan Anderson, BPS Director
- Joe Zehnder, BPS Chief Planner
- Michael Armstrong, BPS Policy and Operations Manager
- Troy Doss, BPS COPPEA rep
- NaTasha Gaskin, BPS DCTU rep
- Julie Ocken, BPS
- Camille Elmore-Trummer, BPS non-represented staff
- Heather Hoell, Executive Director of Venture Portland
- Jane Marie Ford, City Budget Office
- Catherine Ciarlo, CH2M
- Jaimes Valdez, NW SEED
- Jackie Dingfelder, former State Senator, current PSU PhD candidate

Not in attendance today:

- Teresa St Martin, Planning & Sustainability Commission

## Welcome and Recap of First BAC Meeting

Michael reminded the BAC that we have to submit our budget a week from Monday. Today's meeting will be the last of the BAC, and we'll do follow-up via email. At our first meeting, we reviewed all BPS programs, and we're now looking to prioritize the programs and projects and/or emphases in certain projects we'd like to see in FY17-18.

Instructions are to identify 5 percent cuts to the General Fund (police and housing at 2 percent). We can request add packages regarding housing, homelessness and other emergency issues.

Key items:

- Difficulty of having continual one-time funding.
- Some of the work we do (zoning code) has close links to BDS, which receives the revenue, so we are thinking about how we might be able to use those funds for BPS budget issues.
- Planning for succession.
- Predominantly, add packages from other bureaus are their wish list items or items Council wants to do; if they don't get them, it doesn't mean they lay someone off. In the BPS add packages, except for Smart Cities, positions are tied to actual people currently in positions. We have about 8.5 FTE in our add package requests this year.

## Options for New Funding Requests

Susan walked through the [Add Package requests](#). These are all things the last Council wanted us to get done. Susan walked through these with the Mayor today, and we'll continue to have conversations with his staff. This is \$1.4M total in asks (outside of RICAP).

- Housing (Residential Infill Project; Multi-Dwelling Housing Code; SW Transit Corridor Housing Strategy)
  - We're half-way through both the RIP and Multi-Dwelling projects; we need to get these completed.

- The SW Corridor is large and most impactful.
  - Jaimes: What about putting SW Corridor first on the list since the others are already in the works? This bridge is half built, and we need to keep going since others and other resources are already involved.
  - Discussion around the PDC funding point for SW Corridor.
- Code (Community Design Standards & Guidelines; Central City Design Fundamentals)
  - Continuing work that we've already started.
  - We have some funding for this, but not nearly enough to do this during FY17-18.
  - Heather: Is this ask enough to fund and get through the project? We might not get through the Central City portion. The Mayor wants to have more in the community design standards. A lot of the work BPS does isn't hugely visible, but I think these design standards and guidelines are quiet visible and are causing lots of angst in the community right now. Don't be lean on the ask here.
  - Troy: We do have some areas that we're bringing in the Central City that don't yet have design guidelines, so we do need to think about creating those guidelines at least.
  - Joe: We have to do Central City guidelines, but they are not essentially broken as the community design standards are.
  - Susan: Given this feedback, I would like to consider upping Community Design Standards and the amount of staffing. I wouldn't want to go into it thinking we'll need money from the Central City ask. This could be another FTE ~ \$90k to make sure we can get it done.
  - Catherine: There is a housing nexus with these code projects.
- RICAP
  - BDS has already agreed to pay for 2.5 FTE in FY17-18.
- Smart Cities
  - This is an on-going ask because we don't want to make this ask every year.
  - There is lots of promising good work going on, but it's very fragmented throughout the City. We are hoping to have two positions, one to coordinate across the City and provide a primary point of contact for the many private sector opportunities; and another position for specific technical work around air quality (which we have a NIST grant funding for now).
  - Jackie: Are there opportunities for leveraging the air quality work with state initiatives/DEQ?
  - Do we need to write up a Smart Cities strategic plan? This is a question for the Mayor. Maybe it's more like an action plan (like we just did for Electric Vehicles).
  - Jaimes: It is helpful to have some tangible notes about implementation and the benefits of what we'd do through this program and activities that would result.

### Potential Cuts

These are ongoing cuts, so these positions would be gone forever.

Program / FTE	Cost	If not cut, we can deliver...
Planning: 2 FTE	\$220k	Add #3 (SW Transit)
Demographic analyst: 1 FTE	\$130k	Add #2 (Multi-Dwelling)
Sustainability: 0.5 FTE	\$57k	Community solar program

This is the reality; we need to clearly articulate this in our budget request.

The \$130k is currently a management analyst position. We've shifted who's doing that work for this current FY. We hired a management assistant and parts of other positions to do this work, but

that means we ended up not having staffing to do the Multi-Dwelling project. We'll figure out a direct way to say this.

Camille: The response from the budget office last year was about "ranking" each project. But these projects seem to be well-woven together, so that is something to highlight for the housing package. Also, you should weave that back into the code package so the budget and Mayor's offices know these all inform one another.

Perhaps the Housing Package includes 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6... i.e.: combine the Housing and Code packages in the add requests. This could make the Smart Cities package vulnerable, but the Mayor is a strong advocate for Smart Cities. If we combine, we can state there are two funding options for the full package.

"Land use permit fees via BDS" is something we could say to show the funding options for 5, 6 and 7.

### **BAC Letter to Council / Program Priorities**

We'll try to capture the discussion points about the decision package as discussed today. It's in response to community requests and implementation code we now need.

- Describe, particularly for the CBO, what happens when we don't get funding for each ask.
- Also be sure to note BPS' ability to leverage, our scrappiness and how bare-bones staffing is already.
- These add packages are not like we're asking for "fancy new stuff". These are things that people in the community want. Right-sizing versus one-time-shiny-projects.
- This is a critical time: both because of the amount of growth and the vulnerability of displacement, which has been heightened due to housing and rental prices. This is the right time to put resources into these types of planning solutions.
- Equity, housing and transportation connection.
- This isn't the place to take 5 percent cuts to try to free up money to help address housing issues, because these projects are working to solve those problems.
- Frame the letter around the Comp Plan and CAP (particularly for new Council members) so we are continuing to fine-tune and work to implement these plans. Don't lose momentum and build on these overarching plans.
- The Housing and Code package (combined) should all be an ongoing funding request.
- These are all Comp Plan implementation projects, which will change with new and continuing implementation projects next year.
- Change and lack of control for what community members can do is difficult, but the things we're looking to do will help to smooth out and mitigate issues (e.g. in the livability survey this past year).

### **Budget Equity Tool**

All bureaus are required to use the equity assessment tool in their budget submission. If there are things that BAC members see relative to incorporating in our equity assessment, please let us know.

Section One, #5: Deficiencies and lack of ongoing funding impacts BPS' ability to do this critical work.

Racial equity plans for each bureau are posted [online](#).

### Next Steps

- Staff will send a draft BAC letter by EOB on Monday for members to review and input. A number of the comments in last year's BAC letter are still relevant. The letter needs to be finalized by next Thursday, January 26.

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