



Cannabis Policy Oversight Team (CPOT) Meeting Minutes

(FINAL)

August 8th, 2019

1221 SW 4th Ave. Portland, OR 97204-Rose Room

6pm-8:30pm

In attendance: Tiara Darnell, Dr. Rachel Knox, Katherine Krajnak, John Monteleone, Stephanie Neil, Laura Valden-Vega, and Tim Zimmerman

Conference Call-in: Dr. Nicole Bowles

Civic Life Staff: Kimie Ueoka-Policy Coordinator, Nate Werner- Lead Compliance Specialist, and Arainnia Brown-Administrative Coordinator

Bureau of Development Services (BDS): Staff-Jay Shoemaker

Guest Presenter: Ali King -Field Representative for Congressman Earl Blumenauer

Welcome and Introductions: CPOT members, City of Portland Staff, guest presenter, and the public introduced their selves, shared what organizations they are affiliated with, and mentioned conflict of interest if any. In addition to this, CPOT members reviewed meeting minutes from July 11th and Aug. 6th. Meeting minutes were approved for July 11th and one edit was made for the Aug. 6th meeting minutes. Edits include word spacing in the first paragraph and adding federal policy layers for drafted report outline.

Welcome Ali King Field Representative from Congressman Earl Blumenauer's office: During the first half of our CPOT Session we had the privilege to welcome Ali King, a Field Representative from Congressman Earl Blumenauer's Office. Ali King discussed the progress Blumenauer's office has made over the years with cannabis regulation. Some issues that were addressed from House committees included access to financial services, veteran's health care, and racial disparities. The progress made will be detailed below.

- Feb. 13th the House of Financial Services Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Financial Institutions had a hearing on cannabis banking. In March, the committee passed the SAFE banking Act. Eventually, the entire House will vote on the bill as well.
- April 30th the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health had a hearing on three cannabis bills which included: VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act (HR 712), Veterans Equal Access Act (HR 1647), and Veterans Cannabis Use for Safe Healing (HR 2191)

- June 19th another committee, The House Small Business Committee held a hearing regarding opportunities for small cannabis businesses and entrepreneurs from underserved communities who are trying to enter the industry.

In summary, most of the standing House have committees that focuses on cannabis policies for the future. A list of the committees will be listed below.

- **House Judiciary Committee** on the scheduling of cannabis and related criminal justice concerns;
- **House Veterans Affairs Committee** on safe and equal access to medical cannabis for our veterans and intramural cannabis research at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA);
- **House Energy and Commerce** on cannabis research
- **House Financial Services Committee** on barriers to the safe access of banking services and capital
- **House Ways and Means Committee** on the unequal taxation of cannabis businesses
- **House Natural Resources Committee** on cannabis and tribal sovereignty
- **House Oversight and Government Reform Committee** on access to federal government jobs for veterans who use cannabis in compliance with their state laws.
- **House Education and Labor Committee** on access to higher education loans for students who have been convicted for cannabis possession.

CPOT recommendations report: CPOT Members and Kimie reviewed the changes for the recommendations report that was made on August 6th. In summary, a new way to organize the report was created - a new approach to present the guiding principles. The members would like the outline to focus on the “whys?” Such as, why are we focusing on the principle? Why is the problem occurring? Why are there barriers? Lastly, why do the principles need to be changed? The layers for the report will be reflected from a Program, City, State, and Federal policy standpoint. One idea for the reporting process is to include having a progress report after the end of this calendar year. Members suggested the Civic Life Director, or a representative from the Commissioner’s office create a progressive report to display how their recommendations are being met overall. Other ideas will be listed below.

- In the draft report, the “Portland and Oregon need a cohesive strategy and plan for cannabis” section can be used as the Executive Statement.
- Identify important sentences and phases in report by bolding font and adding bullet points when you want to capture readers’ attention.
- Create a survey for the why statements once received and send them to the community as a survey for ranking.

Going Forward, Kimie would like all CPOT members to draft a “why” statement for the 2019 Policy Report. Once all drafts are sent to her Kimie can send out a survey to all Members for selections. After sections are made, Kimie can create a private file folder and share with the group.

Public Engagement and Recommendations: CPOT Members brainstormed methods for the public to be engaged with making recommendations. Ideas will be listed below.

- Possibly collaborating with other organizations when meet-ups occur. For instance, perhaps partnering with NuLeaf or the Oregon Cannabis Association at their upcoming events. CPOT members could inform attendees of the drafted report and encourage attendees to make recommendations since we need the community's input.
- CPOT members could present at community events as guest speakers and inform the public of why their recommendations are crucially needed. If members wanted, they could interview individuals as well.
- Kimie could send out an email blast with addresses from Civic Life's and Cannabis Program email list. The email blast would be an invitation to the public to attend a session where recommendations are welcomed. This session could be held at City Hall or another location closer to community members.
- Creating a survey for the community prior to hosting a session so community members can have a clear understanding of what the report is focusing on and how their input can add value
- Send out drafted report to the public prior to hosting a recommendations session so community members can review the work already in progress.

In summary, we want the community and industry workers to know we are here to listen, and we need their recommendations to add value into the 2019 final report. Their recommendations matter and need to be known for improvements.

Next Steps: Before next meeting CPOT members will have their "why" statements drafted and emailed to Kimie. The 2019 Policy draft will continue to be revised and an email blast regarding public recommendations will go out soon once the logistics are solved. In addition to this, there will be two subcommittee groups who will meet prior to the next CPOT session.