



Cannabis Policy Oversight Team (CPOT)-FINAL

Feb. 13th, 2020

6-8:30pm

East Portland Community Center

740 SE 106th Ave. Portland, OR 97216

In attendance: Tim Zimmerman, Stephanie Neil, John Monteleone, Katherine Krajnak, Madeline Martinez, Laura Valden-Vega, Dr. Nicole Bowles, and Erick Vidstrand

Civic Life Staff: Suk Rhee-Bureau Director, Kimie Ueoka-Policy Coordinator, Christina Coursey-Interim Supervisor/ Licensing Coordinator, and Arainnia Brown-Administrative Coordinator

Welcome and Introductions: CPOT members, Civic Life Staff, and community members had the opportunity to say introductions and state what organizations they are affiliated with. In addition to this, conflicts of interests, if any were announced.

Updates:

- **Traveling CPOT Session:** This is our first traveling CPOT session of the year. We plan to have Traveling CPOT Sessions every other month at different community organizations. The reason for this is to have better engagement with community members.
- **Cannabis Social Equity Grants:** One week ago, the application window for the Cannabis Social Equity grant closed. We have a total of 30 eligible applications and a total amount of 300 million dollars requested. Many new and emerging businesses applied while established businesses applied as well. Currently, the Cannabis Program is gathering materials for the review panel. Review panelist will have a few weeks for individual scoring and on April 2nd there will be an all-day scoring session will take place with panelist.
- **Cannabis Social Equity Grant Year 2 Grantees:** Year 2 awardees are mid-way through their cycle of work. We are starting to get progress reports and so far, all

grant recipients are doing exciting work! Grantees are always welcome to attend our CPOT sessions to share their work.

- Cannabis Program Audit: Early February, The Auditor's Office released a report for the Cannabis Program and their findings. In summary, the findings included but not limited to: programmatic staff interviews, site/ inspection visits, examination of program's tracking processes. You can review the full report here: [Cannabis Program: Management fundamentals needed to improve regulation of Emerging Industry](#). In addition to this, the Cannabis program submitted a response as well. The Cannabis Program agreed with most findings and explained how improvements will be made or already being made. For example, currently, Cannabis Program is coordinating with other bureaus, focusing on community involvement, and equity. In addition to this, we are discussing better methods to educate the public regarding regulations and possibly hosting a symposium and/ or conference.
- HB 4088-Statewide Social Equity framework for cannabis licensing and reinvestment of cannabis tax revenue: This bill was sponsored by Representative Fahey. On Feb. 3rd, 2020 the Cannabis program provided testimonies (public and written) in support for HB 4088.

Public Testimonies can be found here:

https://oregon.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=6&clip_id=27801

Civic Life's written testimony can be found here:

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/civic/article/753878>

Next steps for this bill include Representative Fahey creating a work force task group to develop tools for the long run session in 2021.

- Recruitments: Currently there are two openings for CPOT. Erik Vidsrtrand has been in contact with Kimie to fill one opening. In addition to this, CPOT members elected Chair and Vice-Chair members. All voted that Al Ochoa will remain Head chair while Stephanie Neil and John Monteleone was appointed Vice Chairs.

Community Conversations with Guests: After updates were announced. CPOT Members and community members had the chance to have an engaging conversation. See Table Notes document for community responses.

Discussion questions-

- 1) What brings you here today?

2) This is the definition we currently use for equity”
Equity is both the means to healthy communities and an end that benefits us all. Equity requires the intentional examination of systemic policies and practices that, even if they have the appearance of fairness, may, in effect, serve to marginalize some and perpetuate disparities.

- What resonates with you? Would you make any changes to this?

3) What is one hope and one concern you have related to cannabis?

4) Our work over the last year ha brought us to these four areas for focus.

- Social Equity
- Research
- Competency
- Sustainability

Which one of these areas is the most important to you? What’s not on the list that should be?

Green Hop’s Testimony: Green Hop’s co-owner, Karanja Crews, a current grant recipient, provided a testimony regarding their social equity grant work through Green Hop Academy. Green Hop offers a cannabis workforce development program to racially diversify the cannabis industry. This includes training and an apprenticeship program that provides young adults from the black community with paid budtender training, education about the history and impact of cannabis criminalization, and cannabis plant knowledge from seed to sale. Karanja Crews along with his students shared their testimonies and showed the group two videos regarding their work so far.