



City Light Review Panel Meeting Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: February 16, 2016

MEETING ATTENDANCE					
Panel Members:					
Name		Name		Name	
David Allen	✓	Julie Ryan	✓	Eugene Wasserman	✓
Tom Lienesch	✓	Sue Selman	✓	Sara Patton	✓
Chris Roe	x	Eric Thomas	✓	Gail Labanara	✓
Staff and Others:					
Sephir Hamilton	✓	Greg Shiring	✓	Kim Kinney	✓
Maura Brueger	x	Tony Kilduff	x	Kirsty Grainger	✓
Jeff Bishop	✓	Calvin Chow	✓	Jeff Johnson	✓
Paula Laschober	✓	CM Sawant	x	Shanna Crutchfield	✓
Karen Reed	✓	Mike Jones	✓	Jessica Finn Coven	✓
Larry Weis	✓	Mike Haynes	x	Brendan O'Donnell	✓
				Mary Dorsey	✓

Call to Order:

The meeting was convened at 11:00 a.m. and Julie Ryan reviewed the agenda items.

Meeting Minutes from 2/2/16:

Amendments were proposed to the 2/2 meeting minutes: to encourage applying the racial & social equity toolkit to the Plan; change to word "concerns" to "observations" regarding the RSA proposal comments, and add comment after third bullet regarding the RSA proposal allowing for timely recovery of costs. As amended, the meeting minutes were approved.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Communications:

- Kim Kinney reported that there was no general correspondence.
- Sephir Hamilton advised the E-Team recommends leaving the RSA proposal out of the Strategic Plan to allow additional time for deliberation by the Panel and engagement of new councilmembers.
- Sephir shared a handout referencing City Light Human Resources accomplishments in 2015.
- An excerpt of the "Pace of Progress" September 2015 Report from the Northwest Energy Coalition, noting how energy efficiency in the northwest region has consistently met or exceeded Northwest Power and Conservation Council's conservation planning assumptions since 1984. It was noted that this highlights the need for more frequent modeling and better forecasting of energy efficiency.



City Light Review Panel Meeting Meeting Minutes

Board and Commission “On-Boarding” Training:

Julie Ryan and Gail Labanara shared some highlights of the “onboarding” training they recently attended. The Race and Social Justice Initiative (RSJI) was covered in training, as were the rules around open public meetings and public records. In discussion, question arose as to the scope of the duty to disclose or recuse oneself due to conflicts of interest given the advisory nature of the Review Panel and given that the members are designated to represent various segments of the community.

Action Item: Karen Reed will see if a City Attorney can speak to this conflict issue at an upcoming meeting.

Action Item: Kim Kinney will email the Panel with the schedule of the next few month’s Onboarding Training Sessions and people can RSVP through Kim.

Answers to Panel Member Questions from January 19 and Feb. 2 meetings:

Paula Laschober went through the handout with answers to prior meeting questions. The group encouraged the Utility to pick a set of cities against which to benchmark its performance, noting that local utilities are probably most meaningful, but the best mix might change depending on the issue being measured.

Transportation Electrification (TE):

SCL staffer Brendan O’Donnell provided an overview on City Light’s Transportation Electrification (TE) initiative. The Utility hired a consulting firm (E3) to provide a cost-benefit analysis on the proposals, to identify ratepayer benefits. Brendon reported that the findings show TE can provide value to ratepayers, meet interests of some customers, and supports the City’s TE vision. The overall recommendation is to focus on transit, buses, and other transit opportunities.

Jessica Finn Coven from the Office of Sustainability & Environment (OSE) joined the meeting. OSE coordinates City strategies on issues like climate change. She informed the group that the Mayor’s State of the City address would speak on his interest in TE. The city is in the process of identifying and engaging stakeholders around this initiative. In discussion, Panel members raised the following items:

- Important to reach out to freight industry representatives.
- Would not support funding the EV initiative by reprogramming of conservation dollars. The EV initiative is about promoting use of electricity, not conservation. These should be separately funded initiatives.
- Need to track who is paying and who is benefiting

Panel members can follow up offline to offer comments to Brendan on the draft TE report.



City Light Review Panel Meeting Meeting Minutes

Race and Social Justice Initiative (RSJI) presentation:

Jeff Bishop introduced Shanna Crutchfield, City Light's RSJI manager. Shanna shared a high level overview of the Race and Social Justice Initiative and how City Light uses the tools that the City Of Seattle has designed to take RSJI issues into consideration in developing City Light programs and practices. City Light has adapted the toolkit to be suitable for its lines of business.

In discussion, it was mentioned that Remote Disconnect can be a problem for low income people and this will be facilitated with the implementation of AMI. It was suggested to focus on clearly communicating the process and procedures around Remote Disconnect.

Action Item: Can the Utility provide statistics on how it has addressed/met the goals of the City's Race and Social Equity Initiative? Can we review the Citywide RSJI toolkit?

Workshop Discussion: Developing the Strategic Plan Story:

The group moved on to the discussion regarding how to present the Strategic Plan. Sephir Hamilton referred the group to the information handouts on developing our story asking for feedback/input on key messaging and data in support of the plan.

The following is a recap of the discussion on the three sections laid out with suggested key messages and supporting data for the Strategic Plan.

The Plan is Working

- Note that the Review Panel represents various customer groups
- Review actual rates as compared to targets in the years that the plan has been in place
- Provide more background on how the City decided to do a strategic plan—benefit of/how it was shaped by Council and Mayor.
- Describe the rate benefit of the efficiency efforts
- Make the verbiage accessible to customers
- Highlight fewer, shorter outages.
- Give concrete examples.
- Arguably, it's the Utility that is working, not the plan
- Will need explanations for why some of the initiatives are in "red" and "yellow" status
- Do an executive summary bulleted/highlighted for readability, not a long letter
- Highlight key messages
- Add quotes from stakeholders – labor, environmental, business leaders, rating agency
- Date all data

Work the Plan

- Highlight improved management, rather than capital projects "rolling off"
- Distinguish cost efficiencies from energy efficiency



City Light Review Panel Meeting Meeting Minutes

- Note that many agencies are having trouble keeping costs at inflation
- Highlight positives: SCL is a green utility
- Point out that delaying investment will likely increase costs later
- More positive statements about the Utility and the Plan: the Plan helps build a strong utility, maintain environmentally green utility
- Sell what the Utility has accomplished—Panel suggestions of major accomplishments:
 - Financial strength of utility—getting and keeping rating upgrade
 - Well integrated within the city organization
 - Stable utility
 - Stable rates
 - Low outage rates
 - Green investments
 - Exceeding energy efficiency targets
 - Addressing climate change
 - Addressing social equity
 - Lower worker injury rates
 - Our economy relies on reliable, low-cost electricity
 - Increased rate assistance to low income customers—the Utility is a national leader here and should mention that-- Homewise may be a good example

Utility of the Future

- Consider putting this up front to explain why the Plan includes the actions that it does
- SCL is fortunate to be able to be proactive and thoughtful about a rapidly changing industry
- Missing: cyber and physical security accomplishments over recent years
- Planning process helps SCL be pro-active
- Rate stabilization benefit of Plan
- Set up the rationale for considering changes in RSA policy: risks of declining load growth
- Ratings upgrade
- We're one of few utilities that have a 6 year plan, periodically updated. Rating agencies like this. And businesses like predictable rates.
- Add an RMI quote on utility of the future
- Electric Vehicles are not new conservation
- Add Business leader quotes on importance of reliable, inexpensive power
- Add quotes from major customers who see benefit partnering with SCL

Sephir thanked the Panel for their feedback. He said next steps would be to let our experts condense the information down and have them design the report. The next Review Panel meeting is scheduled for Tues. March 15, 2016 at 11:00 am.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.