



## City Light Review Panel Meeting Meeting Minutes

**Date of Meeting: April 14, 2022 | 1:00 – 3:00 PM**  
| Meeting held via Microsoft Teams “Final”

<b>MEETING ATTENDANCE</b>					
<b>Panel Members:</b>					
<b>Names</b>		<b>Name</b>		<b>Name</b>	
Anne Ayre	√	Leo Lam	√	John Putz	
Mikel Hansen		Kerry Meade		Tim Skeel	√
Scott Haskins	√	Joel Paisner	√	Michelle Mitchell-Brannon	
<b>Staff and Others:</b>					
Debra Smith	√	Jen Chan		Karen Reed (Consultant /RP Facilitator)	√
Kirsty Grainger	√	Mike Haynes		Craig Smith	
Jim Baggs		DaVonna Johnson		Michelle Vargo	√
Kalyana Kakani	√	Emeka Anyanwu		Maura Brueger	√
Julie Moore	√	Chris Ruffini	√	Chris Tantoco	√
Greg Shiring		Carsten Croff	√	Leigh Barreca	√
Eric McConaghy		Caia Caldwell	√	Jenny Levesque	√
Kate Nolan	√	Kristian Alcaide		Vanessa Lund (Lund Faucett)	√
		Brian Taubeneck	√	Ellen Pepin-Cato (Lund Faucett)	√

**Welcome and Introductions.** The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m.

**Public Comment.** There was no public comment.

### Standing Items:

**Review Agenda.** Karen Reed reviewed the agenda.

**Approval of March 23, 2022 Meeting Minutes.** Minutes were approved as presented

**Chair’s Report.** No report.

**Communications to Panel.** Leigh Barreca reported that there one communique to the panel reporting an error on the Panel website preventing access to meeting files. The error was reported to Seattle IT and was fixed. Leigh emailed the reporter that the site was fixed.

### General Manager’s update.

- Rate path. Debra had a meeting last week with Mayor Harrell regarding the rate path that was shared with the Panel at the last meeting. The Mayor approved an additional increment (rate increase goes from 3.8% to 4.5% in years 2023 and 2024). For a typical residential customer, that’s



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roughly \$3.50 per bill total increase.

- Road to Recovery. Effective tomorrow the prohibition for shut-offs ends. We plan to take 120 days before we begin reaching out to folks around disconnects. This gives us three months to work with our customers helping them make payment arrangements. We used to disconnect for past due balances over \$300. Moving forward this will be for customers over \$1000 past due. We will not be reinstating late fees until mid-2023. Through June 2023 we will continue to offer enriched an emergency assistance program where City Light customers can access \$1,000 per year in payment support.

**Q:** Any updates on relicensing?

**A:** Things are going well right now. We sent a memo to the Mayor's Office about the settlement process. This happens on two levels: 1) the global level based on science. This is the level that goes to FERC. 2) Individual settlements. We are close to formally beginning the settlement process on two of the tribes. We submitted the ISR (interim study report) and there, as expected, a few areas where there is not agreement. We are working with our stakeholders to come to a respectful agreement.

### 2023 – 2028 Strategic Plan

**Review Second Draft of Strategic Plan Update** Vanessa Lund presented. The draft plan is in the Panel packet. Comments from the Committee members included:

**Comment:** I was very impressed with the responsiveness to comments from the panel in this draft. The additional description particularly around rates was wonderful and well-constructed. Great work!

**Comment:** I wasn't here last time a plan was created but I like the content. It's the right level of detail and makes good points.

**Outreach Update** Jenny Levesque, External Communications Manager, presented. Components of the outreach report include:

- We are building on conversations started during outreach last year. We want to build more ongoing, mutually beneficial relationships with our stakeholder groups.
- We participated in the Clean Energy Future Survey and received about 4,500 responses based on our CETA (Clean Energy Transformation Act) indicators.
- Residential Customer Satisfaction Survey. The results showed residents are overwhelmingly satisfied and identified reasons for dissatisfaction.
- We have meeting coming up with stakeholders including NVEC and City Light Key Commercial Customers.



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**Continued Discussion of Review Panel Letter** Karen presented. Materials are in the Panel packet. Key Panel Comments included:

- I support the plan.
- It is less than 1 year since it was submitted; this plan continues to work.
- Context for this plan is important: 3 major items are inflation, difficulty in hiring coupled with significant vacancies, and supply chain disruptions. This seems to be our "Post Covid Reality"
- Despite these challenges, the success is that the utility is open back up and operating in this challenging environment. We are operating!
- I support the rate path.
- We will need to watch things carefully given inflation and its impact on the cost of service. It is a very challenging time to project costs given the financial and other risks we face. The challenge the utility has is to balance financial necessity with continuing initiatives, investments in infrastructure. The utility is reprioritizing expenditures within the rate path; this is what will need to continue to be monitored.
- Appreciated briefings on financial policies and rate path as well as underlying concepts around rate design.
- We look forward to implementation of new rate design, targeted for January 2024 – a major effort. SCL staff have done excellent work here.
- Utility has worked hard to maintain in compliance with its financial policies.
- How do you really get to decarbonization and net zero without tools in place to help customers?
  - *RESPONSE:* It's somewhat not in the plan as we walk a line around targeted decarbonization, and we are waiting for movement in Olympia.

**Q:** I'm concerned we're not in post-covid and we're in a transition state. Is there a threshold where you would change the current return to office plan?

**A:** No, the City has not shared anything about this with the Cabinet. The Mayor came in very quickly with the March 18<sup>th</sup> date and they are doing listening sessions. They are likely moving forward with the return plan and are building their position. We have held our more conservative quarantine policy. There is no interest in moving away from the vaccine mandate. The future of work is about more than just return to office but also a four-day work week and other issues. The Mayor is more focused on violence and homelessness.

**Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

**Next meetings:** April 26<sup>th</sup> and May 4<sup>th</sup>.