

EQUITY SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES
City of Spokane
Equity Subcommittee
City Hall – City Conference Room Lobby - Tribal
08/20/25

Call to Order: 12:10pm

Attendance

Subcommittee Members Present:
Wendy Schatz, Kianna McKenna, Tyler Tamoush

Staff Present:
CP Wilkerson (joined at 12:24), CM Shelby Lambdin, Alex Gibilisco, Andres Grageda, Caleb Stanton, Cole Wicker

Others Present: Sebastian Ruiz, Naghmana Sherazi, Luke Cobin

Approval of Minutes

- Voted to approve May and June minutes

Agenda Items

Briefing Items

1. Introducing New Council Member Liaison – CM Lambdin
 - No Action Taken, Discussion Only
2. Equitable Budget – Council Requests – Alex Gibilisco
 - No Action Taken, Discussion Only
3. ARPA Equity Presentation – Caleb Stanton, Alex Gibilisco
 - No Action Taken, Discussion Only
 - A framework was adopted by City Council with four main purposes:
 1. **Replenish** lost City government revenues due to the pandemic.
 2. **Reach out** to community partner organizations to fund initiatives.
 3. **Resiliency** for Spokane –investments in forward-thinking initiatives.

4. **Relief** for residents and businesses that were left behind by other relief programs.
- Equity Statement: *“The City of Spokane is committed to equitably and effectively utilizing ARPA resources to help our community bounce back as soon as we can and in the best way possible. To do this we look to fund organizations and businesses that take into consideration past inequities and will go forward to honor the expertise, relationships, and resilience within communities of color and those historically impacted by inequities providing them with lasting partnerships and co-created solutions to eliminate systemic hardships.”*
 - New Platform was brought in for simplified application process for ARPA grants. City tried to minimize as much as possible the barriers to attaining these funds. These efforts included:
 1. Public Workshops & Trusted Community Messengers
 2. Multiple tutorial videos for the process were created
 3. Language Barriers
 - a. Application could be translated into multiple languages
 - b. Application asked if the organization needed communication in another language
 4. Streamlined the Agreement Process
 5. Application walked organization through new vendor enrollment
 - Resulted in \$5M awarded to 140 nonprofits and \$4.5M awarded to 152 small businesses
 - Of the \$80.9M, 48.9M was spent externally, 31.7M was spent internally (60% spent externally)
 - Additional Programs Highlights:



- Council Members asked:
 1. Have the equity subcommittee make a recommendation to the Finance and Administration Committee meeting on October 27th
 - a. Equity in budgeting for the 2027-2028 biennial budget
 - b. What is the public participation role?
 - c. Possible workgroup to work on the presentation to Council
 - i. An email will go out to subcommittee members asking who is interested in being in the workgroup
 2. Participatory budgeting in code
 - a. Is there an approach that the City can adopt?
- Questions for subcommittee members:
 1. What questions do you have?
 2. What information do you need?
 - a. Review the budgeting information presented by Kate Fairborn.
 - b. Review budgeting timeline
- 4. Vote to Nominate New Subcommittee Members – Alex Gibilisco
 - Voted to approve the following members
 - Patricia Castaneda
 - Sebastian Ruiz
 - Naghmana Sherazi
 - ~~Taylor Birdtail~~ (withdrew their name)
 - Luke Kobin

Standing Updates

1. Council Liaison Update – CM Lambdin
2. Share Successes in life, work or advancing equity
3. Equity – training ideas

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:26pm.

Next Equity Subcommittee Meeting, September 17th, at 12:00pm, City Hall, Tribal Room (1st floor)

Prepared by:

Andres Grageda, Legislative Assistant to CM Lambdin

Approved by:

Sarah Dixit
Equity Subcommittee Chair

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