

MINUTES

Stimulus Advisory Board

Meeting #1

May 1, 2021

Videoconference Meeting:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zWpEuO9uN2M>

3:10 p.m. – 4:49 p.m.

Members Present:

- Jared Boyd
- Rodney Boyd
- Patrick Brown
- Ed Bryant
- Nancy Cross
- David Dwight – Facilitator
- Dara Eskridge
- Nahuel Fefer
- Vanessa Foster-Cooksey
- Cristina Garmendia
- Comptroller Darlene Green
- Dr. Megan Green
- Erica Henderson
- Mayor Tishaura Jones
- Grace Kyung
- Molly Metzger
- Sandra Moore
- Arrey Obenson
- Chris Prener
- Jason Q. Purnell
- Wally Siewert
- Paul Sorenson
- Blake Strode
- Mike Talbo
- Richard von Glahn
- Rebecca Weaver
- Aimee Wehmeier

Absent

- Lisa Cagle
- Brandon Comer
- President Lewis Reed
- Tom Shephard
- Niasha West

Recorder: Madisen Janssen

- I. Opening of Meeting (3:10 PM)
- II. Opening Remarks by Mayor Jones
 - a. Level setting: (1) This is an advisory board, not a decision-making body. (2) This meeting is focused on direct relief to meet the critical needs of individuals, families, and businesses - \$50M as soon as possible, hopefully getting it passed by June (3) This is a public governmental body and all work will be public.
- III. Introductions
 - a. Brief introductions from all members present.
- IV. **Working Group Update #1 – Management and Oversight**, Presented by Rodney Boyd
 - a. Funds will be deployed at the same time that we expect the treasury to give their guidance. Waiting on the clarity and guidance from the Treasury. Have been told May 10-11th, from that perspective we have very little time.
 - b. A number of City's are setting up a direct relief approach – gives the City the chance to move funds as quickly as possible.
 - c. Timeline will move very quickly.
 - d. **Questions/Discussion**
 - i. Cristina Garmendia: What is the type of guidance we're expecting from the Treasury?
 - 1. Rodney Boyd: Guidelines for how funds will be deployed by City and for what purposes. There was a lot of confusion with past guidelines for CARES Act. Hoping for a process with this new Treasury to ask questions and get clarity on the guidelines this time.
 - 2. We need to do everything we can to ensure that individuals get the assistance they need and ensure access to assistance (file taxes on time, have bank accounts, etc.)
 - ii. Molly Metzger: Important to note that even though we don't have the specific guidelines yet, we know there are specific funds established such as rental, mortgage, and utility assistance.
 - iii. Rodney Boyd: We will need to convene groups that are eligible for funds throughout the region. We need to leverage funds from a regional perspective as much as possible.

- iv. Nahuel Fefer: Timeline
 - 1. Get funds May 10-11th
 - 2. Convene this group on May 15th to recommend a framework to the Board of E&A
 - 3. Hold E&A meeting quickly, so that it can go the Board of Aldermen
 - 4. Pass bill by early June
- v. Megan Green – This is a really fast timeline to get through the Board of Aldermen, especially with public comment.
- vi. Comptroller Green – thinks the timeline should be as quick as possible to get funds out.
- vii. Jared Boyd – Nahuel’s timeline sounds aggressive, but we have to consider that CARES Act funds will no longer be available after June 30th. This timeline is why we have to be more aggressive in getting these funds out.
- viii. Patrick Brown – There is flexibility within the Board of Aldermen. This group can have a joint meeting with the Board of Aldermen to get public input. These processes don’t have to be separate, and we can combine it to expedite process.

V. Working Group Update #2: Direct Relief, Presented by Sandra Moore

- a. Framework/guideposts for their work
 - i. Urgent need
 - ii. Recognizing there is long-term planning
 - iii. Seize opportunity – equity lens
 - iv. Work in process
 - v. Looking at potential implementing partners
 - vi. Embracing innovation
- b. Large Categories:
 - i. Rental, utility, and mortgage needs
 - ii. Small and distressed business communities
 - iii. Supports for unhoused individuals
 - iv. Digital divide
 - v. Thinking about future and innovation
 - vi. Free public transportation
- c. **Questions/Discussion**
 - i. Vanessa Cooksey: What is your definition of unhoused? Does it include families in transition?

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1. Molly Metzger: They are defining it broadly and making sure they are proactive in reaching people where they're at.
- ii. Nahuel Fefer: Some considerations – Summer youth programs, administrative, and PPE/vaccine components
- iii. Megan Green: Looking at criminal justice – can they speed up the jury process to move people quicker?
 1. Molly Metzger: Add it to the agenda for Direct Relief and will add legal services.
- iv. Grace Kyung: Adding housing supports for post-incarcerated individuals.
- v. Rodney Boyd: Child support arrears cases – provide assistance and get data from the state. Flag this as a potential.

VI. Working Group Update #3: Process and Planning, Presented by Wally Siewert

- a. Core values/touchpoints
 - i. Equitable investments
 - ii. Communities
 - iii. Transformational impact
- b. Immediate priorities:
 - i. Help support direct relief
 - ii. Collect data
 - iii. Outreach and organizing to help with the survey made by the data group
- c. Over the next few weeks:
 - i. Research best practices regarding participatory budgeting
- d. **Questions/Discussion**
 - i. Cristina Garmendia; How will you measure transformational impact?
 - ii. Jason Purnell: Long term outcomes need to be designed at the beginning if you want them to be tracked. Evaluation framework established up front.

VII. Working Group Update #4: Data and Evaluation

- a. 485 respondents to initial survey
- b. Survey asked an open-ended question: “Tell #TeamTJ your thoughts on how Saint Louis should use incoming federal funds.”
- c. This group will be doing an additional survey regarding direct relief. It would ask individuals to select their top priorities and then rank them in order of importance.
- d. **Questions/Discussion:**
 - i. Wally Siewert: What does this survey look like? Digital or paper?

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1. Nahuel Fefer: Given time constraints it will need to be digital.
- ii. Jason Purnell: We know the 485 responses were not from North St. Louis – there should be an effort to focus on areas where there were lower response rates.
- iii. Jared Boyd: Is there capacity to do data analysis in this short time period, or is this something we will need additional funding and people to pull off? Seems there is both a need for outreach and data analysis.
- iv. Megan Green: Having a conversation Local Progress and they might have financial and staff support to help the City in this process.
- v. Nancy Cross: There are a lot of organizations they work with who could help get the surveys north of Delmar. Use iPads and tablets to upload information right away, instead of paper surveys that get uploaded later.
- vi. Patrick Brown: Consider compliance and audits – this is a lot of money and these management processes need to be considered up front.
- vii. Cristina Garmendia: There is a lot of administrative data in City (municipal court), but there isn't a lot of capacity within these departments to analyze the data.
- viii. Comptroller Green: Look at not-for-profit organizations who have waiting lists with individuals waiting assistance, such as Salvation Army.

VIII. Open Discussion:

- a. Questions asked in the Q&A –
 - i. Will funds be set aside for arts and entertainment – artists, venues, etc.?
 1. Nahuel: Venues will benefit from funding. They should set up artist relief funding, but there is no guarantee that it will be in the initial direct relief.
 - ii. Will initial funding be available for families and adolescents in high crime areas, such as Walnut Park and Dutchtown?
 1. Nahuel: That would be in the direct relief package. We need implementing partners to ensure the right programs are in place.
 2. Jason Purnell: Elevate behavioral health and trauma informed programming for youth and adolescents.
- b. Moving forward with immediate direct relief
 - i. David Dwight: Hearing from the work groups, it sounds like they are operating under a process that Nahual explained earlier- getting direct relief out. Asked if

there were nay concerns with that. No one brought up any concerns, so this is the approach they will be using going forward.

IX. Next steps:

- a. David Dwight: In the charge, it says the group will meet bi-weekly. That would mean the next meeting would be on Saturday, May 15th and the workgroups could meet in between.
 - i. Wally Siewert: Bi-weekly is fine, but would like the meetings moved to the top of the day. He said his committee has voiced this preference. Several others agreed with this.
 - ii. Next meeting will be at 10:00 am on May 15, 2021.
 - b. Nahuel Fefer: There is need for people form the direct relief group, process group, and data group to meet quickly in order to put out a survey as soon as possible.
 - i. Jason Purnell: What is the intersection of the three committees supposed to accomplish?
 1. Nahuel Fefer: Putting out survey will need input from all three committees. Process and Planning can help distribute the survey.
 - ii. Nancy Cross – Data and direct relief groups need to meet quickly to get the survey done. Planning can think about how to get it distributed, but they don't need to be coming up with the survey.
 - iii. Cristina Garmendia: Due to the quick turnaround, Google Forms will likely be the survey tool they use again.
 - c. Nahuel Fefer: Direct relief framework will be used going forward.
 - d. Jared Boyd: Final thanks to members participating. This is an incredible opportunity for the City.
- X. Adjourn (4:49 PM)