

1. Legislative Committee Agenda

Documents:

[APR 14 LEGISLATIVE CMTE AGENDA.PDF](#)

2. March 3 Leg Cmte Mtg Notes Draft

Documents:

[MARCH 3 LEG CMTE MTG NOTES DRAFT.PDF](#)

3. March 7 Leg Cmte Mtg Notes Draft

Documents:

[MARCH 7 LEG CMTE MTG NOTES DRAFT.PDF](#)



CITY OF PORTLAND
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

April 14, 2017

A G E N D A

CALL-IN OPTION

Call number: 866-682-0458

Passcode: 6687535#

1. Welcome
2. Legislative update (*Kate/Alysia*)
3. Impact of governor's proposed budget on social services (*Malory Shaughnessy, Alliance for Addiction and Mental Health Services*)
4. DC update (Jon)
5. Meeting schedule/locations
6. New business



CITY OF PORTLAND
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

March 3, 2017

MEETING NOTES

In attendance:

Portland City Councilors: David Brenerman, Justin Costa, Jill Duson, Belinda Ray

City staff: Jon Jennings (City Manager), Julie Sullivan (Senior Advisor to the City Manager)

School District: Xavier Botana (Superintendent), Alicia Gardner

Lobbyist: Alysia Melnick

Legislative delegation: Ben Chipman, Ben Collings, Dick Farnsworth, Erik Jorgensen, Matt Moonen, Rachel Talbot Ross, Heather Sanborn

Committee Chair Costa opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda: state budget, school-specific impact, any more Portland-specific or delegation-sponsored bills, State House meeting schedule

1. Superintendent Botana has submitted testimony for today's hearing on **the impact of the governor's proposed budget on the school** system. There is a \$2 million cut in expected revenue from the State. It could be status quo EPS; under current valuation and current enrollment that would yield a \$1.3 million reduction. He is expecting a \$1.7 million cut so now needs to make additional cuts in budget. Scarborough getting \$1.5 million hit with a smaller overall budget.
 - a. Costa/Gardner - Title 1 change and student-teacher ratio changes – came out a little ahead on that – teacher ratio up slightly, ed tech tripled – lost less than we gained
 - b. Botana/Farnsworth - Medicaid billing for special ed reduced by 1/3 – may also apply to social service agencies providing services to kids in school and doing the billing themselves - (Medicaid is 2/3 fed and 1/3 state) – seed money from the State taken back
 - c. 1154 – Farnsworth – work session next week
 - d. Talbot Ross wants 2-3 hr walk-through these issues from the superintendent
 - e. Costa/Melnick – hearing on special ed... did increase spec ed weights in the formula but Portland's allocation went down – may be combined with other bills – raise it in terms of our priorities? – Farnsworth may be on the study committee to look at increased costs in special ed
 - f. Costa – please keep us informed – superintendent will present his budget to the School Board Tuesday night
2. Alysia Melnick provided an **update on the governor's budget – safety net** concerns, including SNAP, TANF, GA, Medicaid – some advocating for duplication of last year's budget but that did not have coverage for asylum-seekers
 - a. Jorgenson – no coverage for asylum-seekers and then no GA at all

- b. Chipman – Sorenson yesterday stated that there are enough people in state that are out of work so the state doesn't need new Mainers in the workforce. However, supporting new Mainers is a small investment now until they can get work permits vs what we would have to pay in the future due to workforce shortages. Need to do a better job selling Portland's value as an economic engine and revenue generator for the state, need to show those numbers
 - c. Melnick – business community and religious conservative community are voices well heard... but new Mainers are a good investment and she has all that data to show it. Important to align with other communities having the same issues, like Auburn
 - d. Duson – would like to see what Portland sends in revenue to the state vs what we get back from the state (eg, send \$3, get \$1.50 back)
 - e. Farnsworth – 42% of revenue is from Portland metro area
 - f. Costa – would it be helpful to have social service providers that would lose funding under these budget cuts present to this Committee?
- 3. Melnick – **Civic Center** bill – currently the Civic Center board can make decisions that the county then has to pay. The Cumberland County commissioners put this forward.
- 4. Talbot Ross – can we have speaker phone with call-in number because delegation has an increasing number of 9 am meetings – or move meetings to Augusta
- 5. Melnick – standing Tuesday lunches and third week of the month lunch meetings
- 6. The legislative tracking list needs to be easier to read – e.g., put the LDs at the top of the list.
- 7. Need to ensure the City Council stays informed on legislative issues, perhaps by sending the tracking list and bill testimony
- 8. Why is Portland not involved in the Mayors' Coalition anymore? Mayor Strimling removed the funding from the last budget.
- 9. Portland non-profits and other entities should be involved in bills that impact them.
- 10. Possible "Portland Day" in Augusta?
- 11. Minutes reviewed and accepted
- 12. Next meeting 3/7 – just the Committee
- 13. Next full Legislative Committee and delegation meeting as scheduled on Friday, March 17 at 8 a.m. in room 209.



CITY OF PORTLAND
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

March 7, 2017

MEETING NOTES

In attendance:

Portland City Councilors: David Brenerman, Justin Costa, Jill Duson, Belinda Ray

City staff: Jon Jennings (City Manager), Julie Sullivan (Senior Advisor to the City Manager)

Member of the public: Joey Brunelle

1. DC trip next week
 - a. Weds 3/15, 2:30-4:00, Sen. King, Russell Senate Office Bldg
 - b. Weds 3/15, 4:00-5:00, Sen. King's staff, Hart Office Bldg
 - c. Thurs 3/16, 12-1:30 lunch with Rep. Pingree, 2162 Rayburn House Office Bldg
 - d. Collins either am or pm on 3/16
2. Federal priority issues to address
 - a. Julie Sullivan reviewed the priorities as submitted by department heads, though still need priorities for Transportation and Waterfront
 - b. Councilor Duson said that perhaps we should skip priorities addressed by MMA (both she and Councilor Mavodones will participate in those meetings as well) to use our limited time wisely
3. Process for State House
 - a. Monthly Thursday lunches
 - b. Coordinate with Brenerman, Costa, Duson re testimony
4. Next meeting – with full Committee as scheduled on Friday 3/17