

**Portland Legislative Committee**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**Feb 2, 2018**

*In attendance:*

Chair Pious Ali, Jill Duson, Kim Cook; Mayor Ethan Strimling  
City Manager Jon Jennings, Bernstein Shur lobbyist Alysia Melnick on phone  
Corporation Counsel Danielle West-Chuhta  
Senior Advisor to the City Manager Julie Sullivan

- **Consideration of delegation requests via Rep. Rachel Talbot Ross's email to Chair Ali**
  - Dates requested: 2/13, 3/20, 4/10
    - Jill could do 3/20 and 4/10
    - Kim is already there on Tuesdays at that time
    - Will Bernstein Shur be there?
    - Kim – add Thurs 2/15?
    - Staff – as needed
    - Mayor and Kim want to be looped in when presence needed
    - Mayor – 2/6, Mayor's Coalition, 11:30-1 with delegation. Ethan will be there.
  - Want Mayor to come to Augusta – ok with him, please loop him in, wants to work directly with Bernstein Shur
  - Dedicated page on our web site –ok to add links to state and federal delegation, but not creating a special page where we have to develop content
  - City parking permits – Jill said no. Jon – city trying to limit the number of these anyway. This would be a front-page story in the PPH if any abuse.
  - Meeting agendas jointly developed – aren't really formal agendas for Augusta meetings, perhaps Bernstein Shur does short list; otherwise we will continue with our practice of standard agenda and ability to add items ad hoc.
  - Adding delegation bills to City tracking sheet
    - Kim: Legislator bills should come to committee who will decide whether or not prioritize from there
    - Jill: delegation should go to Bernstein Shur in Augusta (who then loop in staff) if need something asap.
    - Ethan: must keep committee informed as much as possible however that works; let's not be resistant to delegation trying to work more closely with us.
    - Kim: lobbyists aren't emailing committee and should.
    - Danielle: we don't involve the committee in discussions with lobbyists on the fly; lobbyists do a lot of back and forth with staff; we get your direction and then staff and lobbyists work from there.
    - Jill: there is no resistance to working with delegation; they used to appoint a chair to coordinate closely with us and Kate; last year that didn't really happen; we shouldn't create a path around our lobbyists. We have at least one bill this

session that a delegation member submitted that is opposite of the City's position.

- Jon: we already provide an enormous amount of support to the delegation – our staff members talk directly to them and also provide testimony.
- Alysia: City is supportive and responsive even on very short notice, and that has even increased. Clear understanding of communication expectations is needed. I can think of five bills off the top of my head we are working closely with staff on.
- Pious: perhaps process needs to be clear for delegation members; maybe after this short session, we have everybody in the room to discuss what our engagement/relationship will be like, and do so every time there is someone new. Can always be changed by whoever is at the table.
- Jon: propose annual lunch or dinner or whatever would work with delegation and committee – social as well as business, laying out exactly how relationship should work. We are happy to organize if committee wants.
- Jill: I like that. And, establishing legislative agenda for the City for the year should happen before go into session next year, including bills the City would like submitted and then approaching legislative delegation.
- Kim: yes, that's important – early December, well before cloture.
- Jill: City committee should set priorities in the fall

- **Priority bills (Alysia)**

- Yesterday school-based health center and needle exchange bills passed out of committee; had strong bi-partisan support; amendment re not ongoing funding. Ethan: what is fiscal note on SBHCs? \$600k for next two years, will go to special appropriations table. \$75k for needle exchange – might have been one-time funding; not sure, will verify.
- Pilotage bill – still a lot of support to have some threshold re number of trips to qualify someone to either have a different level of service in terms of piloting or be excepted from need to have a pilot; discussions ongoing.
- A lot of what we are tracking has been heard, moving into work sessions.
- GA – “if you build it, they will come” is being repeated; discussions began focusing on a clearer definition of homelessness that might help municipalities provide their own services as a health and safety issue (which they don't see when not winter). Ongoing discussions.
- Outdoor dining (LD 1738) will be added to list today.
- Marijuana – worked with Dion on impact fee, and Rs said no to anything that looks like any type of revenue support for municipalities.
- Education (Jill) – change in the formula impacting school side to \$1-2M down, maybe \$3M? Alysia – nothing we can do at this point. Jon – met with Xavier this week, article in PPH this week was completely inaccurate. Looks like a \$3.2M hit. Ethan – because debt service is applied against the increase; changed from 3-yr valuation average to 2-yr valuation average, which had a significant impact on us. Jill: this is important to Council,

- should be on tracking list and Leg Committee aware and I haven't heard any Education issues this session; should be at least letting delegation know what the pain is for Portland via simple talking points and presentation to them; I have asked for copies of testimony and committee be copied on them. Ethan: loop me in too.
- Jon: any questions about outdoor dining bill? Very important for City; with such an impact on sidewalks, particularly ADA. Looked at what other cities have done, like renting parking spaces and having a protected seating area in parking spaces; what we found is that the issue was liquor can't be served in noncontiguous space. Jill: brought this to committee because MMA leg policy committee debated and decided to support and make a priority. Jill agrees. Seems like a housekeeping issue to address an unforeseen problem, not a lot of (any?) opposition. Jill moves we ratify addition of this to our list; formally authorize support and lobbyists decide if City should attend/provide written testimony at work session. Agreed.
  - Senior tax lien and the excise tax public hearing – MMA, Bangor, other experts, we didn't get out in front and didn't need to.
  - Jill: MMA leg policy committee not meeting any more this session.
  - Alysia: Bernstein Shur continues to participate in mayor's coalition calls.
    - Ethan: meeting of mayor's coalition is 9:30 every other Fridays. Asked for them to shift to 10.
  - Kim: wants order to the tracking spreadsheet, either by LD number or committee (it's done by category); many bills on sheet that we haven't taken a position on; support/oppose/monitor or outcome-only (already there); highlight when there is an update included; the list is too long – separate out monitor-only bills, what is difference between Support and Pass; how is strategy developed, what is the behind-the-scenes on the bill, how best to support or oppose
    - Jill: list was developed from bill titles and thus a bigger tent of things that looked like might impact us; in longer session when things coming up every week, lots of times a member of the delegation would lead discussion with Kate; Pass = top priority for City, actively work on it. Should tighten up the words. Continue sending in Excel so can sort any way committee members want. Way to sort on those with recent action?
    - How get rid of bills on list that we don't care about.
    - See the list of what's printed at start of session for committee to look through.
    - Jon – we go through every single bill as staff and with lobbyists, then bring that to committee to set priorities and discuss support/oppose/monitor, then tracking sheet content created.
    - Jill: I check Leg web site to see what's been printed and then see what staff says. And then the info coming from MMA leg policy committee to see what other towns interested in.
    - Kim: if listed as monitor, would be helpful to say why monitoring... to what end, what our thinking is

- Jill: just watching for outcome, because we may need to comply with the change, etc., and/or what amendments are. In the end, we should have a robust compliance review as to what was passed.
- Julie needs to talk with Kate and Alysia re how best to get hold of all testimony submitted – need to figure out process. Julie will also consult with Jon on this.
  - If submitted at hearing, can find copies online.
  - Could Isabel do this???
- Back to Rachel's email, last item – additional push to councilors to go up to Augusta.
  - Kim – can provide FYI to council as to when committee is going up and if they want to join, they should feel welcome
  - Pious – give dates when Leg Committee will be up in Augusta to weekly update for councilors and remind them welcome to attend (put in the weekly email update with the Bernstein Shur tracking report)
- Jill/Kim: do we really need to meet weekly? Almost done. 60% of bills have to be voted by Feb 10 and 100% by March 10.
- Back to small cell, LD 1629. Kim recused herself and left the room. Kate: bill likely to be killed.
- Pious – what about judge's ruling that asylum-seekers cannot be refused GA? Julie ask Julia, Danielle, Alysia. Feds – take new applicants over old applicants
- Need next week's meeting? Ok to skip next week, meet next on the 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Adjourned