portland children's levy

Community Council Meeting
February 23, 2026

Welcome
- Welcome all!
- Thank Oregon Department of Administrative Services for hosting us
- Name bathroom locations

Meeting outcome

1. For the Community Council to recommend small grants applications for funding to the Allocation Committee

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Meeting Overview

The purpose of today's meeting is for the Community Council to recommend small grants applications for funding to the Allocation Committee.

We will achieve this outcome by spending the first hour reviewing the small grants funding process, the applicant pool, and three policy frameworks Community Council members may use to inform their recommendation-making. The following two hours will be spent on two rounds of reflection, small group work, and large group discussion – the first round on policy frameworks, the second round on consideration of individual applications. The last 30 minutes will be spent on voting and closing.

We are joined today by 11 Community Council members, 9 of whom reviewed and scored all applications. All 11 council members will participate in discussion of the overall applicant pool and policy frameworks. Once we move on to consideration of individual applications, participation will be limited to the 9 council members who reviewed and scored all applications.

To make recommendations, the Community Council will take a vote at the end of the meeting. The nine council members who reviewed and scored the video component of all applications will each get 12 votes. They will receive an electronic ballot listing all 55 small grants applications. Each council member will select 12 applications to recommend for funding. After all nine council members have voted, their votes will be tallied and applications ranked in order of most votes to least votes. The 12 applications that receive the most votes will be recommended to the Allocation Committee for funding.
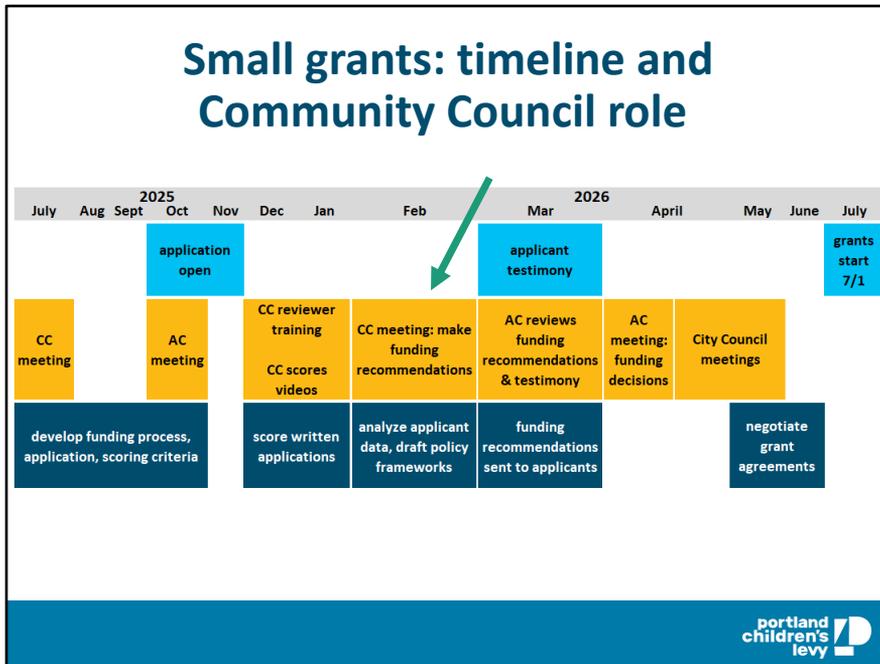
Four other process details to name:
1. If two or more applications tie for 12th place, staff will create a second ballot listing the tied applications and the nine Community Council members will vote again to resolve the tie. If the second vote results in another tie, staff will make the final decision between tied applications after today's meeting, taking into account the Community Council's deliberations.
2. If an applicant later decides to not accept the grant or becomes ineligible due to city requirements staff will pick the 13th application that received the most votes, or will choose amongst the applications that tied for 13th place, to recommend in its place.
3. We won't discuss funding amounts for applications today. There are enough applications that did not select the maximum amount of funding and that scored highly that the probability of the Community Council selecting 12 applications and staying within the $2.5 million allocated to the small grants fund is high, and staff can do any technical adjustments on the back-end as needed.
4. Finally, we want to remind Community Council members, applicants, and community members that the Portland Children's Levy needs to comply with city and federal executive orders and can't give preference to groups with 'protected-class status,' such as race or gender, in this grant-making process.

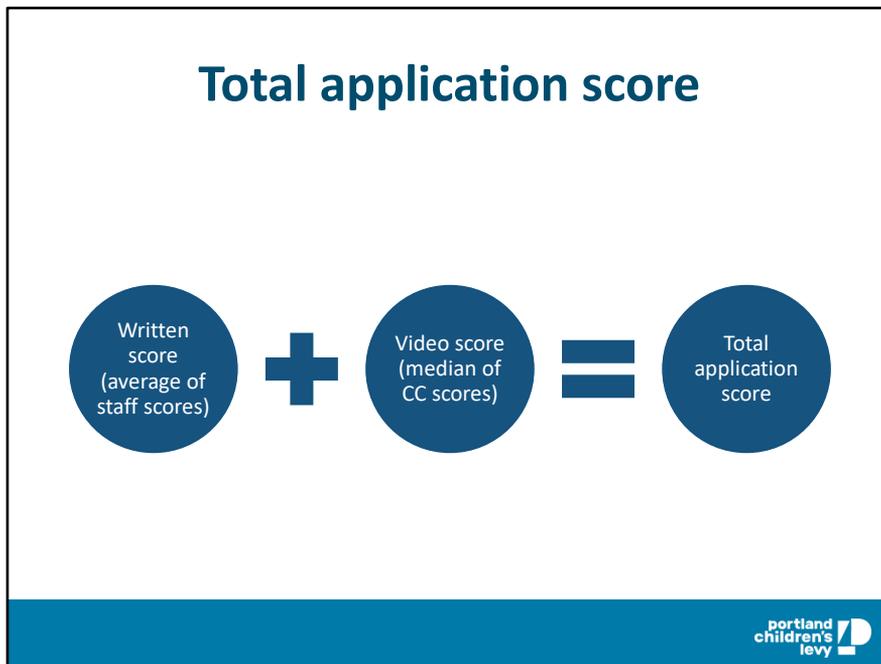Does anyone have any questions about voting or today's meeting process before we move on?

There will be 2 10-min breaks today, the first around 10:25 and the second around 12:15. This is a long and dense meeting. Please stand up, stretch, go to the bathroom, and grab more food or something to drink as you need.

The visual on the slide outlines the small grants funding process. The top light blue bar describes actions that applicants take. The middle orange bar describes actions that the Allocation Committee, Community Council, and City Council take. The bottom dark blue bar describes actions that staff take. And the green arrow highlights where we are.
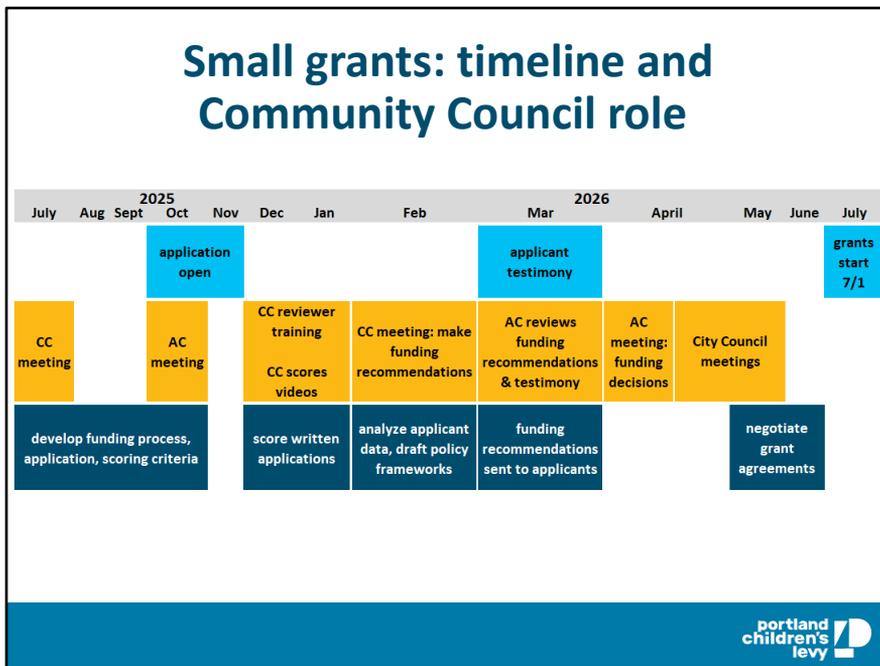
The small grants fund received 55 applications last fall. This past December and January, PCL staff and Community Council members reviewed and scored all applications, which include both a written component and a 5-minute video component.

Three staff scored the application's written component and 9 of 12 Community Council members scored the video component. An application's total score is the sum of the average written score and median video score. It is better to use the median instead of the average when there are outliers in a data set. In staff's experience working with volunteer reviewers there are often outliers present; this method accounts for that.

In preparation for today's meeting staff analyzed applicant data, prepared three different policy frameworks to support Community Council member recommendation-making, and met with small groups of council members last week.

Today's funding recommendations will be sent to the Allocation Committee and applicants by March 3, including staff's work on recommended funding amounts and analysis on the selected pool of applicants, including program areas and funding priorities. Applicants will have 2 weeks to submit written testimony. The Allocation Committee will have 4 weeks to review recommendations and over 2 weeks to review written testimony. The Allocation Committee will meet on April 7 to make funding decisions, after which staff will bring the funding decisions to City Council for final approval or remand in April and May. Under this timeline, staff hopes to begin grant negotiations with small grants recipients in mid-May and June, with grants beginning July 1, 2026.

Total 3-year funding requested

3-year funding available: $2.5 million

$4 requested for every $1 available

Program area	3-year total requested
After School	$4.8 M
Mentoring	$3.2 M
Hunger Relief	$1.5 M
Early Childhood	$480k
Foster Care	$240k
Child Abuse Prev.	$148k
Grand Total	**$10.4 M**

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This slide shows the 6 PCL program areas and the total funding requested by small grants applicants overall and in each program area.

PCL has $2.5 million to grant over 3 years for small grants. This is a slight increase compared to what we had originally planned. In December 2025, the city economist updated PCL's revenue projections, and PCL has $6.5 million more in projected revenue over the next 3 fiscal years. The Allocation Committee voted unanimously to add $1 million to small grants, bringing the total to $2.5 million over three years. They also voted to add $5.7 million to current 3-year large grants, an 8% increase in their current grants.

Small grants applicants requested a total of $10.4 million over 3 years. This is over $4 requested for each $1 available.

Nearly half of all funding requested is for after school programs.

Score results

- Total available points = 76
- Median total score = 54
- Several applications had same total score
  - Example: 5 applications scored 59

Staff covered the scoring process for the written and video components of the application earlier in the meeting. 76 points were available to each application, total.

Applications scored between 39 to 68 points total. The median total score was 54.

Many applications received the same total score. For example, two applications received the same highest total score of 68, another two the score of 63, another two the score of 60, and five the score of 59.

Though the list is in descending score order, please keep in mind that there are multiple ties. You will also need to keep this in mind for some slides we'll share shortly.

Any lists of applications shared today are in descending order by total score, and then by video score.

Funding Requests Across Program Areas

Program area	All applications N= 55	Applications scoring median (54) or higher N= 33
After School	24	17
Mentoring	18	7
Hunger Relief	8	6
Early Childhood	3	2
Foster Care	1	1
Child Abuse Prev.	1	0

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This slide shows both the total number of applications received generally and the number of applications that scored median or higher, by program area.

The small grants fund received 55 applications total. 33 applications scored median or higher. About half of all applications received and that scored median or higher were for after school programs.

Does anyone have any questions about the applicant pool overall before we move on?

Policy frameworks

- 3 policy frameworks, each a mix of 15 applications
- Can fund 12 applications
- All frameworks consider score
- Two frameworks used other policy factors:
  - Program area
  - Funding priorities, including top priorities from community engagement
  - Higher video score than applications of similar total score
  - Differentiation to consider the range of high scoring applications

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At this point in the meeting, staff is going to walk through three policy frameworks to facilitate your recommendation-making process. Each framework has 15 applications that fulfill its specific criteria.

We can fund 12 applications.

In this situation where 33 applications scored at or above the median, and many high-scoring applications received the exact same score, the frameworks are meant to help you surface your reasoning for selecting one application over another – be it by using the policies staff offer, or your own. To be clear, staff are not asking you to select one of the frameworks. Instead, we offer these frameworks in the spirit of supporting your recommendation-making with our analysis and thinking about different combinations of applications and the merits of each.

Across all frameworks, staff prioritized score and score order. Score is important because it reflects both your scoring and staff's. It reflects both the video component and the written component. We provided these two components in response to lessons learned from past grantmaking where applicants wanted another way to share their story beyond a written application.

For the two frameworks that don't solely follow score order, staff used factors such as: PCL program areas, community engagement priorities, video score as a way to lift up community voice where applications had similar characteristics and/or the same total score, and trying to create differentiation amongst high-scoring applications between the 3 frameworks.

Each of the 3 frameworks contains 15 applications for your consideration given that there were several ties, though you will ultimately need to select only 12 applications to recommend for funding.

Why these policy frameworks?

Score order
- Typical approach used by some grantmaking processes

After school-focused
- High demand; high number scoring at/above median
- Few funding sources for after school programming

Balanced by program area/funding priority
- Meet a range of needs and provide a variety of opportunities across age spectrum that PCL serves, including across community engagement priorities

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The three policy frameworks are as follows: score, after school focus, and balance across program areas and funding priorities.

We chose these three for the following reasons:

Score order: using only score is a typical approach in grantmaking and/or funding processes.

After school focus: this program area had the greatest number of applications overall and most applications that scored at/above median. This trend is consistent with historic patterns at PCL, likely because there are minimal other resources for after school programming.

Balance by program area/funding priority: PCL has multiple program areas and funding priorities. As a reminder, funding priorities are the types of services Portlanders prioritized in PCL's community engagement. Staff wanted to offer a framework that meets a range of needs and provides a variety of opportunities across the age spectrum that PCL serves, including across community engagement priorities.

Score order framework

Includes score 59 or higher

- Mix of some program areas and funding priorities, mostly after school and mentoring

- Includes 1 application each for early childhood, foster care, and hunger relief

- No applications included for child abuse prevention and intervention

- 1 application unique to this framework due to the policy approaches of the other 2 frameworks

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The score order framework contains the top 15 highest scoring applications. These applications received a total score of 59 or higher.

Based on this approach, the framework results in applications mostly in the after school and mentoring program areas, and has only 1 application each in the early childhood, foster care, and hunger relief. It has no applications in child abuse prevention/intervention.

It includes one application unique to this framework due to the policy approaches of the other 2 frameworks.

Applications: Score-order framework

- Descending order by total score
- Same number indicates tie in total score
- If tie in total score, descending by video score

Name of applicant, program area abbreviation	
1. The Family Room, FC	9. Project LEDO, AS
1. Kindness Farm, HR	9. Word is Bond, M
3. Active Children Portland, AS	10. Friends of Baseball, AS
4. Center for Black Excellence, AS	10. We Belong PDX, AS
5. African Refugee Immigrant Org., M	10. People of Color Outdoors, AS
5. Somali Empowerment Circle, EC	10. Push Movement, AS
7. En Taiko, AS	10. NE Steam Coalition, AS
8. Wonderfolk, M	

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This slide lists applications in this framework in descending score order. The actual score is not shown on the slide. The numbered order on the slide shows how applications have a tie in total score. For example, 2 applications have the top score.

The capital letter abbreviations after the name of the applicant indicate the program area of the application. For example for the first 2 applications, they are for Foster Care (FC) and Hunger Relief (HR). Other abbreviations are After School (AS), Mentoring (M), Early childhood (EC) and eventually you'll see child abuse prevention/intervention (CAPI).

After school framework

Includes score 55 and higher

- Focus on community engagement's #1 after school priority
  - emphasis on sports/recreation because minimal part of PCL's current after school large grants
- 4 applications unique to this framework
  - addresses a top community engagement priority for youth, or
  - higher video score for applications of similar total score
- Includes 1 hunger relief application, and no applications for early childhood or child abuse prevention/intervention

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The after school framework includes applications that scored 55 or higher. As a reminder, 54 was the median score across all applications.

It focuses on the top community engagement priority in the after school program area. Community engagement prioritized programs that offer arts, sports, recreation, and/or science and technology. This framework focuses on applications that propose sports and recreation activities because those are a minimal part of PCL's current after school large grants.

There are 4 applications unique to this framework and they were included because:
They address top community engagement priorities for youth in after school or mentoring which are after school programs that offer arts, sports, recreation, and STEM and mentoring programs that help youth ages 14- 24 prepare and plan for college and career.
Or they have a higher video score than applications with a similar score addressing the same program area/funding priority

The framework includes 1 hunger relief application and 1 foster care application, but no applications in early childhood or in child abuse prevention/intervention.

Applications: After school framework

- Descending order by total score
- Same number indicates tie in total score
- If tie in total score, descending by video score

Name of applicant, program area abbreviation	
1. The Family Room, FC	8. Friends of Baseball, AS
1. Kindness Farm, HR	8. People of Color Outdoors, AS
3. Active Children Portland, AS	8. Push Movement, AS
4. Center for Black Excellence, AS	11. Love is Stronger GV, M
5. African Refugee Immigrant Org., M	11. Portland Community Football, AS
6. En Taiko, AS	13. Slavic Community Center, AS
7. Project LEDO, AS	14. Girls on the Run, AS
	15. TiE Oregon Foundation, M

This slide lists applications in the after school framework in descending score order. As a reminder, the actual score is not shown on the slide. The numbered order on the slide shows how applications have a tie in total score. For
example, 3 applications tie for the 8th highest score on this list.

Balance framework

All but 1 score above median

- Includes all 6 program areas
- Balance of funding priorities per program area, similar to pool of applications at/above median
- 6 applications unique to this framework:
    - Offer hunger relief programs that directly provide food to people
    - Increase the variety of community engagement priorities addressed in after school and mentoring
    - Select the only CAPI application, which scored below median

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The balance framework prioritizes a balance of applications across program areas and funding priorities.

All but 1 application scored above the median.

It includes an application from all 6 program areas.

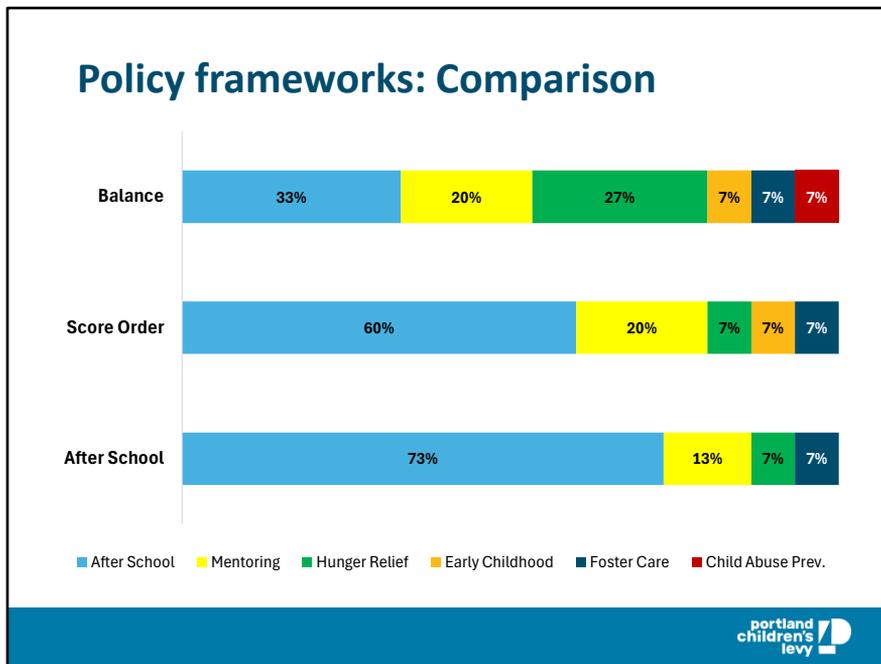There are 6 applications unique to this framework, and they were included because they:
- Offer hunger relief programs that address the top 2 community engagement priorities: community-based food pantries and food delivery, both of which providing food directly to people
- Increase the variety of community engagement priorities addressed in after school and mentoring
- Include the only child abuse prevention/intervention application received, even though it scored below median.

Applications: Balance framework

- Descending order by total score
- Same number indicates tie in total score
- If tie in total score, descending by video score

Name of applicant, program area abbreviation	
1. The Family Room, FC	9. We Belong PDX, AS
1. Kindness Farm, HR	10. Love is Stronger GV, M
3. Active Children Portland, AS	11. Somali Oregon Service Center, HR
4. Center for Black Excellence, AS	12. Milk Crate Kitchen, HR
5. Somali Empowerment Circle, EC	13. 45th Parallel, AS
6. En Taiko, AS	13. Black Futures Farm, HR
7. Wonderfolk, M	14. Community Pulse Association, CAPI
8. Word is Bond, M	

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This slide lists applications in the balance framework in descending score order. As a reminder, the actual score is not shown on the slide. The numbered order on the slide shows how applications have a tie in total score. Compared to the other frameworks, this one has fewer applications with tie scores and used program area and funding priorities to balance between applications.

Policy frameworks: Comparison

	After School	Mentoring	Hunger Relief	Early Childhood	Foster Care	Child Abuse Prev.
Balance	33%	20%	27%	7%	7%	7%
Score Order	60%	20%	7%	7%	7%	
After School	73%	13%	7%		7%	

As a reminder, you are not being asked to chose a framework. We're providing these to you as ways to think about and make selections across the variety of applications, including those with similar scores.

This slide shows a visual of how the frameworks compare by program area. Each framework's 15 applications are represented as a portion of each bar on this slide, according to their program area. For example, the score order and after school frameworks are mostly after school applications. The balance framework has more of a mix across the program areas.

This graph helps you think about tradeoffs as you consider your own decision-making, for example:
Do you want to consider applications at only a certain score and above?
Do you want to emphasize one or some program areas more than others?

Policy frameworks: Comparison

25 unique applications among 3 frameworks

Variable	Score framework	After school framework	Balance framework
Total applications	15	15	15
Lowest score of app in framework	59	55	52
# apps After school	9	10	5
# apps Mentoring	3	3	3
# apps Hunger relief	1	1	4
# apps Early childhood	1	0	1
# apps Foster care	1	1	1
# apps Child abuse prevention & interv.	0	0	1
# Comm. engagement priorities addressed	9	8	12

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This slide shows a table that offers additional comparison between the 3 frameworks.
- Each framework offered 15 applications, and there are 25 unique applications covered between the 3 frameworks.
- The lowest score in the frameworks ranges based on the policy of the framework.
- The number of applications per program area, in each framework, varies based on the policy of the framework.
- The number of community engagement priorities addressed in the framework also varies by the policy of the framework.

You may use one of these frameworks. You may also use your own framework, and choose to emphasize a particular program area, score threshold, or balance of program areas and funding priorities. Big picture, a framework is meant to help you surface your reasoning for selecting one application over another – be it by using the policies staff offer or your own.

Closing

- Thank you to the 6 Community Council members stepping off the council!
- Final info session *this* Thursday 5-6p
- Applications for Community Council due Monday, March 2
- Next meeting TBD by recruitment process
- Evaluation & stipend invoice

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I want to close by recognizing the six Community Council members who are stepping off of the council or whose terms are coming to an end: LaNae stepped off last September and today is the last meeting for Alix, Amarachi, Cathie, Jami, and Lisa. As inaugural members of the Community Council, they laid the foundation for ongoing community input into Portland Children's Levy policies and processes. Thank you for advising staff on complex policy and process questions of how to make our grantmaking as accessible, responsive, and equitable as possible.

On that note, we are recruiting 8 community members for the Community Council – 6 to fill vacating seats and 2 to serve as alternates. We have received 18 applications thus far. I'm hosting a final information session this Thursday from 5-6p - registration is on PCL's website. The closing date for the position is Monday, March 2nd. If you're interested in applying and have questions, or if you know somebody who might be interested, please reach out to me at katrina.peterson@portlandoregon.gov. You can also find my email on PCL's website.

We hope to reconvene the Community Council sometime this summer, so long as there aren't any unexpected hurdles in the recruitment and appointment process. If this is your last meeting, I will be in touch to conduct an offboarding interview in April.

Before you leave
Meeting Evaluation
Stipend invoice (in person or in email)
Make sure to give Katrina both the evaluation and stipend invoice before you depart

Thank you all for your time today!