

Gustavo J. Cruz, Jr.
Chair

Marcelino Alvarez
Commissioner

Felisa Hagins
Commissioner

Michi Slick
Commissioner

**Serena Stoudamire
Wesley**
Commissioner

Keith Wilson
Mayor

Shea Flaherty Betin
Interim Executive
Director

This document represents the official meeting record of the June 6, 2025, Prosper Portland Board of Commissioners (Board) meeting held in person and via Zoom. The full video recording of this meeting can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x53aUU08wg4&t=4252s>

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Gustavo Cruz called the Board meeting to order at approximately 10:04 a.m. Pam Feigenbutz, Board recording secretary, called the roll:

Chair Gustavo Cruz	PRESENT
Commissioner Marcelino Alvarez	PRESENT
Commissioner Felisa Hagins	PRESENT
Commissioner Michi Slick	PRESENT
Commissioner Serena Stoudamire Wesley	PRESENT*

Chair Cruz read the following statement: “As required by State law, Prosper Portland has provided an opportunity for the public to access and attend this meeting in person; there is also a YouTube live stream video of the meeting, and the public has had the opportunity to arrange in advance to provide virtual testimony. At this time, the public may provide written testimony to the Commission by emailing ProsperCommissioners@ProsperPortland.us.”

*Commissioner Stoudamire arrived at the meeting at 10:06am.

2. Public Comment for Items Not on Agenda

None provided.

At approximately, 10:07 a.m., Chair Cruz adjourned the Board meeting and convened the Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

3. The Executive Session is Held in Accordance with the Oregon Revised Statutes 192.660(2)(a): to consider the employment of a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent.

At approximately, 10:21 a.m., Chair Cruz adjourned the Executive Session and convened the Board meeting.

4. Action Item: Resolution 7607 - Resolution of Commendation and Appreciation of Shea Flaherty Betin for Distinguished Service and Outstanding Dedication to Prosper Portland and the City of Portland

Prosper Portland staff presenting this item:

Lisa Abuaf, Interim Deputy Director

Chabre Vickers, Director of Equity, Policy and Communications

Chair Cruz called for invited testimony.

Kimberly Branam and Carmen Rubio shared remarks, seen in Attachment 1.

Tory Campbell, Stephen Green, and Ernesto Fonseca shared appreciation and support for Interim Executive Director (IED) Shea Flaherty Betin's management, empathy, brilliance, ability to navigate difficult conversations, and continually show up for community.

Donnie Oliveira shared his appreciation for IED Flaherty Betin's partnership and steady hand, noting that he will leave a legacy of humanity by the way he led from heart.

Chair Cruz called for public testimony.

Aldo Medina Martinez praised IED Flaherty Betin for his leadership.

Lisa Abuaf shared her appreciation for IED Flaherty Betin's leadership and compassion and noted that his departure was a loss both for the agency and economic development work.

Chabre Vickers, Tony Barnes, Andrew Fitzpatrick, and Hope Whitney shared appreciation for IED Flaherty Betin's authenticity, commitment to staff, and willingness to lead by example.

Chair Cruz invited Commissioner testimony.

Commissioners Stoudamire Wesley, Slick, Alvarez, and Hagins each thanked IED Flaherty Betin for his sacrifice, his kindness, empathy, and deftness.

Chair Cruz thanked IED Flaherty Betin for stepping into a challenging role that turned into a far more challenging role than expected. Chair Cruz noted that he never wavered in his commitment and desire to serve the community, the agency, and all Portlanders.

Hear complete comments at [\(FULL VIDEO\) Prosper Portland Board of Commissioners Meeting 06/06/25](#) and see Attachment 1 for additional written testimony.

Chair Cruz called for a motion to approve Resolution No. 7607. Commissioner Alvarez moved, and Commissioner Stoudamire Wesley seconded the motion.

AYES: Alvarez, Cruz, Hagins, Slick, and Stoudamire Wesley

NAYS: None

5. Action Item: Resolution 7608 - Action Item: Appointing Lisa Abuaf to Serve as Prosper Portland Interim Executive Director

Prosper Portland staff presenting this item:

Hope Whitney, General Counsel

With the action, the Board appointed Lisa Abuaf to serve as the Interim Executive Director of Prosper Portland.

Chair Cruz called for a motion to approve Resolution No. 7608. Commissioner Hagins moved, and Commissioner Slick seconded the motion.

AYES: Alvarez, Cruz, Hagins, Slick, and Stoudamire Wesley

NAYS: None

6. Adjourn

There being no further business, Chair Cruz adjourned the Board meeting at approximately 11:18 a.m.

Approved by the Prosper Portland Commission on June 18, 2025



Pam Feigenbutz, Recording Secretary

Good morning Chair Cruz and Commissioners –

I'm really grateful to be with you this morning to be able sharing my appreciation to Shea for his leadership and partnership at Prosper Portland and for his lasting contributions to our community.

I don't think it will come as a surprise to anyone to hear that Shea is an absolutely ideal colleague. In my five years working with Shea at Prosper, I had the opportunity to see firsthand that:

- He's not only smart and hardworking, he's also collaborative, trustworthy, and flexible
- He enters the work with curiosity, embraces innovation, and is generous in sharing what he knows and lending a hand– (Teams! All!)
- He creates healthy teams and work environments because he's communicative, empathetic, honest, inclusive, listens deeply, and celebrates everyone's contributions.
- And he leans in and helps keeps things in perspective with his unflappable love for community and commitment to making a difference.

Over the five years we worked together, Shea displayed all of these characteristics while playing an instrumental role in so many initiatives and projects that have shaped – and will continue to benefit - people, communities and business across our city.

Shea came in with focus on IBRN, WF, NPIs – quickly shifted during pandemic:

- Small Business Relief Fund, CARES Act Resources
- PDX Small Biz Hub and TA
- Expanding events and activations
- While Advancing Cully TIF districts
- Retention work Biz advancement team
- Stood up the structure and teams to launch office of film and events
- Stood up the structure and teams to launch office of small business as part of delivering on Advance Portland

Those were intense years – and that level of intensity takes a toll on your loved ones and requires a lot of sacrifice.

So, it was not a small thing when Shea agreed to step into the interim ED role during this period of transition for the agency and the enormous transformation of our city government and governance structures.

It was brave, it was selfless, and it showed his dedication to the people and mission of the agency.

Shea, we are all better – the community is better – and Portland is better – for having the privilege of working with you.

As a Portlander and a friend, I am forever grateful for your service. I can't wait to see what you do next.
Thank you

Kimberly Branam

Good Morning Chair Cruz and Commissioners,

My name is Carmen Caballero Rubio, and I'm honored to be here this morning to share my appreciation for my former colleague and friend, Shea Flaherty Betin, and his contributions to Portland.

I first got to know Shea when I was a nonprofit director and he was at Hacienda- then again when I served on Portland City Council.

When Shea assumed the role of Economic Development Director, What he brought to the table was exactly what Portland needed: steady leadership, values-driven decision-making, and an unwavering commitment to equity and shared prosperity.

He led with humility and strength.

He listened—to staff, to partners, to business owners, to communities of color—and turned that listening into action.

Under his leadership, Prosper Portland deepened its support for small businesses, expanded pathways to economic opportunity, and kept equity at the center of its mission.

Shea also stepped into the role of Interim Director during a time of transition—not only for Prosper Portland, but for our city.

And it wasn't an easy time- we were on a long road of economic recovery from one of the most consequential set of years in Portland's history.

I would be remiss to not acknowledge how Shea also made history as the first Latinx/e to helm our city's economic development agency both as an Ec Dev Director and Interim Agency Director—these are milestones that resonate profoundly for those of us striving for true representation in this City.

And while Shea never seeks the spotlight— make no mistake, his fingerprints are all over some of the most meaningful work happening in our city today...

-From stabilizing businesses during our city's most challenging economic times,
- to strengthening community partnerships,
- to ensuring that Prosper's resources reached those who've historically been left out—Shea led with heart and impact.

For me, Shea's time here will be one characterized by integrity. He stood firm in advocating for equitable economic development, even when it meant challenging political norms - and reminding us all of the complexities faced by those who dare to lead with conviction.

For those inside and outside government—he has been a trusted collaborator, a advocate for inclusive growth, and a fierce believer in Portland.

...and given my direct experience working with Shea for a number of years, I will be blunt in saying that I am deeply saddened by his departure - its a tremendous loss for Portland. But I will take solace in knowing that his legacy of contributions have permanently changed the way this city supports equitable economic development.

So On behalf of so many of us who've worked alongside you I say thank you—not just for the roles you played, Shea, but for how you played them. With clarity, with smarts, with courage, and always in service to the people and communities of Portland.

You leave Prosper Portland—and the CITY of Portland —stronger than you found it.

I wish you all the best in your journey ahead - and I can't wait to see what you do next.

Thank you. Submitted by Carmen Rubio

From: [SaeLee.Chan](#)
To: [Prosper-SM Commissioners](#)
Subject: Thank You Shea
Date: Friday, June 6, 2025 11:12:53 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-mciosox5.png](#)
[Outlook-ccddb4yq.png](#)
[Outlook-iyjah1sn.png](#)
[Outlook-di0xo0ku.png](#)
[Outlook-tp3uiwtd.png](#)
[Outlook-3fegzo1u.png](#)

Not all heroes wear capes. Some have claws. Thank you, Shea, for being an extraordinary leader.





From: [Ballo, Kiana](#)
To: [Prosper-SM Commissioners](#)
Subject: Thank you, Shea, we will miss you </3
Date: Friday, June 6, 2025 8:32:52 AM

Shea,

It has been an honor to work with you and get to know you. Even though we all will sorely miss you at Prosper Portland, your unwavering dedication to our work will have a lasting impact.

You exemplify leadership with integrity and heart. You are exactly the kind of leader that I aspire to be one day.

I can't wait to see what you do next, and I have my fingers crossed that we will get to work together again soon.

All the best,
Kiana



Kiana Ballo

Central City Project Coordinator II

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From: [Gall, Andrea](#)
To: [Prosper-SM Commissioners](#)
Subject: Written Testimony for Board Meeting on 6/6
Date: Friday, June 6, 2025 8:26:14 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hello Prosper Portland Board of Commissioners,

I'm writing as a staff member at Prosper Portland, to share what an immense impact Shea Flaherty Betin has had on our organization. He is a compassionate, effective leader. His strategic thinking has guided programs within the Economic Development department, and more broadly since taking on the role of Interim Executive Director. He is kind, smart, passionate about Portland, and intentional in his decision-making. In short, he's exactly the kind of leader you hope for.

While his departure is a huge loss to the City and to the agency, the relationships he's built and the work he's guided during his time here will have lasting impact.

I am grateful for Shea Flaherty Betin as a leader and as a person.



Andrea Gall

(Pronouns: She/Her)

Project Manager – Inclusive Economic Development
Business Advancement Team

PDC is now **PROSPER PORTLAND**

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From: [Cohn, Courtney](#)
To: [Prosper-SM Commissioners](#)
Subject: Written Testimony Item 4
Date: Friday, June 6, 2025 9:49:04 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-1ipxpf1f.png](#)
[Outlook-k3limvmd.png](#)
[Outlook-trnhlow4s.png](#)
[Outlook-5ofd4c1i.png](#)
[Outlook-5bam5ywa.png](#)
[Outlook-12lcznpf.png](#)

Prosper Portland Board of Commissioners,

I am writing to thank Shea Flaherty Betin for his work at Prosper Portland. I was lucky enough to work with Shea through his entire tenure at Prosper Portland. He and I tracked economic development budgets and spending agency-wide. Shea is an inspiration, always standing up for what's right, even if it's unpopular, and speaking out for those whose voices may not carry as much weight. It goes without saying that he will be deeply missed.

Thank you so much, Shea, for all that you have done at Prosper Portland. This is not only a huge loss to Prosper Portland, but it's a loss for the city of Portland, as well.

Sincerely,



Courtney Cohn

Principal Budget Analyst

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