

West Linn Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting

WebEx Virtual Meeting
June 16, 2022 6-7:30pm

Attendance **Board:** Terence Shumaker, Kim Bria, Victoria Meier, Gregory Smith, Debbie Wong,
Council Liaison: Mary Baumgardner
Staff Liaison: Jerry Gabrielatos
Guests: Nina Carlson, NW Natural

Mission [From the Charter \(Mission\):](#) The Sustainability Advisory Board is committed to collaborating with government and residents to improve the quality of life in West Linn by advancing stewardship of our environmental, social, and economic resources that is equitable for all present and future generations.

Agenda Topic 2 – Review / Approve May Meeting Notes

Summary Approved May 2022 Meeting Notes

Discussion None

Agenda Topic 3 – Public Comment

- None

Agenda Topic 4 – Check-ins / Updates

- Kim Bria:
- Michael Carlson:
- Charity Hudnut
- Victoria Meier: Nothing to share
- Terence Shumaker: Plans to step down as co-chair effective tonight but will continue attending meetings as a board member through the end of his term in December, 2022. He is likely to continue attending meetings as a guest after that.
- Gregory Smith: Talked about Neighborhood Resilience Teams at meeting of West Linn Summit a week ago. Got an e-mail from woman in Wilsonville who listened to record Ed Series presentation, requested copy of PowerPoint, and is planning to start a similar process in her neighborhood.
- Debbie Wong: Friends of Trees involves a partnership with cities and there is a required budget commitment from municipalities which varies depending on goals of city (short term and long term), # trees, and services needed. An example of some budget commitments from municipalities of similar size range from 25-50K but amounts can be highly variable depending on the factors mentioned. They provide a comprehensive urban forest program including one annual plantings in rainy season (Oct-April), provide all the logistics including obtaining the trees which are agreed upon by the city and are native, drought resistant, and do not destroy infrastructure, they have professional arborists who are involved in recommendations, do the plantings through a network of volunteers that they organize, do community outreach along with city, involved in maintenance of trees including pruning through again volunteers that they train. They visit newly planted trees twice during their first summers to see how they're doing. They send reminders to citizens to water, mulch, etc. They give workshops on tree care, etc. Friends of Trees have a survival rate for their trees planted of 97% the first year and 80% at 3 years. Those numbers can be improved on by community

education and actions. It is too late in the season for Friends of Trees to implement a program this year but can be considered for the following.

- Mary Baumgardner: Nothing to share.
- Jerry Gabrielatos: Presentation by Northwest Natural Gas will take the place of Agenda topic 6, tree code discussion.

Agenda Topic 5 – Old Time Fair

Summary	The SAB will occupy a booth on Saturday June 16 to provide information, distribute brochures and invite e-bike vendors to display their products.
Discussion	Board members asked to share ideas about materials to be information to include in booth by next Monday. Individuals will then be responsible for collecting brochures from appropriate agencies or printing up materials at city expense. There will be one parking permit available for the event. Agreed that it should go to person from electric bike company if this can be arranged. Otherwise, it will be given to board member who brings canopy, tables, etc. Fair will open at 11 a.m. and go until the evening. The people who volunteer to help out can work out schedule. Terry will be able to be there in the morning, Greg in the late-afternoon-early evening to help with set-up and take-down. Mary will see whether she is able to locate the canopy used last year. Jerry said that if this can't be found, the city should be able to provide a canopy. The city can also supply tables. A sign was used last year that should still be available. No one, however, volunteered to find this. Brochures could include materials from Backyard Birds, the county's recycling program, soil conservation, water conservation, community gardens, reducing carbon emissions, mapping your neighborhood, neighborhood resilience teams. Greg suggested potentially having a computer available to people could determine their carbon footprint using a program on Nature Conservancy website.

Agenda Topic 6 – Northwest Natural Low Carbon Presentation

Summary	This was an information-gathering presentation.
Discussion	Presentation about Northwest Natural's "Low Carbon Initiative and Climate Policy" by Nina Carlson. This initiative aims to replace natural gas with Renewable Natural Gas (methane) produced from digesters in dumps, water treatment facilities, and feed lots among other sites, encourage more energy efficiency on the part of users, and inject hydrogen produced through electrolysis during periods of high solar and wind productivity into natural gas. Creating a market for RNG will potentially capture methane that is otherwise being released into the atmosphere in an uncontrolled manner and interject it into the energy system. Brief discussion followed the presentation.

Agenda Topic 7 – Compostables in Yard Debris Bins

Summary	This topic should be presented to city council in order to adopt the comingling of compostables with yard debris.
Discussion	Jerry spoke with Jason of Waste Connection and learned that estimated cost of including food waste with yard debris would be an additional \$4.00 a month. Conversation that followed pointed to the need to have more information before presenting any of this to citizens. Questions that need to be answered: (1) What is the best process for turning food waste into compost and methane? (2) What are the most effective systems for collecting food waste? (3) How do new state regulations regarding restaurants and food waste play into this discussion? (4) What is an appropriate fee for this service given what we see

happening in other municipalities? Debbie (contact Amanda in LO), Terry (speak with METRO), Kim (contact Alex) will do some research and get back to the SAB at a later meeting.

Agenda Topic 8 – Education Series Seminars for Remainder of Year

Summary No topic scheduled yet for November 2022

Discussion Mike will be taking charge of the October presentation. Terry suggests approaching Charity about arranging to have a collection of students involved in her Green Teams answer a set of questions about what they know about climate change and strategies they would adopt for dealing with it. Terry believes that this would increase the number of people who participate in education series events (by attracting the students' parents) and provide an important venue for youth voice. Greg mentions the importance of involving older students less likely to be affected by climate anxiety.

Agenda Topic 9 – Staff Liaison Update/SAB Co-Chair Election

Summary No staff liaison update. Members voted on new co-chair.

Discussion Terry asked whether the board is willing to continue with the co-chair arrangement. Members are. He then said that Greg is willing to be nominated for this role and asked for a vote. Members of the SAB in attendance voted in favor of doing so.

Agenda Topic 10 – Action Items Review for SAB Members

Summary

Discussion Review of tasks assigned to SAB members

Meeting Adjourned at 7:17pm