

Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting
September 22, 2023

Meeting called to order at 6:04

In attendance: Mike Carlson, Greg Smith, Victoria Meier, Dan Reesor, Kate Jaspers, Charity Hudnut, Dylan Digby. Christopher Lapp from the Soil and Water Conservation District was present during the first part of the meeting. No public citizens were in attendance. Absent: Ranjini Kausick (was ill) and City Councilor Lou Groner.

1. Minutes for July meeting. No comments or corrections. Victoria moves to approve. Dan seconds. All vote to approve.
2. Member check-ins.
 - Mike – Just back from travel.
 - Greg – Camping on John Day River, Cottonwood Canyon. Beaming in from Condon.
 - Victoria – Had a nice canoe trip down Green River in Utah.
 - Dan – Nothing new to report. Brother and he will do a trip to Zion National Park in October.
 - Kate – Big changes now that all three kids are in school. Got to go for a hike with just adults.
 - Dylan – Dylan is solo parenting with children while wife is away on family emergency.
 - Charity – Recovering from covid again. Been home isolating with what seemed like a head cold.
3. Chris Lapp from Soil and Water Conservation District. Shares shift in direction of district. Came on during the first months of pandemic. Operation is now located in new facility. Building project has been a strain on budget—that plus buying 350 acres near Estacada to establish a community center. Beginning to come out of this, so district has more dollars to contribute to community projects.

Chris then discusses Strategic Plan for 2023-2026. First goal is to provide assistance with invasive weed management and habitat diversity. West Linn is one of their partners in efforts to control noxious and invasive weeds. They also do workshops to inform citizens about controlling weeds. Only has a staff of 17 which limits the amount outreach. They are trying to determine how best to use tax-based dollars to become a resource for others in encouraging the adoption of sustainable practices.

The district is actively working with West Linn to control invasives right now primarily as a referral/resource center. Staff there can help locate loans or grants to complete this work. They want to develop a landscape level plan rather than disparate projects. One thing they are trying to encourage is more rainwater harvesting. Chris will send the plan to Mike for our review.

Mike asks about work with WL Parks Department. How are they engaging? Chris indicates that the district has been coming with contract crews to remove knotweed. Mike then asks whether the district could do an evaluation of greenspaces. Chris says that if there is a need they district would be interested in seeing what the details of this would be. They city could potentially tap dollars from Inflation Reduction Act especially oak for work in savannahs.

Greg asks whether there would be funds to support long- rather than short-term efforts to control invasive species like blackberry, English ivy, and canary reed grass. Chris offers that the district could potentially help develop a treatment plan and guidance for volunteers. He emphasizes the importance of introducing native shade trees shrubs, the one best way to suppress these invasives. The US Forest Service has just released an RFP to support the planting of shade trees in urban areas. There is money out there, you just need to know how to situate yourself in accessing these funds. District could help direct us.

Charity asks about rain harvesting. Chris says there is as yet no full-blown program. He has, however, worked with some rural landowners. The district also attempted to do a rainwater harvesting project in LO but ran into resistance from planning department. A group like the SAB could potentially help avoid conflicts like this. Charity mentions seeing seen one school where rainwater was used to flush toilets. She would like to encourage more of this kind of work.

Kate asks whether Chris has examples of other partnerships from the region we could learn from. Chris mentions the Be Wise program working and the districts collaboration around water conservations primarily Parks and Recreation staff in Canby, Lake Oswego, and Oregon City. with Candy, LO, OC. He suggests talking with program managers Could talk with program managers. Much of it is working with Parks and Recreation and Maintenance staff to see how they are working with district.

Mike thanks Chris for participating in meeting.

4. Mike asks Dylan to update us on the status of tree code revisions, sustainability consultants, funding for EV charging stations. Dylan says that the revision of the tree code is on planning docket. It is, however, listed as a large project and is not a high priority. Action depends on the Planning Commission and Council getting together to talk about this.

With regard to the consultant, now action has yet been taken. The City Manager is planning to speak with Kim Bria about one of the staff at the Good Company who could potentially serve in this role.

Charging stations. ODOT is currently only accepting applications from rural and low income communities for the federal pass-through dollars. Public Works Staff waiting for

the next RFP announcement from O-DOT. They will also pursue grants from PGE that available in February. Greg mentions other possible grants he received from O-DOT. He will pass them on to Dylan who will give them to Public Works staff. Greg is still trying to trying to find whether if the city will qualify for 2025 dollars from the Infrastructure Act even though 2024 is the year during which I-205 is the focus.

Dylan goes on to say that there is talk about hiring a grant writer. At present, no staff person is assigned to do this. Victoria asks about who is talking about this. Dylan says that the issue came up in budget meeting and that the City Council and City Manager are talking about this.

Dylan indicates that it would also be helpful for the city to have our input about where EV charging stations could be located around West Linn. At one of our next meetings, we should potentially identify four or five places around the city would be competitive in the grant process. City staff would like to have something ready when grants become available.

5. Proposing resolution about replacing fossil-fuel dependent appliances, furnaces, appliances, and vehicles with those powered by electricity as these need to be replaced. Mike will take the lead on this, assisted by Dan, Greg, and Victoria. They will bring a draft resolution to the next SAB meeting and then once finalized presented to the City Council.

6. Dylan reports on the Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities Program. This program is in response to the fact that Oregon and West Linn are nowhere near meeting carbon reduction goals. The program has four elements: (1) the elimination of parking requirements for new developments within a half mile of public transportation; construction of more EV charging stations; amendment of city codes to require the inclusion of EV charging conduits in parking lots of new multi-family housing developments; (2) the construction of more EV-charging stations throughout the city; (3) changing city codes to require the inclusion of conduits for EV-charging stations in parking lots for multi-family housing developments; (4) the creation of town centers where people can meet most of their needs without using a car. The city is currently focusing on parking. They are hoping to hire a consultant to oversee the implement these new rules. Mike asks about the elimination of the METRO 154 bus route and what this would mean for the parking rules. Dylan wasn't aware that this might be in the works. Victoria suggests that if in response to this possibility the city were to create a shuttle service like the one now in use in Canby, it would make sense to use an electric vehicle for this purpose. The issue of charging stations was mentioned earlier. City staff and the City Council will deal with code changes. With regard to towns, the Bolton and Willamette areas are the two currently being considered. Kate asks about why the area around the City Hall is not being considered. Greg asks about the absence of a walkable grocery store in Willamette. He and Victoria wonder about whether there are any incentives the city might offer, such as reduced taxes, in an effort to attract businesses needed to fulfill

the vision of town centers. He and Victoria will speak with John Williams about this possibility.

7. Community outreach via the Farmer's Market, Old Time Fair, and Earth Day event at the Ale and Cider House. Although the monthly booth at the Farmers' Market was useful in alerting the public to the fact that the SAB exists, it was felt that this effort was not worth repeating given the small number of people who stopped by to learn more about our work. The one thing that did draw people in was the offer of free seeds. The booth at the Old Time Fair and the collection of presenters for Earth Day, however, did attract more interest and meaningful conversations and should be repeated.
8. Greg describes the possibility of co-hosting an event with the Lake Oswego Sustainability Network at a site close to the border of both cities. He had spoken with Lisa Adatto of the LOSN about creating a presentation about the challenges of electrification (expanding the grid and developing the workforce to do so) and holding it at Robinwood Station sometime in the next six months. SAB encourages Greg to continue talking with Lisa about what this might look like. Greg reminds people about Electric Home and Vehicle Fair at the Methodist Church on Southshore Blvd. on Saturday to see how they organize things.
9. New business. (1) Greg mentions Victoria's request that we meet more often in person, acknowledging that we had agreed to meet face-to-face at least once a quarter. He proposes that we hold our November meeting at the Adult Community Center. During that time we will develop our recommendations for 2024 and discuss the possibility of more frequent in-person meetings going into the future. (2) Dylan says that in addition to identifying locations for EV charging stations, the City Council would also like us to explore the possibility of finding ways to regulate or eliminate the use of gas-powered leaf blowers in the city. (3) Charity reports on meeting with the WLWV School District superintendent about implementing a no-idling policy at area schools. He supports a school-by-school effort but emphasizes that no permanent signs can be put up to remind drivers. Charity is starting out at Rosemont Ridge Middle School. The PTO there will need to develop a different process for dropping off students. Kate and Dan are interested in this initiative with regard to Trillium and the new Athey Creek Middle School. Charity will send this information to the entire SAB. (4) Dylan encourages the SAB to get on the agenda of the Planning Commission with regard to our concerns about revising the tree code.
10. Action item recap.
 - Mike will begin to develop language for resolutions about appliance, vehicle, and tool replacements that are powered with electricity rather than fossil fuels.
 - Greg will coordinate with Lisa Adatto about a jointly planned event (SAB and Lake Oswego Sustainability Network) about challenges to electrification to be potentially held at Robinwood Station.

- All of us should be brainstorming possible locations for EV charging stations in West Linn so we can make some recommendations for the city as they pursue potential grants.
- Greg and Victoria will speak with John Williams about possible tax incentives to encourage grocery stores to locate in neighborhoods slated to be named town centers as part of the Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities initiative.
- Investigate what other cities have done to reduce or eliminate the use of gas-powered blowers in preparation for next meeting.
- Greg will check with Kathy Mollusky to learn whether it is possible to renew membership on SAB after a term ends.
 - Greg will forward to Dylan list of potential grant sources for EV charging stations.
 - Greg will reserve a room at the Adult Community Center for our November meeting.

11. Final comments.

- Charity encourages people to attend the opening of the art exhibit at the library scheduled from 3-5 pm on Saturday, October 14.
- Dylan says that the work of local artists is now being displayed in City Council chambers, as well.

Meeting adjourns at 7:34.