

Sustainability Advisory Board
February 15, 2024
WebEx

In attendance: Mike Carlson, Greg Smith, Victoria Meier, Dan Reesor, Kate Jaspers, Dylan Digby (staff liaison), Lou Groner (City Council liaison)

Mike Carlson calls the meeting to order at 6:03.

1. No members of the general public available to make comment.
2. Minutes from the January 2024 meeting approved unanimously.
3. Member check-in.

Mike – Pleased that City Council did not approve sale of property in the Cedaroak neighborhood in an effort to safeguard a stream that empties into the Willamette. Notes that Clackamas County has published their final draft of their Climate Action Plan.

Dan - Encouraged by City Council work meeting. He has been continuing to research issues discussed at that meeting about dealing with gas-powered leaf blowers and EV charging stations. Plans to get in touch with people at Quiet/CleanPDX, a local organization that has been taking the lead on the leaf blower issue.

Victoria - Proud of our group at meeting with City Council. Feels motivated. She and her husband were recently at Government Camp and were pleased to see two feet of snow given that current snowpack is only 29% of the average annual amount.

Kate – Nothing particular to report.

Greg – Shared information about planning for Earth Day event on April 27, 2-5, at the Ale and Cider House. Six small local merchants whose businesses address sustainability issues in some way and a half dozen local nonprofits have committed to participating. He asks SAB members to share names of other groups they feel might be interested in participating.

Dylan – Will share items during the meeting. Felt work session with City Council went well.

Lou – Indicated that SAB-City Council work meeting met Council expectations.

After individual check-ins, Victoria raises an issue Carol Bryck shared as we were leaving the work session about having a similar meeting twice a year. Lou said there would be openness to having two meetings if there's a reason for doing so. Otherwise, meeting once year is something we should plan on.

The remainder of tonight's meeting focused on a follow-up discussion following the work session and next steps.

4. Resolution regarding replacing fossil fuel-powered appliances, furnaces, and equipment is out of our hands at this point. Dylan will make sure it gets on the City Council agenda for March.
5. Baseline data regarding the city's fossil fuel use. Lou asks whether data sets from which Mike's summaries were derived were sent to Council. They are available, but because they are so extensive, they weren't forwarded. Mike says that he will be happy to answer questions about data analysis moving forward. He also mentions his investigation of city-owned properties where solar power is currently being produced as well as the possibility of

incorporating solar panels into the design of the new recreation center when and if it is constructed. Mike also suggests that we might meet with a representative from PGE again to assess the amount of green power the city is currently purchasing and consider applying whatever this is to West Linn's emission reduction targets. About 85% of the electricity the city is currently purchasing is produced from renewable sources (water, solar, wind). This will increase to 100% by 2030. Dylan mentions the city's participation in the construction of a solar facility in Gillam County and the value of finding out how much this investment is helping the city meet its climate goals.

6. The hiring of a sustainability consultant. Dylan says that he has not been able to locate a specific dollar amount dedicated to this hire, but he mentions again the need to have two other possible names of appropriate consulting agencies beyond Parametrix/The Good Company in order to pursue this option. Greg will consult with Kim Bria again about collecting this information. We also discuss the possibility of approaching the newly hired economic consultant / management analyst about the possibility also pursuing grants that address sustainability issues. Dylan suggested waiting for a couple of months before doing this to let this person get her feet on the ground. If we are able to hire a short-term sustainability consultant, that person could conceivably work in conjunction with the economic consultant on grant writing.
7. Revision of tree code. This discussion focuses on finding ways to revise the tree code without triggering the need to engage in a revision of Goal 5 requirements. Dan agrees to dig more deeply into this question from a legal standpoint. Greg agrees to get in touch with both the new natural resource staff person and the planning director in Milwaukie to see if they might be able to give us guidance. We also need to determine the process West Linn would need to go through to advance this kind of revision of the CDC. Victoria mentions the issue Mary raised during our work session about people's concerns about trees falling on their homes during increasingly frequent weather events. Incorporating language about emergency exceptions will need to be a part of whatever we propose. Lou asks about whether the city's current arborist is retiring. Dylan says that this is the case, but the position will be refilled given the frequency with which questions about trees comes up in the planning and development process.
8. Climate resilience hubs. This is something the new economic development consultant could conceivably explore. Oregon SB 2990 aims to provide funding for these resilience hubs. Greg mentions the value of bringing a diverse group of people together to consider the possibility of creating hubs throughout the city including schools, churches, fire stations, and city buildings. Dylan suggests approaching Doug Erickson about the possibility of making this the focus of an expanded West Linn Summit meeting. He also suggests that it would be OK for members of the SAB to approach the school district about the use of its facilities for this purpose.
9. Walkable/bikeable city. Kate and Dan will reach out to members of the Transportation Advisory Board about having one of their members meet with the SAB and vice versa. Topics SAB is particularly concerned about addressing: making sure new roundabouts on Willamette Falls Drive are pedestrian friendly, creating a bike/pedestrian corridor between the new Athey Creek School and downtown Willamette, constructing sidewalks on 19th Street between Blankenship and Dollar to make sure this is a safe route for students who live in the

northwestern corner of the Willamette neighborhood, consulting with all the neighborhood associations about whether there are similar problem areas in other parts of the city. Dylan indicates that the safe routes to school project created a map with problem areas highlighted. He will forward it to SAB members. The issue for the city is finding funding to address these needs,

10. EV charging stations. Dylan reports that the city is starting to work through the grant process to install charging stations at the Public Library and in the Historic Willamette district. Mike asks whether we can be kept in the loop as these grants move forward. Dylan will ask Public Works person about this. Mike asks about whether there has been any further discussion on the mayor's idea about pulling together a meeting of local commercial property owners, city staff, and someone from the SAB to talk the installing of EV charging stations. Dylan doesn't think so. Mike will reach out to Rory to see if we can get any more traction on that front.
11. Leaf blowers. Dan suggests that the first thing we need to do is pursue educational possibilities; the last is enforcement. He will reach out to Quiet/CleanPDX and see whether he can get copies of materials they distribute as well as the possibility of their meeting with us. He speculates that it would be valuable to incorporate a demonstration of electric landscaping tools during the Old Time Fair, something we could conceivably work with the Parks and Recreation Department to coordinate. It seems like it might also be useful to consider sponsoring a meeting about making a transition to electric landscaping equipment at meeting held at the library. Another possibility is to write an article that could be included in the city newsletter. Mike also asks about the two-stroke mopeds used by people who collect information from water meters. Dylan says this is handled by a contractor, but it could be worthwhile to ask them about the possibility of using electric motor bikes instead.
12. Curbside composting. West Linn Refuse and Recycling appears to be ready to look at finding ways to make the collection of food wastes less expensive and potentially voluntary. Dylan has had some conversations with WLRR representatives about refining costs. Moving forward, Dylan will set up a meeting with representatives from the City Council, the SAB, and WLRR to explore the development of a new proposal. Victoria mentions the possibility of considering Mary Baumgardner's comments about using worm bins to compost the city's food waste. Victoria says that she is willing to explore this topic in more depth with Mary.
13. New business – Greg raises the possibility of informing the public about rebates that will apparently be available later in 2024 to help finance the costs of weatherization and heat pumps for homeowners. He and Mike will investigate this topic further and see whether anyone from the state might be willing to make a presentation at the library for interested members of the public. Someone from SAB should at least write an article to be included in the city's newsletter.
14. Action items

Everyone – forward names of potential additional participants to Greg

Mike - contact someone at PGE about status update on energy purchasing

Greg - find additional possible consultants to be approached about helping the city identify grant opportunities and developing an implementation strategy for the climate and sustainability initiatives already adopted by the City

Greg and Mike will speak with economic development consultant in a couple of months about the possibility of identifying and writing grants to jump start sustainability initiatives.
Greg - Identify Milwaukie's equivalent of Darren Wyss in an effort to learn more about how that city was able to amend its tree code to protect urban canopy without triggering a Goal 5 review.

Kate and Dan will invite someone from the Transportation Advisory Board to meet with SAB about our interest in supporting efforts to make WL a more bikeable and walkable city

Mike - Check with Rory about EV charging working group

Dan - Investigate in more detail what triggers a Goal 5 review.

Dan - Get in touch with someone from Quiet/CleanPDX to collect materials they distribute and identify someone who may be willing to meet with SAB.

Mike - Find someone at state who can provide us information about energy grants the city could pursue.

Greg - Meet with Dylan about organizing a meet to inform local organizations who could pursue grants to create climate resilience hubs.

Victoria - Reach out to Mary Baumgardner about worm bins a strategy for dealing with residential food waste

Greg and Mike will attempt to find someone at the state who could provide more information about rebates for home weatherization and heat pumps.

Meeting adjourns at 7:28.