

West Linn Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting Minutes – Jan 18th, 2024

1. Call to order
 - a. Members: Mike Carlson, Greg Smith, Kate Jaspers, Dan Reesor, Victoria Meier, all present
 - b. Staff Liaison: Dylan Digby – present
 - c. Council Liaison: Lou Groner - present
2. Public comment – no members of the public joined to provide comment
3. Member check-ins
 - a. Victoria – highlights need to talk more about emergency preparedness following ice storm
 - b. Kate – adjusting after a week of school closures. Interested in continued conversation about food scrap composting
 - c. Greg – Concern over stress large trees are experiencing from climate change, ice storms, etc.
 - d. Dan – looking into ways to lower personal carbon footprint
 - e. Mike – concern over health of trees and safety implications from trees at risk of falling. Eager to work to bring more EV charging to community
 - f. Dylan – thinking about emergency preparedness. Winter storm prevented travel. EV charger grant process underway.
 - g. Lou – glad to have had tree limb removed before ice storm. Has solar panels and rain barrel, which froze in winter storm
4. Approval meeting minutes from November
 - a. Minutes approved as-is
5. Preparation for meeting with City Council on Monday, February 5, 6:30 p.m.
 - a. Priority items and presenters
 - i. Hiring of a sustainability consultant (Greg to speak at meeting)
 1. Hope is a sustainability consultant could help write grant applications and identify other sources of public funding for sustainability initiatives.
 2. Consultant could bring in more grant funding than it costs to hire them
 3. Conversation within City about hiring has not been very active lately
 - ii. Approval and adoption of baseline energy audit (Mike to speak at meeting)
 1. Desire to review audit with City Council for their approval
 2. Recommendation for ongoing reporting of data on City website
 3. An estimate of the level of effort for ongoing reporting of data is needed from city staff
 - iii. Improvement of walkability and bikeability of West Linn (Kate and Dan jointly to speak at meeting)
 1. City is working on design plans for highway 43 corridor and Willamette Falls Drive
 2. City also planning for neighborhood centers to be accessible more easily for pedestrians and bikers
 3. Collaboration with Transportation Advisory Board desirable
 4. Walkable/bikeable city has significant safety implications
 5. Foot and bike traffic could be supportive of local businesses

- 6. Public transit considerations should be part of any walkable/bikeable city planning
- iv. Approval of proposed resolution on the phased replacement of fossil fuel powered equipment and appliances (Greg to speak at meeting)
 - 1. Discussions with City staff have shown need for modification of language to establish desire for purchasing electric equipment when the technology is appropriate and cost effective. At present, not all technologies are ready and affordable, making direct replacement impractical, at least for now
- v. Revision of tree code (Mike to speak at meeting)
 - 1. Tree code revision currently on planning docket as high-cost, low-priority item.
 - 2. HB2001 designed to encourage infill development
 - 3. Greg to talk to Darren Weiss from planning department
 - 4. Mike to research valuation of urban tree canopy
- vi. Climate resilience planning (Greg to speak at meeting)
 - 1. Events like ice storms, heat dome, wildfires show need for planning
 - 2. adverse natural events such as these disproportionately affect vulnerable population
 - 3. Neighborhood resiliency centers could form part of this planning
- vii. EV charging (Mike to speak at meeting)
 - 1. Mayor Bialostosky has floated idea of convening joint taskforce of Council, City staff, SAB, commercial property owners, and electrical contractors
- viii. Leaf Blower Ban (Dan to speak at meeting)
 - 1. Other municipalities have implemented in various ways
 - 2. Incentives are probably better than penalty-based regulations
- ix. Curbside composting of food scraps
 - 1. Conversation needs to continue with WLRR in light of flexibility from METRO regarding where material can be taken to. This could lower costs and make curbside composting a more workable option
 - 2. Renewal of contract can
- 6. Earth Day Event in April
 - a. School district is also planning an event at CREST
 - b. Group has desire to plan some sort of Earth Day event, possibly with the assistance of Charity Hudnut
- 7. Action items
 - a. Kate to give introductory comment about framing the importance of the work of the board and the value of a sustainable mindset in decision making
 - b. Mike to find information about valuation of urban tree canopy
 - c. Mike and Greg to meet with Mayor and remaining council members ahead of joint meeting on Feb 5
 - d. Greg to contact Charity about Earth Day event
 - e. Greg to talk to Darren Weiss about tree code revision

- f. Greg to continue conversation with WLRR about food scrap composting and METRO's flexibility