

## West Linn Sustainability Advisory Board March 2024 Meeting Minutes

### Participants

Board members present: Greg Smith, Mike Carlson, Victoria Meier

Board members not in attendance: Dan Reesor, Kate Jaspers

Staff Liaison: Dylan Digby

Council Liaison: Lou Groner

Meeting called to order at 6:08

1. No public comment
2. February meeting minutes approved unanimously
3. Member Check-ins
  - a. Victoria Meier – happy to see that Portland has passed a leaf blower ordinance
  - b. Mike Carlson – excited about trip to the coast for whale watching
  - c. Greg Smith – visited the Down To Earth Forest School, impressed with what he saw
  - d. Dylan Digby – elevated workload while covering temporary staff absence at city hall
4. Report on Earth Day event scheduled for April 27  
Reviewed groups or businesses who will be participating. Victoria asked if she could be there to represent community gardens. Dan to be asked if he can represent SAB with general information about the board. Greg to do poster about neighborhood resilience-climate hubs. Members will distribute flyers throughout the community.
5. Old Time Fair volunteers/activities  
Scheduled between July 12-14. SAB plans to be there on July 13 – between 12-8 or thereabouts. Greg to register for space by May 1. Group to invite Cynergy E-bikes to join in again. Quiet Clean PDX might be able to help us find group to showcase electric landscaping equipment?
6. Report on Tree Code and Goal 5  
Greg spoke with Mark Gamba. He said that they were able to institute their tree code without having to go through Goal 5 review. Greg intends to call Milwaukie city planner and urban forester to get more specifics. Mark Gamba's sense was that city staff are trying to avoid the potential controversy. Group agrees that we should speak with Rory and Mary about finding some way to craft a proposal that the Council will be willing to consider.
7. Report on interaction with Transportation Advisory Board  
Not discussed

8. Report on EV charging station initiative

Mike has reached out to Rory, but there has been no movement on convening the working group. Dylan shared that staff is focusing on grant funding for Willamette main street, as locating a charger at the library looks to entail some unexpected and prohibitive costs. Group also discusses how charging stations often utilize proprietary payment systems that can frustrate people. Desire is to have chargers in West Linn that are flexible with respect to payment.

9. Report on energy/weatherization grants

Greg attended a webinar offered by Department of Energy in early March that focused on grants offered by two programs: Home Efficiency Rebate Program and the Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate Program. The Home Efficiency Rebate Program provides rebates for installation of smart thermostats, heats pumps, or weatherization. Improvement must be able to demonstrate 20% modeled energy savings in terms of utility bill savings.

The Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate Program is primarily offered to people with low to moderate income. Low-income is defined as 80% of median income. Moderate is 150% of median income. Low-income families can get up to \$14,000 rebate, moderate income families can get \$7,000. For a four-person family in Clackamas County, 80% of the median income is \$90,220 a year. These grants will become available after January 2025.

Greg sent an e-mail to one of the staff involved in the webinar to see whether anyone from the Energy Department might be available to do a hybrid presentation about relevant rebate programs at the library and on-line.

10. Report on Resilience Hub grants

Greg listened in to another webinar to collect more information about this program, as well. Like the energy grant programs, the criteria for these grants favor low-income communities. Funds, however, could cover operational costs for resilience hubs, generators, food storage, water purification, training, and emergency plans. \$10,000,000 will be available to a variety of groups that are an active part of the community. They are very much interested in supporting collaboration across different groups.

When Greg spoke with Jeff Gilbert, who is the emergency planner for northwestern Oregon, he agreed that the likelihood of West Linn receiving a grant given current criteria is very small, but he suggested talking with Darlene Thao at METRO who is a point person with regard to emergency planning for Clackamas County. She suggested possibly submitting a grant application with one organization on the chance it might be accepted.

A starting place for resilience hubs would be to have the Robinwood Station, the Willamette Christian Church on Salamo, the Public Library, and/or the Methodist Church in Willamette apply for these grants. After speaking with Darlene, one idea would be to talk with the minister at the Methodist Church as well as the people who organize the food pantry there about becoming a

resilience hub. Grants need to be in by the end of April, so the turnaround time is short, but the SAB supports Greg having a conversation with folks there about pursuing this opportunity.

11. Report on worm bins and composting food wastes

Victoria had brief conversation with Councilor Baumgardner. Victoria to look up OPB article about Oregon community with worm composting.

12. Report on City's purchasing of renewable energy

No report at this time

13. Report on information from Quiet/Clean PDX

No report at this time

14. Report from Staff Liaison

- Parks and Public Works want to review the fossil fuel equipment phase-out resolution one more time. Dylan asks for latest version of resolution draft. Greg to send to Dylan.
- No progress on the hiring of the consultant. Additional clarity needed on the scope of responsibility for consultant.
- Rory and Lou would like to be on the food waste composting task force. SAB representative needed for participation. Victoria and Greg express interest in participation.

15. Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan

Public comments now closed. Comments are being forwarded to staff at Portland State University, and then on to Oregon Emergency Management, and then to FEMA.

Mike asks about plan's development. Dylan says FEMA provides structure for plan development. Greg asks about how planning department considers liquefaction in planning and zoning decisions. Dylan doesn't believe much consideration is given apart from large capital projects. Mike notes report's focus on immediate impacts of natural disasters, but asks about whether intermediate- and long-term consequences of the various hazardous events. Dylan notes that the report is focused on inventory of current status of community and would allow for seeking grant funding. Dylan notes that internal priority for the city is seismic upgrades for water reservoirs.

16. Waterfront Development Plans

No one present was able to attend public event highlighting the plan. Greg encourages meeting participants to review the plan. Dylan notes that the plan can be found on the City's website.

17. April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting in person?

Group discusses possibility of meeting in person

18. New Business

Mike has made contact with Oregon Department of Energy. Staff is willing to meet with us to discuss grant programs.

## 19. Action items

- a. Greg, Victoria, and Charity to meet to coordinate on the upcoming Earth Day event
- b. Greg to meet with Methodist church regarding community resilience hub grants
- c. Mike to contact PGE regarding renewable energy purchasing
- d. Victoria to continue conversation with Mary about worm composting
- e. Kate and Dan to report on agenda items slated for March
- f. Group to decide on April meeting location/format