

Meeting Minutes

Date: April 18, 2024

Time: 6:05 PM – 7:20 PM

Location: West Linn City Hall

Members Present: Mike Carlson, Co-Chair; Greg Smith, Co-Chair; Kate Jaspers; Victoria Meier; Dan Reesor (joined remotely)

1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM.

2. Public Comment

- No public comments were made.

3. Approve Minutes from March Meeting

- The minutes from the March meeting were reviewed.

- Motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

4. Member Check-In

- Members shared updates on various personal and community projects, including gardening efforts, trips, and environmental observations.

5. Report on Earth Day Event Scheduled for Saturday, April 27 at the Ale and Cider House

Around 20 groups, including a mix of local businesses and non-profits, will have tables at the event. Charity is finalizing the logistics and setup. While getting listed in the Tidings wasn't successful, posters are up in various locations. Mike or Kate will upload the flyer to Facebook, and Greg will send them the electronic version. Greg will also be representing SAB at a similar event on Saturday April 20th at CREST in Wilsonville.

6. Report on Tree Code and Goal 5 Conversations

- Greg and Mike shared updates on conversations regarding the tree code and Goal 5.
- Dan provided a presentation detailing his research on Oregon's land use planning system and Goal 5.
- A change in the tree code does not trigger a Goal 5 review, which is encouraging for moving forward.
- Greg was able to meet with Mayor Bialostosky and Council President Baumgardner. Fees for tree removal were discussed and Mary/Rory will encourage the Council to move tree code revision further up on the council docket and explore the possibility of adopting changes like those included in the Milwaukie tree code.

7. Report on Interaction with Transportation Advisory Board

- Kate to contact the transportation advisory board to discuss possible collaboration.

8. Report on Energy/Weatherization Grants

- Greg reported on energy and weatherization grants, emphasizing the importance of identifying grants available for the community. He believes West Linn's large community of retired persons on fixed incomes may be able to benefit from such grant programs.

9. Report on Resilience Hub Grants

- Greg shared information about state funding with West Linn Food Pantry located at the Methodist Church in the Willamette neighborhood. They have applied for a grant to purchase generators to be used during power outages to keep their freezers and refrigerators operating. They lost several thousand dollars of food during the ice storm a few years ago. According to Dylan, the city is also planning to apply for funding to purchase generators capable of powering the entire Adult Community Center. This means that the city will have the beginning of resilience hubs in two of the neighborhoods identified at our last meeting.

10. Report on Banning of Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

- Greg updated the group on ongoing efforts to educate the public and draft an outline for a regulation regarding leaf blowers.
- A potential guest speaker from Quiet/Clean PDX was discussed for a future meeting.
- Dan plans to bring educational materials from Quiet/Clean PDX to the Earth Day event to raise awareness among attendees.

- Group hopes to have a well-researched and detailed proposal ready to present to the city council by the end of Summer.

11. Resolution Regarding Transition to Electricity-Powered Appliances

- A resolution will be discussed at the May 14 City Council meeting.
- Greg reported that key city officials were supportive after language adjustments were made to the resolution.
- Members are encouraged to attend the meeting to support the resolution.

12. Report on Waterfront Development Plans

- Greg provided an overview of the waterfront development plans and encouraged members to attend an upcoming public meeting on Saturday between 7 AM and 11 AM.

13. New Business

- Discussed the idea of using a worm bin for food waste recycling but found no recent examples of its implementation.
- Raised concerns about pesticide use and public education on pest control. Mary asked that we consider looking at ways we might encourage the public to rely less on professional pest exterminators and adopt landscaping practices focused more on native species through educational outreach.
- Suggested using the city's newsletter, "The Owl," for public education articles on environmental topics.
- Discussed involving schools in environmental education efforts, possibly through sticker campaigns or presentations.
- Considered the West Linn Old Time Fair and potential participation, including demonstrations of electric lawn care equipment.
- Mentioned the need to review the status of the rec center's conceptual planning and sustainability considerations.