

Sustainability Advisory Board
June 20, 2024
Virtual Meeting

In attendance: Mike Carlson, Kate Jaspers, Victoria Meier, Tiffany Haley, Dylan Digby, Lou Groner, and guest Rich Faith,

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:06 by Mike Carlson. Minutes for April (Greg Smith moved, Victoria Meier seconded) and May (Victoria Meier moved, Greg Smith seconded) meetings were approved.
2. No members of the public were present to make comments.
3. Member check-in/introductions for Tiffany and Rich

Mike – Has been on SAB for three or four years. Works as engineer for INTEL focusing on issues tied into energy conservation.

Greg – Has been on SAB for four or five years. Retired education professor from Lewis & Clark where he taught courses on environmental education and sustainability.

Victoria – Has been on SAB for five or six years. Heads up West Linn’s Community Garden program.

Kate – Has been on SAB for a year. Is a stay-at-home parent now. Had worked for several years in school psychology program at Lewis & Clark.

Tiffany – Has lived in West Linn for three years after moving here from Portland. She has worked as a marketing consultant for Lockheed Martin’s energy division and Energy Trust of Oregon. She has devoted energy in the past to questions about energy efficiency.

Dylan – Assistant City Manager. Has worked for city for the past 19 years. He grew up in West Linn.

Lou – City councilman. Has lived in WL for four years and in a variety of communities across the US before moving here.

Rich – Has served on the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) for six years. Has lived in West Linn for 22 years.

4. Possibilities for collaboration between SAB and TAB. Rich begins with an overview of the work of the TAB. Their primary focus is on streets, roads, and public transportation. In the past year, they have had multiple discussions regarding the building of new sidewalks on 19th Street between Dollar and Blankenship Streets, and 9th Street between 5th Avenue and Volpp. Parents have raised concerns about public safety linked to the absence of sidewalks on streets where children must walk to school. This issue has been difficult to deal with because of the large number of projects already on the city’s priority list. TAB will be reviewing the criteria used to rank projects—the majority of which are now high priority. The city

has limited funding to construct new sidewalks that are not tied into new housing developments.

With regard to possible areas of collaboration with SAB, Rich suggests that the TAB could use help with the identification of places in the city where improvements would support alternative means of transportation like walking and biking. Greg asks about whether any attention is being directed to a revision of the Transportation System Plan given the impact of the state's mandate to build denser housing. Rich says that this kind of revision happens every ten years—and we're two to three years out from this effort. Victoria asks about the status of a bike lane and sidewalks on Willamette Falls Drive below the new Athey Creek Middle School and next to Fields Bridge Park. Rich indicates that the city is paying for the roundabout and the school district, the sidewalks and bike path. He says that as far as he knows there will be street parking next to the park, but he has not seen the plans, himself. Mike asks about whether the TAB is involved in efforts to bring more EV charging stations to West Linn. Rich says that the TAB has been supportive of this but has left the legwork to city staff. Dylan says that a new grant has been written to seek funding for additional charging stations. When there are no more questions, Mike thanks Rich for joining us.

5. Old Time Fair – We will be responsible for serving as volunteers at a booth between 11 am to 8:30 pm on Saturday, July 13. Mike, Victoria, Kate, and Greg will be able to do this in pairs. Greg will send out a schedule for people to fill in. Mike will approach Charity about whether it might be possible to access free seeds to distribute again. Greg will check with Terry about magnetic recycling charts. Kate suggests asking people who come to our booth about what they would like the SAB to address. We would include a list of our current projects, as well. Victoria will bring an extra table where we can collect this information. We will be joined by representatives from the West Linn Garden Club as well as Mike's landscaper to demonstrate battery-powered landscaping tools.
6. Updates on issues addressed at earlier meetings:
 - Sustainability consultant – John Williams has made an initial phone call to possible consultant. He will continue these conversations after he returns from vacation.
 - Tree code revision – City Council has asked staff to bring back recommendations about making this a higher priority on the council's docket. Staff, however, is currently devoting their time to a number of projects and there are no additional funds to hire a consultant to do this work.
 - With regard to food scrap composting, Dylan is in the process of identifying a time when interested parties will be able to meet. Mike and Victoria will represent the SAB.

7. Elements to be considered in the development of a proposal to restrict or eliminate the use of gas-powered leaf blowers.

Greg shares the following drawn from a review of literature and meetings with members of the Lake Oswego Sustainability Network who are considering presenting a proposal to do something similar.

- Phase-in schedule - time between enactment of new regulation and implementation
- Months during which ban is enforced
- Hourly limits, e.g., 9-6 - weekdays, 10-6 – weekends
- Penalties for non-compliance (homeowners/landscapers/one or both)
- Enforcement – who is responsible
- Incentives/rebates for landscapers/residents
- Possible application of ban on electric leaf blowers on days when air quality is poor
- If incentives/rebates offered – who pays? County?
- Education – electric landscaping tech demonstrations, pilot programs, articles in city newsletter, flyers
- Possible city code amendment regarding noise pollution

Greg suggests that we address each of these during coming meetings. Tiffany indicates that dealing with communication and education will be important first steps. This could be done through city newsletter articles and a possible op-ed in The West Linn Tidings. She says that she would be willing to work on an op-ed about this topic with Greg. It might also be possible to share information through schools. We could also see whether any other community boards are interested in helping with this issue. Greg will send white paper about battery-powered landscaping equipment and a rationale for a gas-powered leaf blower ban developed by the Lake Oswego SAB as well as his notes for this evening's presentation/discussion.

8. SAB leadership. Victoria is willing to become a titular co-chair of SAB but says that her time will be limited since her husband is facing some health challenges. She is willing to take minutes during meetings, but she won't be able to do much more. Mike again raises a question about whether the City Council might be willing to waive the requirement that co-chairs for community advisory boards serve for no more than two years until Dan Reesor returns in January and we are able to increase our membership to seven. Dylan says that he will check with the city lawyer about this possibility. If we get an affirmative response, Mike will go back to Carol Bryck and ask her to approach the council about doing this.
9. New business – Tiffany raises a concern about food composting, something she believes has not worked out as well as it might have in Portland because members

of the public remain uncertain about which items should or should not go into their trash containers. Contamination is a problem, and the result is that a lot of the material that should be going to a composting site is going to a regular landfill. We should be aware of this dilemma as we enter into discussions with West Linn Refuse and Recycling. She believes SAB might be more effective if we focus on household decisions related to energy efficiency like lighting, etc. We will take up these issues at a future meeting.

10. Action items:

- Mike check with Charity about seeds
- Greg check with Terry about recycling magnets
- Greg send out schedule for Old Time Fair
- Greg send out LO white paper regarding gas-powered leaf blower ban
- Greg contact other Clackamas County cities about approaching county commissioners regarding helping to defray costs for battery-powered leaf blowers for landscaping businesses licensed in their city

11. The meeting adjourns at 7:40.