

## West Linn Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting Minutes – Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER at 4:40 pm
  - A. Members present: Mike Carlson, Tiffany Haley, Kate Jaspers, Victoria Meier, Greg Smith,
  - B. Staff Liaison present: Dylan Digby
  - C. Council Member present: Leo Groner
  - D. Guest: Grace Thirkill from Paramatrix (formerly The Good Company - Tracy Lungford, Sr. Climate Consultant and ESG, was unable to attend.)
2. PUBLIC COMMENT – no members of the public joined to provide comment.
3. PARAMATRIX GUEST, Grace Thirkill, discusses their four sub-sets of action items:
  - A. Reviewed the historical and existing SAB plans and goals
  - B. Looking at actions & strategies for greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation
  - C. Resilience and adaptation, i.e. what citizens can do
  - D. Improve the function and biodiversity of ecosystem health
  - E. STEP ONE: Outlined the roles that the city and SAB can play:
    - 1) Implement (mostly City Council),
    - 2) Convene (SAB),
    - 3) Support & Advocate (SAB and/or the City)
    - 4) Possible 4th category - Education (SAB)
  - F. FOCUS ON SAB's PRIORITIES, *not in order of importance*:
    - 1) the tree code, esp. HB 2001 as it pertains to the risk to the tree canopy;
    - 2) More EV infrastructure: getting two more, one at the library and one on Main St; Mayor Rory B is looking at commercial developments & the planning depy is creating a goal;
    - 3) moving to electric leaf blowers;
    - 4) saving the Willamette Wetlands;
    - 5) recycling food scraps;
    - 6) keeping an eye on the waterfront;
    - 7) walkability & biking, esp. safe routes to school - Lou posed the question, What fraction of students walk to school? How can businesses support that? How can Paramatrix advise the City and guide the SAB to action?
    - 8) Continue to focus on resilience, ex: Dylan says that the food pantry will get the funding for a generator;
    - 9) Continue to implement our Goal Plan.
  - E. FOCUS ON [a few of] SAB MEMBER SKILLS: 1) Advocacy and education, Tiffany Haley, Dan Reesor, & Greg Smith; 2) Data analysis, Mike Carlson; 3) Community garden, Victoria

Meier; 4) Enthusiasm, Kate Jasper; Restoration & preservation of native plants, Victoria; Computer engineering, Lou Groner;

- F. ACTION ITEM: Paramatrix will get ideas to us before our November 21 meeting.

4. APPROVED THE MINUTES from June and August meetings unanimously.

5. MEMBER CHECK-INS:

- a) Mike – busy procuring native plants for his back yard
- b) Kate – is happy with her garden produce, esp. her pumpkins; is caring for elderly parents
- c) Tiffany – also happy with garden produce and also caring for elderly parents
- d) Victoria - crunch time with community garden work
- e) Greg - happy with his dahlias; building a fence with his neighbor has brought them together
- f) Dylan - very busy with six children and painting his house (He says to watch the last council meeting)

6. UPDATES ON THE FOLLOWING by Dylan Digby:

- a) SAB testifying in support of the Willamette Wetlands: Dylan will ask the attorney, Kaily Klein; Greg will feed info to Dan, who will write an email to K Klein; it must be in the Community Development Code.
- b) The tree code: Lobby the Council and the Planning Commission before their Nov 18 joint meeting. Lobby them!!! Their focus is the HPS - Housing Production Strategy.
- c) ACTION ITEM: Greg & Mike: Lobby the above before Nov 18. Put an argument in writing to the Council. Use Dan's letter; It's not too late to explain to the City Manager and Darren that the tree code is not subject to Goal 15.
- d) ACTION ITEM: Greg & Tiffany: For the newsletter, send Dylan a paragraph on any topic of interest, for ex: electrical landscaping tools.

7. RECESS FOR DINNER 5:55 - 6:20

8. PREPARATION FOR THE ANNUAL REPORT AND GOAL SETTING - *Numbers in brackets refer to the 2023 Council Goal Setting; some items are in both sections, accomplishments and goals.*

a) SAB ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1) [1] The City now has a sustainability consultant, Paramatrix. They have already met with the City Manager, John Williams, have met with Dylan Digby twice, and have prepared a spread sheet to prioritize their work.
- 2) [2] Renewed base membership in the Columbia-Willamette CCC, Clean Cities Coalition, for grant writing services.
- 3) [5] Adopted a resolution regarding moving away from fossil fuel powered appliances, furnaces, and landscaping tools toward electrification.

- 4) [6] We have recommended locations for EV charging locations.
- 5) [8] We did all we could do to promote sustainability when discussing the proposed recreation center.
- 6) [10] There is progress toward creating neighborhood resilience centers. Dylan has taken the resilience plan to the City Council and to the Office of FEMA. There is a statewide program, "Be Two Weeks Ready."
- 7) [11] Considering having a bikeable and walkable city, we did meet with the Transportation board, which develops a street master plan every 10 years.
- 8) We maintained our presence at The Olde Time Fair and at the Earth Day Event.

#### b) GOALS TO CONTINUE WORKING ON

- 1) [3] Maintain the dashboard for base-line data; at least put it on our website what Mike has done; Dylan can post it.
- 2) [4] Revise the City's tree code. Write the letter to the Council and the Planning Comm. and lobby them before their Nov 18 meeting.
- 3) [6] Keep working on the EV charging grants. Kate sent out a link to The Oregon Electric Vehicle Dashboard that shows how many EVs there are by zipcode. (West Linn has approximately 5% as of June 2024.)
- 4) [7] We have done some thinking about a city ordinance to replace all gas-powered leaf blowers with electric ones. We need to continue to research other successful programs and to find educational materials.
- 5) [9] Continue to draw on sustainability principles and climate concerns when approaching waterfront development plans.
- 6) [10] More can be done to create neighborhood resilience centers. While the City is better prepared now for ice storms and heat waves and it meets to coordinate every month with Clackamas County, there is no money in the event of an earthquake. We must work individually with our neighbors.
- 7) [11] We should engage with Vision 43 and meet with them about the comprehensive plan to make West Linn more bikeable and walkable. We have questions: a) in the event of housing development, can the streets support the higher density of traffic? b) Should developers pay for additional improvements? But the City has no money for that. Look to what Washington is doing to incentivise e-bikes.
- 8) Continue with public education.

a) Looking at The Olde Time Fair, we should ask Park Rose to donate an electric leaf blower for a raffle, keep the magnets for what to recycle, keep having the e-bikes as a draw, and talk to the organizers in January for a quieter location.

b) Do at least 2-3 educational meets in person, for example, resilience planning. See Greg's notes #8 - #22, none of which is expensive, and choose two to three of these for presenting in person.

- 9) With the goal of increasing recycling in this community, consider these:
  - a) Push to get take-out containers that are recyclable (they already are at New Seasons and Rose Villa;
  - b) Draw on Paramatrix's three categories (implement, convene, and support/advocate?) to screen what we can actually accomplish. Some things are high-impact on GHG's; some are low-hanging fruit, the most changeable. Put the two lists together.
  - c) Keep advocating for curbside composting of kitchen scraps.
- 11) Create a Roadmap for our next five years of work.

9. ACTION ITEMS:

- a) Greg & Mike: Lobby the City Council and Planning Commission before Nov 18. Put an argument in writing to the Council. Use Dan's letter (?); It's not too late to explain to the City Manager and Darren that the tree code is not subject to Goal 15.
- b) Greg & Tiffany: For the newsletter, send Dylan a paragraph on any topic of interest, for ex: electrical landscaping tools.
- c) Ask Paramatrix for their ideas well before our November 21 meeting.

10. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED at 7:30 pm.