

SAB Minutes – November 20, 2025

The meeting begins at 6:02.

In attendance: Victoria Meier, Roberto Baturoni, Rob Kubler, Greg Smith, Mike Carlson (on-line); Lou Groner (City Council liaison- on-line); Dylan Digby (staff).

Absent: Kate Jaspers has resigned from the SAB.

Public Comment: No members of the public present.

Member Check-in:

Mike – Baby is getting a lot of love and attention. 10- hours a day. Will be returning back to work on Monday.

Greg – Had to take our to failing trees on Sunday. Always a source of regret,

Victoria – eating the final produce from her garden.

Roberto – Will be camping over the weekend at Cougar Lake in Washington.

Dylan – Recently met with school district staff to encourage them to explore funding options to purchase electric school buses, something Lake Oswego has done. He is also working on a new agreement with West Linn Refuse and Recycling that will explore the possibility of food waste pick-up; Robinwood Station is sponsoring a repair fair on December 10 between 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Rob – OCOT grant possibilities opened on November 6 for level 2 EV chargers. Grants will cover 80% or up to \$8,000 for a charger. Rob will approach the owner of the shopping center where Parkrose Hardware is located about applying for one of these grants. Applications will be accepted until the available funding is exhausted.

Roberto – Has sent a letter to the three teachers at West Linn High School about tree inventory mapping initiative. He is waiting for their responses. The inventory will focus on trees in city parks that may have been compromised by ash borers.

Rob – The superfund bill is going back to the Legislature. MCAT will be recruiting city administrators who would be willing to testify about the value of this bill which will support mitigation and adaptation efforts. Rob will send the information about this to Dylan.

Minutes:

September and October minutes approved by majority vote.

New members and leadership roles:

Victoria has spoken with person at West Linn Sustainability group who expressed interest in serving on SAB. Roberto is in conversation with a friend who is a lawyer who may be willing to join. Greg mailed a letter to Jay and Amy Schauer to see whether this would be something of interest to them.

Roberto will step into the role of co-chair in January. Victoria will remain in co-chair position through the summer.

2025 SAB report

The majority of the meeting was focused on the development of this report, a draft of which follows. Members are asked to contact Victoria Meier as well as the remainder of the board for any suggested revisions before this is presented to the City Council in January.

2025 SAB Annual Report – DRAFT

Advisory Group/Neighborhood Association

Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB)

Group Leadership

Co-Chair: Victoria Meier – Began August 2024-August 2026

Co-Chair- Dan Reesor- December 2025-October 2025. Greg Smith stepped in as co-chair for the remainder of 2025.

Other Members

Robert Baturoni

Rob Kugler

Kate Jaspers (resigned as of November, 2025)

Gregory Smith

Mike Carlson

Meeting Times, Dates & Location

Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) meets monthly, every third Thursday from 6 - 7:30 pm.

In 2024, most meeting were conducted remotely, but the group aimed to meet in-person roughly once per quarter. The SAB held an extended planning and year-end review meeting on November 20th at City Hall.

The SAB has so far met nine times during 2024: January, February, March, April, May, June, August, September, October, and November.

Accomplishments

1. Worked with consultants from Parametrix to develop a set of strategies aimed at enacting elements of the city's sustainability plan. These recommendations included the following; they were reviewed during a work session with the City Council on October 6, 2025:

- a) develop policy regarding the purchase of alternative fuel, electric, or hybrid vehicles
 - b) monitor sustainability features of new public works building,
 - c) complete LED lighting upgrades in all city facilities
 - d) seek additional funding for public building HVAC upgrades
 - e) evaluate opportunities such as green bonds to establish ongoing sustainability funding without diminishing resources to maintain essential city services
 - f) work with local businesses to install more EV charging stations
 - g) increase opportunities for citizens to reduce waste by sharing and reusing unwanted products
 - h) create and distribute directory of repair services in West Linn.
2. Published articles in the *West Linn Tidings* about electric landscaping equipment, vegetable gardening, and backyard habitat. Sponsored presentations about vegetable gardening and backyard habitat at Robinwood Station and the West Linn Public Library in May and September.
 3. Met with Carra Sahler, Director of the Green Energy Institute at Lewis and Clark Law School, to explore ways the City could encourage more building electrification and reduction of natural gas usage in residences and commercial buildings. Strategies she presented included the regulation of the distribution of natural gas, the setting of stronger pollution standards, the development of building codes that allow the use of natural gas but make it less attractive, and the charging of pollution fees. We will be considering the possibility of developing energy use assessments for homes that go up for sale.
 4. City Council is now engaging in the process of revising the city's tree code, something that the SAB has been encouraging for a number of years.
 5. Staffed a booth at the Old Time Fair in July 2025.
 6. Mike Carlson and Greg Smith made a presentation to the West Linn Garden Club in January 2025 about the work of the SAB.
 7. Provided an EV charging pricing recommendation for newly installed charger on Main St.
 8. Participated in Waterfront Master Planning process.
 9. Participated in new Operations Center meeting regarding sustainability features.

Challenges

1. Lack of resources to implement recommendations from Parametrix as well as other initiatives.
2. Need for staff person with the time and resources required to oversee, coordinate, and locate funding for the city's sustainability efforts.
3. Keeping a full board membership.

Goals for 2026

1. **Gas Powered Equipment:** Provide Council a recommendation on reducing gas powered equipment use in West Linn (e.g. electric equipment incentives) and find funding for this work (PRAB to also work on this related to Parks).
 - a. Develop plan for phasing out gas-powered leaf blowers. Some early steps such as educating the public will not likely require the Council's direct involvement but should be informed by its vision for how such a phase-out would proceed.
2. **Consultant:** Work towards addressing high impact projects outlined by Parametrix.
 - a. Inventory businesses capable of repairing appliances and other household items.

- b. Draft policy regarding the City's purchase of alternative fuel, EV, or hybrid vehicles provided to Public Works for review. Parametrix staff provided a model of such a policy to city staff for consideration.
 - c. Work with the City and local businesses to install more EV chargers along Highway 43 (e.g. at Walmart, Market of Choice, or the public library) as well as other possible sites using grant resources (ODOT, ODOE).
 - d. Investigate with City staff the possibility of using green bonds to finance sustainability initiatives.
 - e. Promote and support sustainability upgrades in existing City facilities. This could include LED lighting, energy-efficient HVAC technologies, and the placement of solar panels. Monitor the incorporation of sustainability features in the new public works building.
3. **Conservation Pricing:** Consider conservation pricing options and make recommendations to Council (UAB to lead process and involve SAB)*
 4. **Education:** Provide community education through articles in the Tidings and City newsletter and at City events, including the Old Time Fair.
 5. **Waterfront/Vision43:** Waterfront Plan complete. Provide recommendations on Vision43 Plans as requested by consultant team*
 6. **Indoor Recreation:** Advise on Indoor Recreation Center sustainability features (future phase). Initial advice offered during a planning meeting with architects during the summer of 2024.*
 7. **Community Engagement & Belonging:** Work to improve diversity, equity, inclusivity and belonging in the community and consider recommendations and actions through an equity lens*

Items with asterisks are those requested by the City Council.

Secondary SAB Goals

8. Revisit the West Linn Sustainability Plan and Climate Action Strategies to identify initiatives to pursue in the future.
9. Participate with emergency management planning process within City in cooperation with City staff to enhance neighborhood resilience (e.g. Be Two Weeks Ready program)
10. Work with Transportation Advisory Board and stay current with their activities to enhance the ease with which community members can walk and bike in West Linn.
11. Continue examining the possibility of food waste pickup within the city. Schedule meeting to make determination about feasibility of food waste collection.
12. Monitor the potential impact of the 5th Street property on the Willamette Wetlands.
13. Investigate the possibility of creating a policy about energy use assessments for homes that go up for sale.
14. Incorporate 2024 energy usage data from the city into audit started in 2023.
15. Tree inventory and mapping beginning in City Parks.

Action Items

Roberto will set up meeting with school teachers interested in participating in urban forest inventory with its initial focus on ash borer disease.

Rob will explore which landlords may be willing to help support EV chargers. He will also forward information about the superfund bill to Dylan.

Lou will get in touch with WalMart manager to see whether s/he may be interested in participating in their Electrify America program.

Greg will continue investigating green bonds and report back at January meeting.

Victoria, Roberto, Greg will continue seeking new SAB members.

Dylan will send revised goals to everyone.

Meeting adjourns at 7:26