

**Call to Order:** 6:05

**In attendance:** Roberto Baturoni, Rob Kugler, Victoria Meier, Amy Schauer, Greg Smith, Samantha Thoreson, Lou Groner (City Council liaison), & Dylan Digby (staff).

**Absent:** Mike Carlson

**Public Comments:** No members of the public present.

**Member check-in & welcome new members:**

Samantha Thoreson - has two little ones, a background in science and education, and lives near Tanner Creek Park. She has a degree in marine biology and experience both in teaching middle school and in developing science curriculum.

Amy Schauer - lives in the Hidden Springs neighborhood, and is a scientist and an educator. She has a background in biological oceanography, a degree in forestry resources management, and ultimately went to work in the WLWV school district, directing the Center for Research in Environment, Science, and Technology (CREST).

Greg - has a background in teacher education at the U of Alaska-Fairbanks and Lewis & Clark College, now retired

Victoria - has a background in teach English and ESL, pre-school, high school, through community college, and loves working in her native yard. She forgot to mention that she is a long-time manager of the Fields Bridge Community Garden.

Rob - lives in the Summit neighborhood, and is retired from teaching the classics & religious studies at L&C College; he's active with MCAT, lobbying for the environment in Salem

Roberto - is an engineer with Cloud Solutions, lives near the wetlands and is active with what is happening there, and is very passionate about technology, likes being on the SAB because he feels integrated in the community

Lou - is our Council liaison and a recovering teacher who has taught physics & computer science from high school through grad school levels as well as being an former engineer

Dylan - is our staff liaison and has worked with the City for over 20 years, currently with sustainability, & emergency management. He also has a background in marine biology, and Mr. Schauer, Amy's husband, was Dylan's high school teacher - how cool is that!

**Minutes:** The November minutes were approved by majority vote.

**Revisit group action items:**

Roberto B – Met on Jan 6 with 3 WL High teachers to discuss creating an inventory of WL trees with a focus on diseased trees. There are more actions to happen in the next few days; is working with the Oregon Dept of Forestry and the Director of Parks and Recreation, Megan Big John, who will lead the collaboration with the students. The actual goal is to start using Tree Plotter, an app provided by the Oregon Dept of Forestry; Megan and Roberto will train the teachers in how to use the TP. They will focus this year on collecting data on diseased trees & ID the problem trees; students can start collecting info to help the city. Roberto is happy that the teachers can help the students grow thier skills & align w standards, a multi-year project. Greg - Does Amy have suggestions or feedback to help Roberto? Amy - Yes, she can help teachers align the project w/ (state?) standards. She is very versed in implementation of Next Generation Science Standards & helping students plug in to projects. Roberto - added that the teachers asked if there's an option for students to have tablets to do the work? Contact Roberto if you have ideas for anything they can reuse & not buy new. (See attached below for more information.)

Rob Kugler - looking for landlords who may be willing to help support EV chargers. Has contacted the landlords of the Riverfalls Shopping Center, but they have not yet responded to his inquiries about applying for the ODOT grant. Also, re the super fund bill - the Make Polluters Pay Bill - it will go to the natural resources committee w/ Senate Pres. Rob Wagner. It will come out of committee this year, & it will finally go to the fiscal comm. Our job is to take a look at it and sign on as SAB and City Council. Rob will send us a summary when the bill is ready. Amy is also involved w Third Act of Portland; Greg - would this apply to something like the Blue Heron ponds? Probably. Should we give testimony in Salem? Yes, once the hearing date is set.

Lou - talked to Electify America; we are low on their priority list as they want to work on larger, more central projects; he also talked to the Walmart manager; is still trying to get in touch with their landlord

Greg - looking at green bonds in Oregon, one of the Paramatrix recommendations, as a way to fund sustainability issues in WL. He looked at a plethora of standards for green projects; the OR State Treasury will issue bonds for affordable housing, energy & pollution control. Some OR cities have explored using green bonds. In 2015 Portland considered them for switching to LED bulbs, but hasn't done much with them since then. Now Portland is using the Clean Energy Fund instead. Boardman did issue \$23 million of green bonds to renovate their water system. Greg's sense is that green bonds have not been used extensively in Oregon. Ashland & Eugene have issued bonds for dealing w/ some issues; they just didn't call them green bonds.

Dylan - Council will have a retreat sometime in Feb. Big topics are parks maintenance & the budget; they will not need our presence.

**Discussion on which of our stated goals we can focus on next:**

SAB members will read over the goals before the February meeting. Holding off the discussion until then will give new members a chance to get up to speed.

Dylan - will include links to several important documents in his email to all for our studies: a recap on what Paramatrix did for City of WL (the most impactful, most attainable low fruits); the WL Strategic Plan, the 2025 SAB Annual Report, and the meeting notes from November.

Amy - is interested in Food waste recycling, which seems doable

**Next meeting:** Thursday, February 19, in person at City Hall, at 6:00.

**Action Items:**

All SAB members - read & prepare for the Feb mtg and think about what takes precedence.

Rob - will continue with his business in Salem and with locating the Riverfalls Shopping Center realty group about the charger application.

Greg - was at a LO sust meeting last week and will send out info about that mtg; they're looking at legislation to make it easier to install plug-ins for solar power, which is much cheaper because it doesn't require so many regulations. He'll send that around to us.

Greg - there is advocacy training sponsored by LO Sustainability Network on January 26 for how to talk to legislators & city council; young people are encouraged to attend.

Roberto - will send me his notes on the tree canopy so I can put them in the minutes.

Lou - will pursue the Walmart landlord

**Meeting Adjourned: 7:07**

## Tree Inventory & Canopy Mapping Initiative

Tree Inventory & Canopy Mapping Initiative is a multi-year effort to map and monitor West Linn's urban forest using TreePlotter™, provided by the Oregon Department of Forestry. The project will begin with a focused inventory of white oak and ash trees in public parks at risk of pest from Mediterranean Oak Borer (MOB) and Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), while integrating high school student participation aligned with science curricula. Local administration and training will be led by city and SAB representatives, with potential future expansion into canopy planning and ecosystem benefit analysis.

- Completed: Roberto met with West Linn High School teachers, presented the initiative to confirm interest, curriculum alignment, and feasibility of student participation. Teachers are interested in integrating this project into the Biology, Ecology, Forestry, and AP Environmental Science curricula, with planning and project management assistance from Board members and the city, as well as from ODF resources, best practices, and expertise.

### Next Steps

- Megan Big John, Director of Parks & Rec, and Roberto are to start the TreePlotter tool training with ODF by Feb 4th
- Roberto will elaborate with the teachers a school-year timeline and, with support from Megan, a teacher training plan.
- Megan to select pilot parks and confirm species focus with Parks staff, and define the Problem statement, scope, and goal for white oak and ash trees inventory.
- Roberto, in coordination with the teachers, evaluates handheld device needs to complete the activities, look at potential funding options, or reuse equipment in the public sector that could be available for the students.
- Consider Tree Campus K–12 participation led by the School Teachers for this project. Participation in the Tree Campus K–12 program gives West Linn High School national recognition, hands-on environmental learning for students, and stronger connections with the city and community around tree stewardship.