

**Sustainability Advisory Board
Summary Notes
May 12, 2009**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Glen Friedman, Susan Day, Tamara Gilbert, Rich Wilhelmi, Elaine Aye, Robin Rabirotff

MEMBERS ABSENT: Michelle Wittenbrink

GUESTS: Chris Kerr, Interim Planning Director

STAFF: Shauna Shroyer, Eng. Admin. Assistant

Chairperson Friedman opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m. Introductions were made.

Planning Department:

Chris Kerr, Interim Planning Director spoke with the group about the direction the Planning Department is moving with regards to sustainability. The Planning Commission and City Council held a joint work session during which staff and the Planning Commission were directed to work on "greening the code". City Council is committed to moving forward with sustainability within West Linn.

Staff will create a list of sustainability elements they think should go in to the Community Development Code and Comprehensive Plan. They will be looking at similar cities and what has been successful for them. This leaves a lot of room to decide which direction to go. Staff will identify the "low hanging fruit" that can be more easily accomplished. Chris felt it would be helpful for clear sustainability objectives from the Sustainability Advisory Board with "big picture" phrasing. These suggestions/guidelines will then go to the Planning Commission. Chris expects the list of suggestions to take 6 - 8 weeks and final changes, about 12 months. Changes take time due to the process required to update the code and extensive public input process.

The question of how to meet the needs of a community like West Linn without having to do so much driving came up. It is difficult to have a long term sustainable community without making land use changes. This is a problem not unique to West Linn.

There was also discussion about building requirements. For enforcement of any building standards, requirements must first be in the code. Rich suggested, for the future the City look beyond just new construction, but also as the city "ages" and renews, need to look at infill and remodeling requirements.

Nationwide permit for stormwater is under review. New requirements are ahead - how we detain and treat stormwater, and how to measure what we discharge from the City.

The Sustainability Advisory Board asked how they can be of help, and offered to serve as a resource to the Planning Department. Chris will return for another meeting as the process moves forward.

New Business:

Greg Smith has been teaching 26 teachers from West Linn about sustainability at Lewis & Clark College this past term and will be teaching a summer institute for a couple of days in June. The class will be repeated in the fall. Greg has been working in curriculum development that is “place-based” or “community-based” education, aimed at finding ways for kids to engage in community involvement, to be a steward of a particular place, and that it is something valued by adults. It is also a way to use what they are learning in class and applying it in way that will benefit the community.

Greg is looking for ways the teachers can meet with groups like the Sustainability Advisory Board to provide opportunities for the kids to interact with governmental and other agencies to do this kind of work. Greg asked the group for suggestions and invited them to participate one morning during the summer institute.

Susan proposed having a high school student(s) collect measurable data to set a base for the Sustainability Advisory Board to implement into the Sustainability Strategic Plan. At the time the plan was written, it had broad goals but didn't have any measurables because there wasn't a base to begin with. Students could work toward collecting that data so goals can be more defined and adopted. This could also provide another approach to the community outreach plan identified by the board. The environmental sciences teacher at WLHS is looking at having his students identify issues that need attention, creating action plans, then connecting the students with the appropriate decision making bodies. The group was interested in looking at those proposals and working with the students.

For the Next Meeting:

Regroup and work on everyday projects (6/2), invite a building official to attend the following meeting (6/23).

Training:

Elaine will present her training to City employees on Thursday, May14, 8 – 9:30am. Board members are invited to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Next meeting is June 2, 2009, 6 – 7:30 p.m.