

SAS STEERING COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting

Date: April 2nd, 2024

Time: 5:30 pm

Hybrid – Council Briefing Center / Zoom
(Virtual meeting link – see below for information)

Agenda Items

Administrative Business – no oral testimony will be taken

- Approval of March 5, 2024 Minutes
- Staff Report - 5 minutes
- Chair Report - 5 minutes

Workshops – no oral testimony will be taken

- Tyler Kimbrell (City of Spokane Planner II) reports on Bicycle Priority Network and Centers and Corridors Study- 45 minutes
- Memo to PIES regarding our priorities (part 3)- 30 minutes

Written Public Testimony

- All email addressed to the Steering Committee and sent to sas@spokanecity.org will be distributed to the Steering Committee.

Next Meeting

- Tuesday, May 7th, 2024 5:30-7:00 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87476308813?pwd=NEFvTFBBWGNzbDFtS00wbWgzWXRBZz09>

Meeting ID: 874 7630 8813

Passcode: 798409

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SAS STEERING COMMITTEE

Minutes

March 5th, 2024

Call to Order: 5:30 pm

ATTENDANCE:

Steering Committee Members: Chair Larry Luton, Michelle Howard, Naghmana Sherazi, Brian Henning, Rowena Pineda, Mindy Howard

Not Present: Sarah Burrass, Pragya Rai, Dave Garegnani, Esther Angell, Matthew Hollon, Staci Maier

Staff: Kelly Thomas

Agenda Items

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

Larry reminded all that we are now recording these meetings, and that only Steering Committee members and presenting guests will be speaking.

City Council Liaison Report: Kelly reviewed the new cooling ordinance that is being discussed and written this month. Brian Henning gave a more detailed overview of the purpose and background for this ordinance.

Chair's Report: Tonight, Larry has a few parts to his report but should not take up too much time. There is a GreenHouse Gas reporting update with a presentation put together by the Environmental Programs part of the city. This report contains a forecast for Spokane's emissions if there is no action taken, and other forecasts that are based on actions the state and federal government have taken that affect the Spokane community. The conclusion from this chart is that Spokane is not on track for low- enough GHG emissions needed for the future. The presentation also broke down the categories that account for most GHG emissions. They are as follows: natural gas 39%, on-road and off-road transportation 33%, aviation 22%, solid waste 13%. Larry wants to make sure that the Steering Committee has this kind of information in mind when making decisions on what actions to take. It is time to start thinking about what the next topics are to focus on.

Brian Henning asked Larry and Kelly, if it would be appropriate to invite the people who put together the presentation to talk with SASSC. He is very interested in the way that the baseline for the GHG reporting was 2016.

Kelly: Since we last talked, this report was just presented to the mayor's cabinet by Logan Callan and Katherine Miller from our integrated capital management group.

At this point, another committee member joined the call so there was officially 6 members at the meeting. Larry asks if there are any objections to the minutes from February 6th. No objections, but Brian mentions that since we have the audio files of the meetings posted online, the minutes do not need to be as extensive, as people can fill in the gaps with the audio. There have been issues with the quality of the audio, and Kelly Thomas recommends downloading the audio in order to have a smoother listening experience.

WORKSHOPS:

Presentation by Brian Henning on Mayor Brown's Transition Committee Report (No public testimony will be taken during this workshop.)

The Mayor's transition committees were split up into five different groups, but Brian will only be talking about the committee titled "Building a Resilient Future" today. This committee involved both budget, finance and sustainability, climate topics. There are all sorts of documents that have been created by the administration that share different levels of detail regarding each recommendation. Everyone should be able to access the 25 page report written by this transition committee. Brian's presentation is a best effort to summarize many different conversations that took place regarding these recommendations.

Tonight, Brian is going to chat specifically about the 2nd, 4th and 5th recommendations. Details of his comments can be found in the audio recording of this meeting

Memo to PIES regarding our priorities

Larry will now discuss the memo to PIES. After receiving the feedback from last month, it seems like the Steering Committee would like to expand the purpose of the recommendations from just a summary of recommendations from the workgroups. Larry reviewed the various edits he made to the draft memo after specific feedback from the last meeting. He is also now opening up the discussion to additional priorities the committee wants to cover that were not mentioned by the workgroups. There is discussion of the priorities not being as effective in addressing GHG specifically, and not being as effective in addressing the big issues as they could be. The committee discusses how there are many grants available right now and lots of momentum to gain. Larry will continue to work on this PIES memo and send out a draft before next month's meeting.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, April 2nd , 2024 at 5:30 pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.

PREPARED BY:

Ruby Nelson

APPROVED BY:

DRAFT

To: Public Infrastructure, Environment and Sustainability Committee of the Spokane City Council

From: Steering Committee of the Sustainability Action Subcommittee

Date: March xx, 2024

SUBJECT: Top Priority Sustainability Actions from SASSC

This is our report and set of recommendations for PIES to consider developing for Council action.

The Sustainability Action Subcommittee Steering Committee (SASSC) spent most of 2023 hearing from the SAS Workgroups on their recommended priority actions from the Sustainability Action Plan. Each and every Workgroup gave a presentation to the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee then had multiple discussions regarding the Workgroup priorities they saw as most important to forward to PIES as recommended priorities on which to take action. **In addition, the Steering Committee engaged in additional discussions related to priorities we would like to bring to your attention. Those discussions are also reflected in this memo.**

The Steering Committee had each member report their top three priorities from the Working Group reports. Most members gave only three priorities, but some gave more than three. The priorities have been categorized in general terms, so the specifics mentioned under them may have been from a single member.

1. **Expand urban tree canopy** (Natural Environment Strategy 6, p. 73 of SAP) was the priority with the most mentions (6). Also mentioned in connection with the tree canopy recommendation were the need for **native species**, climate adapted landscaping, pollinator gardens, storm gardens, and **"miniature urban forests"**. Some focused on trees located on public land or right-of-ways, but others mentioned the need for increasing tree canopy on private land. Others were concerned about equity and prioritizing low-income neighborhoods. One member specified targeting a goal of 40% canopy cover by 2030
2. **Encourage the re-use of existing buildings, including efficiency retrofits** (Buildings & Energy Priority Action 1.7, p. 37 of SAP) was a priority with the second most mentions (4), but one member offered more than three priorities and mentioned it as number 5 on their list. A focus on retrofits for affordable housing, building decarbonization, expanding building electrification and heat pump availability for older homes, and energy efficiency standards for rental

housing were also included under this topic. Finally, as the Steering Committee discussed this priority, some members thought that we needed to bring SAP Buildings and Energy Priority Action 2.6 “Subsidize home energy efficiency retrofits for affordable housing units” to your attention.

3. **Protect the Spokane River and natural aquatic ecosystems** (Water Resources Goal 1, p. 56 of SAP) was tied for second most mentions (4). Because this is listed in the SAP as a goal (not a strategy or priority action), it is more general than the first two priorities listed in this report. Among the more specific policies discussed under this topic were: reducing pumping from the aquifer, intertie agreements and water exports. Concern for the health of Redband Trout and anadromous fish in the Spokane River was also expressed.
4. **Invest in waste diversion programs** (Waste Diversion & Material Conservation Goal 1, p. 50 of SAP) received multiple mentions (3). Listed as a goal in the SAP, this recommendation is also more general than the first two priorities. There was some focus on food waste, and a specific suggestion that we adopt a policy of waste reduction for all City events.

Other priorities (with SAP references in parentheses) that received support from Steering Committee members included:

- developing a program to improve resilience in dealing with extreme heat (TL 8.5 p. 45, HW 3.4 p. 80, HW 4.2 p. 80)
- transit-oriented development / 15-minute communities (TL 3 p. 22, TL 1.1 p. 42, TL 1.7 p. 42, TL 1.9 p. 42, TL 2.4 p. 42, Transportation & Land Use Strategy 3 p. 43, EP 3.3 p. 66)
- improved disaster planning, hazard mitigation and emergency management (HW 3 p. 25, IS 7.5 p. 33, WR 10.5 p. 61, Health & Well Being Strategy 3 p. 80, Health & Well Being Goal 2 p.80)
- renewable energy infrastructure (Buildings & Energy Goal 1 p. 22, Goal 2 p. 22, and Goal 3 p. 22)
- alternative/active transportation (Transportation and Land Use Goals 1, 2, & 3 p. 22, Transportation and Land Use Strategy 6 p. 44)
- urban agriculture (not addressed in 2021 SAP)