



SAS Steering Committee

Tuesday March 7th, 2023

5:30 PM

Hybrid – Council Briefing Center / Zoom
808 W Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane, WA 99201

Virtual Meeting Link - See Below for Information

TIMES GIVEN ARE AN ESTIMATE AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Committee Administrative Business – no oral public testimony will be taken

1. [Approval of February Minutes \(5 minutes\)](#)
2. Chair Report – Larry Luton (5 minutes)

Hearings – oral public testimony will be taken

1. [SASSC Mission Statement \(20 minutes\)](#)
 - Oral public testimony will be taken prior to the Steering Committee's vote to adopt the proposed Mission Statement included in this agenda packet

Workshops – no oral public testimony will be taken

1. [How to work with workgroups \(20 mins\)](#)
2. [Review of Solar Permit Fee Waiver SMC Language \(20 mins\)](#)
3. 2023 Workplan (15 mins)

Written Public Testimony

- All email addressed to the Steering Committee and sent to sas@spokanecity.org by 5pm Monday, March 6th will be distributed to the Steering Committee

Next Meeting

Tuesday April 4th, 2023 5:30 – 7:00pm

- All email addressed to the Steering Committee and sent to sas@spokanecity.org by 5pm Thursday, March 30th will be included in the April 4th agenda packet

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87476308813?pwd=NEFvTFBFWGNzbDFtS00wbWgzWXRBRz09>

Meeting ID: 874 7630 8813

Passcode: 798409

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+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 646 931 3860 US

+1 689 278 1000 US

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 305 224 1968 US

+1 309 205 3325 US

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 360 209 5623 US

+1 386 347 5053 US

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Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/kVmuc7OJb>

STANDING SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES
City of Spokane
Sustainability Action Subcommittee Steering Committee (SC)
February 7, 2023

Call to Order: 5:33 p.m.

Attendance

Steering Committee Members Present: Larry Luton, Mindy Howard, Naghmana Sherazi, Pragma Rai, Michelle Howard, Erica Johnson, Matt Hollon, Rowena Pineda, Ester Angell, Sarah Burruss, Ryan Lok, Stacie Maier

Special guests: Lori Kinnear

Steering committee staff present: Giacobbe Byrd, Tony Newton

Members of the public present: Cadie MacDonald-Olsen, Luke Cashman, Larry Andrews, Jim Hedemark, Mike Peterson, Tena R.

Absent: Wyeth Larson, Jennifer Thomas, Brian Henning, David Garegnani

Approval of January Minutes

- Motion to approve the minutes by Matt Hollon
 - Seconded by Michelle Howards
 - Motion passes

Agenda Items

1. Point of order
 - a. Wyeth Larson has resigned from the Committee.
 - b. Total voting members: 13
 - c. Quorum of voting members is seven (7).
2. Check-in with Lori Kinnear
 - a. Highlighting that her term will be at an end soon and appreciating the work that the group has done
 - b. Work with the Food Policy Council
 - c. Water Ordinance C36209- passed June 2022
3. Chair Report- Larry Luton
 - a. Providing opportunities for non-steering committee members to share both written and oral comments.

- i. Oral comments are limited to a couple of minutes.
 - ii. Open forum is limited (hopefully) to a maximum of ten (10) minutes.
 - iii. Noted concern about where the Steering committee is, in terms of making recommendations to the Public, Infrastructure, Environment and Sustainability Committee (PIES)
 - b. Need to schedule meetings for workgroups to give updates and make recommendations
 - c. Comments from the Public
 - i. Open comments started at 5:51pm and concluded at 5:56pm
- 4. Voting on Vision Statement wording
 - a. Ranked Choice Voting
 - b. The phrasing “carbon free” was decided on instead of “carbon neutral”
 - c. 10 votes to pass; 0 votes to deny
 - i. Buildings and Energy workgroup advisory vote, by Larry Andrews, voted a ‘5’- indicating disapproval for the decision
 - ii. No voting member voted ‘5’
- 5. Discussion on Mission Statement
 - a. This topic was not open to public comment and will not be voted on this meeting
 - b. Two (2) rounds of discussion with voting members of the steering committee
- 6. Additional Meetings with work groups
 - a. Potentially having a template form that workgroups can fill in that would include:
 - i. Priority items
 - ii. Explanation on selection of priorities
 - iii. Evidence to support the priorities
 - iv. Fiscal note/considerations that involve the priorities
- 7. Next Meeting
 - a. Vote on mission statement
 - b. Further discussion on how to work with the workgroups.
 - c. 2023 Workplan

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Prepared by:

Tony Newton

Approved by:

Council Member Lori Kinnear
PIES Committee Chair

Proposed SAS Steering Committee Mission Statement:

The SAS's Steering Committee's mission is to advise the City Council's Public Infrastructure and Environmental Sustainability Committee on implementation of the action strategies in the 2021 Sustainability Action Plan, and on revisions, amendments and/or additions to the Sustainability Action Plan.

**Proposed Schedule and Format for 2023 SAS Steering Committee
Study Sessions:**

5:30 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. on the 3rd Tuesday of each month

NOTE: These meetings would be conducted in a study session format and would be open to the public both virtually and in person. No legislative action would be taken at these meetings. No public testimony would be taken, and discussion would be limited to appropriate officials and staff.

3/7/2023 SAS Steering Committee Solar Permit Fees Workshop

The following is meant to provide context for Council President Beggs' request for the SAS Steering Committee to review and provide recommendations on an existing solar permit fee waiver:

SMC 15.05.040, the text of which is included in this packet, waives permit fees for solar arrays and vehicle charging stations until such time as the majority of energy "sourced" in Washington is renewable.

This incentive has become quite popular, and the City office that issues permits (i.e. the Development Services Center) wants to know definitively when they can start charging for inspections/permits again since they are an enterprise fund and thus not subsidized by general tax dollars.

Council President Beggs' personal interpretation of the existing code is that "sourced" means used - not necessarily just produced - and that it is all energy, not just electricity.

Council President Beggs requests that the SAS Steering Committee discuss this item at the March 7th meeting and consider adding this topic to their workplan with the goal of providing a formal recommendation to Council on how this code could be amended to be more clear and what data source should be used as the measure.

Council President Beggs has asked the Development Services Center for the amount of reserves they have in their fund in order to determine how urgent an issue this is for them and whether the City can continue to afford to incent installations through this fee waiver.

A proposed repeal of the solar permit fee waiver was discussed at the February 27th PIES meeting, which can be viewed here: [2/27 PIES Meeting Video](#)



Spokane Municipal Code

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[Section 15.05.040](#)

Highlight Word

[Title 15](#) Environmental Stewardship

[Chapter 15.05](#) Climate Change

[Section 15.05.040](#) Solar Energy Systems

A. The City of Spokane is committed to increasing the use of renewable energy citywide to become more resilient and reduce reliance on fossil-fuel based energy.

B. All City of Spokane building and construction permit fees imposed in connection with the installation of a solar energy system pursuant to [chapter 08.02, SMC](#) shall be waived until the majority of energy sourced in Washington state is derived from renewable resources. The permit fee waiver is limited to the building and construction of a solar energy system. The permit fee waiver does not apply to permits and fees not connected to the solar energy system.

Date Passed: Monday, March 5, 2018

Effective Date: Saturday, April 21, 2018

ORD C35591 Section 2