



SAS Steering Committee

Tuesday, August 1st, 2023

5:30 – 7:00 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

Administrative Business – no oral public testimony will be taken

1. [Approval of June 6, June 21, and July 19 Minutes \(1 minute\)](#)
2. Chair Report (10 minutes)
 - Report to PIES on July 24 – Larry Luton & Kelly Thomas
 - Introduction of Kelly Thomas as permanent Sustainability Initiatives Manager

Workshops – no oral public testimony will be taken

1. Discuss Letter of Support for General Facilities Charges (5 minutes)
2. Review and Discussion of Equity & Justice Presentation (10 minutes)
3. Roundtable Discussion of Workgroup Priorities & Next Steps (60 minutes)

Written Public Testimony

- All email addressed to the Steering Committee and sent to sas@spokanecity.org by 5pm Monday, July 31st will be distributed to the Steering Committee

Next Meeting

No additional meeting in August
Tuesday, September 5th, 2023 5:30 – 7:00pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87476308813?pwd=NEFvTFBBWGNzbDFtS00wbWgzWXRBRz09>

Meeting ID: 874 7630 8813

Passcode: 798409

One tap mobile

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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)

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+1 309 205 3325 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)
June 6, 2023

Call to Order: 5:40 pm

Attendance

Steering Committee Members Present: Larry Luton, Naghmana Sherazi, Matt Hollon, Michelle Howard, Brian Henning, Pragya Rai, Stacie Maier, Sarah Burruss, Rowena Pineda

Staff/Others Present: Kelly Thomas, Luke Cashman, Morgan Shimabuku, Marlene Feist, Katherine Miller

Absent: Dave Garegnani, Esther Angell, Jennifer Thomas, Mindy Howard

Note Taker: Kelly Thomas

Agenda Items

1. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. Any objections to the minutes?
 - i. Correction to the May 17 minutes- move Kirsten Angell & Mike Petersen to "Staff/Others Present"
 - b. No motion needed. Minutes approved.
2. General Facility Charges presentation by Marlene Feist
 - a. Per Council resolution, SASSC consulted on this subject
 - b. Power Point presentation provided
 - c. The SASSC requested specific points to be addressed by Marlene, which she addressed in the presentation:
 - i. Show what other comparable communities are doing with GFCs.
 - ii. What impact would this have on low-income people? What can be done to mitigate that impact?
 - d. A concern was raised about much control a ratepayer really had about these changes, and Marlene emphasized that these only affect new connections.
 - e. A question about how these connection sizes mentioned, and how the rates incentivized using the standard, smallest ¾" connection really impact the environment – does it take more electricity to pump water through a

smaller pipe? Marlene indicated that it doesn't necessarily, and that the true incentivizing exists in the "infill" for the lower zones, discouraging development in the outer limits of the City where multiple booster stations (and more electricity) are often necessary.

- f. SASSC probably will be most interested in this from the growth management side, and how infill makes the most sense. A wish that we could charge by use and not just by pipe diameter size.
 - g. A question about how waivers would be granted for those who need help with their bills. Marlene explained that they do have some incentives being offered for ADUs, and they are still determining how to offset those costs, through a utility tax or otherwise.
 - h. Regarding wastewater, Marlene acknowledged that the bulk of the City's water costs are in its treatment. Charges are based on water meter size, not the size of the sewer pipe.
 - i. Possibility that many in this group would be in favor of a tiered rate system... would a letter of support from the Steering Committee be effective? Marlene replied that it would be a helpful lens for Council in their further considerations.
- 3. Item 3, "Potential use of advisory groups in working groups," deferred until next meeting due to lack of time.
 - 4. Three current vacancies on Steering Committee
 - a. Economics, Climate Action Advocacy, and Business
 - b. If Steering Committee members have suggestions, please send to Kelly Thomas. Council will approve and appoint nominations, but prefer to defer to Steering Committee expertise. If no nominations, Kelly will poll Council members for suggestions.
 - c. Kelly will send the previously used application form to the Steering Committee.
 - 5. Workgroups
 - a. No workgroups currently scheduled for the June 21 study session/meeting. We will keep it on the calendar for now, and if no groups volunteer, it will be cancelled. Possibility of a presentation on extreme heat work being done.
 - 6. July 4 meeting will be cancelled; Committee business will be handled at the July 19 study session/meeting instead.
 - 7. Water Resource Group presentation; Power Point presentation.
 - a. Has been engaged in working on this presentation for the last year; has been about 9 months since all the members of this water group have met together, however.
 - b. Lenses used were climate change and greenhouse gas emissions.

- c. Identifying “quick and easy” actions was difficult. Water resource management is inherently complex. Watersheds are multi-jurisdictional and are managed and used by both private and public, local, regional, state, Tribal, and federal governments and entities. Sustainable, equitable, effective management of our water resources is neither quick nor easy
- a. However, they identified the following:
 - i. 6.1 – highest priority – “In collaboration with other stakeholders in the watershed, study climate impacts to SVRP aquifer.”
 - ii. 7.2, dealing with intertie agreements. Question about who examines the policy and process. Point brought up that drought and emergency situations aren’t addressed in these agreements.
 - iii. 9.1 – “Increase visibility and understanding through City website, City social media, and signage of projects that demonstrate City leading by example on water conservation.” This could actually be “quick and easy.”
 - iv. 9.2 – “Create more opportunities for community input in decision-making during all stages: before and after both planning & implementation” – email will be forthcoming from staff about the internal and external advisory groups meetings that have been taking place with GHD consultants, the “Link Strategy Group for Water.”
 - v. 9.3 – another quick & easy – physical signage to educate the public on the aquifer.
 - vi. 4.1 – this is the highest priority for the Tribe, and will be important for City Council to hear. “Support the development and operation of a Lead Entity for the Spokane River Watershed to guide restoration of native Redband Trout and anadromous fish habitats through a collaborative framework that functions in concert with local socio-economic and cultural needs.”
 - vii. The following 4 strategies were also identified as “quick & easy”:
 - 1. 10.2 - Continue participation in the Idaho Washington Aquifer Collaborative (IWAC)
 - 2. 10.4 - Support organization and agency management plans and programs that address watershed level sustainability strategies
 - 3. 10.5 - Collaborate regionally to develop disaster response plan for shared water resources like the SVRP aquifer and Spokane River

4. 10.6 - Hire an employee to act as a Tribal liaison to improve collaboration with Tribes within the Spokane River watershed

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm

Prepared by:

Kelly Thomas

Approved by:

STANDING SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

City of Spokane

Sustainability Action Subcommittee Steering Committee (SC)

June 21, 2023

Call to Order: 6:10 pm

Attendance

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

Staff/Others Present: Kelly Thomas, Jim Hedemark

Absent: Dave Garegnani, Esther Angell, Jennifer Thomas, Michelle Howard, Staci Maier, Matt Hollon, Pragma Rai, Sarah Burruss

Note Taker: Kelly Thomas

Agenda Items

1. Vacancies on Steering Committee – Kelly Thomas
 - a. Nominations to come from Steering Committee to Council for approval
 - b. Also asked Council for recommendations of people
 - c. Will post announcement of vacancies on City website
 - ~~c.d.~~ Consider penning a letter from the PIES chair or vice chair, direct and simple, that we can forward to people about the vacancies, point to the website, and also give a brief intro to the Steering Committee and its positions.
2. July 4th meeting cancelled due to holiday
3. Next meeting on July 19th will be for workgroup presentations only
4. Larry will give a status report on workgroups to PIES on July 24
5. Further discussion of letter of support for GFCs, next steps for workgroup reports and the draft 2023 workplan deferred until future meeting due to low attendance.
6. Dr. Henning highlighted the TCTAC program (Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center), a recent program developed by the EPA to help community-based organizations apply for federal funding, and that he is hoping to host a meeting in the fall, and particularly target those that don't have the capacity to apply for these funds.
- ~~5.7.~~ Dr. Henning also highlighted "CHAI", or the Climate Health Adaptation Initiative, a collaboration between the University of Washington and Gonzaga

[University to find state and federal sources for climate funds. Spokane is one of 3 pilot communities that has been identified.](#)

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Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm

Prepared by:

Kelly Thomas

Approved by:

DRAFT

STANDING SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES
City of Spokane
Sustainability Action Subcommittee Steering Committee (SC)
July 19, 2023

Call to Order: 6:00 pm

Attendance

Steering Committee Members Present: Larry Luton, Naghmana Sherazi, Brian Henning, Ian Cunningham, Matt Hollon

Staff/Others Present: Kelly Thomas, Lisa Gardner, Elyse Hochstadt

Absent: Dave Garegnani, Esther Angell, Jennifer Thomas, Michelle Howard, Mindy Howard, Staci Maier, Rowena Pineda, Pragya Rai, Sarah Burruss

Note Taker: Kelly Thomas

Agenda Items

1. Presentation from the Environmental Justice & Equity Workgroup – Lisa Gardner
 - a. Presentation included/attached.
 - b. See p. 3 for Priorities identified.
 - c. See p. 8 for Equity review process & Equity guidelines
 - i. Brian Henning asked why just health equity mentioned in 3c; others as well?
 - d. Make p. 10 (“Empowering Community”) a part of the checklist on p. 9. This effectively forces groups to talk about how they’ll be engaging with the community.
 - e. This is a fluid document
 - f. Definition of Environmental Justice = Fair Treatment + Meaningful Involvement
 - g. Funding is always a pressure point.
 - h. Lisa sees her role in empowering the community; she knows engagement well and is a trusted messenger.
 - i. Whit (now Dante) Jester’s work was previously funded through the NLC
 - j. We will continue to need a contracted coordinator
 - k. BIPOC communities are feeling that people aren’t coming to them; they need the education immediately. We’re an echo chamber here; we need

to talk to the people actually *living* with the environmental injustices (heat islands, lack of access to clean water and air)

- l. See p. 16 for next steps – continuing the work, applying for grants
 - m. We need to partner with community organizations to apply for the grants
 - n. Larry: question about accessibility – many projects start as pilots with limited geographic reach.
 - o. Shared benefit equitably, not necessarily equally.
 - p. Naghmana Sherazi re: Lands Council SpoCanopy work: they canvass the neighborhood they'll be planting in. There's a correlation with redlined areas.
 - q. Language access – we don't currently translate materials and we should be.
2. Waste Diversion & Material Conservation Working Group Presentation – Elyse Hochstadt
- a. Presentation included/attached.
 - b. Currently Elyse is the only member of the working group.
 - c. Priority 1:
 - i. EPR – Extended Producer Responsibility
 - ii. RAP (Recycling Action & Packaging) Act is a priority
 - iii. Watch video (link in presentation)
 - iv. Need to sit down with businesses to discuss RAP Act
 - v. 2024 Legislative Session goal: responsibility from producers; invest in local supply chain; need a circular economy (compostability)
 - d. Priority 2:
 - i. Compost – not listed in previous priorities, but recommends we change
 - ii. We are #1 in the State
 - iii. Invest & support what's already happening here in Spokane
 - iv. Subscription compost services
 - v. Growing Neighbors
 - vi. City needs to model and normalize composting at events, etc.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

Prepared by:
Kelly Thomas

Approved by: