

# SAS STEERING COMMITTEE

## *Regular Meeting*

**Date:** February 6, 2024

**Time:** 5:30 pm

Hybrid – Council Briefing Center / Zoom

(Virtual meeting link – see below for information)

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## Agenda Items

### **Administrative Business – no oral testimony will be taken**

- Approval of January 2, 2024 Minutes
- Sustainability Initiative Manager Report (5 minutes)
- Chair Report (15 minutes)

### **Workshops – no oral testimony will be taken**

- Presentation by Marcia Davis from Integrated Capital Management (30 minutes)
- Memo to PIES regarding our priorities (30 minutes)

### **Written Public Testimony**

- All email addressed to the Steering Committee and sent to [sas@spokanecity.org](mailto:sas@spokanecity.org) will be distributed to the Steering Committee.

### **Next Meeting**

- Tuesday, March 5, 2024 5:30-7:00 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87476308813?pwd=NEFvTFBBWGNzbDFtS00wbWgzWXRiZz09>

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# SAS STEERING COMMITTEE

## Minutes

*January 2, 2024*

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**Call to Order:** 5:30 pm

### **ATTENDANCE:**

*Steering Committee Members:* Chair Larry Luton, Sarah Burruss, Dave Garegnani, Brian Henning, Michelle Howard, Staci Maier, Rowena Pineda, Pragya Rai

*Not Present:* Esther Angell, Matt Hollon, Mindy Howard, Naghmana Sherazi, Jennifer Thomas

*Staff:* Council Sustainability Initiatives Manager Kelly Thomas, Mark Carlos

*Public:* Larry Andrews, Kerry Brooks

## 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.

Minutes of December 5 meeting were approved, without changes.

***Sustainability Initiative Manager Report:*** Kelly reported that the City has been assisting the Gonzaga Climate Institute with the EPA Community Change Grant, working closely with Dr. Brian Henning and the Emergency Management Director Sarah Nuss. The City would be a sub-award recipient with Gonzaga and other community partners like Carl Maxey Center and SNAP. The grant would allow for infrastructure changes in the community, like turning community centers into resilience hubs. The City would oversee facilitating the changes to Northeast Community Center and West Central Community Center. The grant would also be providing some funding for the implementation of the SAP.

City Council's new Councilmembers and the new mayor are very interested in climate and sustainability work. Council will be voting on a new leadership structure of committees and approval structure for legislation. Committees will now have one chair and two vice chairs who make up an executive committee. For PIES, CP Betsy Wilkerson will be the chair, and CM Bingle and CM Klitzke will be vice chairs.

Solar Panel Fee Waivers should be voted on by Council in February. Kelly had a meeting with council staff today about the legality of being able to waive these fees. This is still being investigated, but for the time being Kelly will be checking in with Council to see how they are feeling about the fees and if they think there needs to be additional funding to back-fill the revenue lost from the fees.

**Chair's Report:** Several people on this Steering Committee are on the transition team for the mayor. Mayor Brown could be interested to getting back to a sustainability advisory committee. Until we know what is happening within the City administration, we should hold off on revising our resolution.

## **WORKSHOPS:**

***Review of presentation by Health and Well Being Workgroup. (No public testimony will be taken during this workshop.)***

The biggest take-away from this presentation was the recommendation to join with the County on hazard mitigation.

***Discussion of priority actions to be prepared for PIES Committee.***

Each present member identified priorities to be presented to PIES.

Chair Larry Luton: Prioritize the development of people-centered neighborhoods, encourage reuse of existing buildings, waste reduction for all City events

Pragya Rai: Tree Canopy, including Language Justice & Access, and improving climate change preparedness for at-risk populations.

Rowena Pineda: no updates

Sarah Burruss: No updates.

Staci Maier: No changes. BE 1.7, conversation around energy and retrofits and insulation.

Dr. Brian Henning: Elaborating on 2.6: he would like to see a program that expands weatherization and makes heat pumps and electrification more accessible to low-income households. Staci Maier brings up that there needs to be an increase to the income that qualifies as "low-income households". There are a lot of homes in Spokane that need to be weatherized but do not fall under the 80% AMI.

Dave Garegnani: Would like to see an exemption from any new building codes for anyone who has lost their homes recently due to fires.

**Additional comments.** Rowena wondered if there was a way to cross-check if any of the priorities discussed tonight are things that the City is already working on. Kelly is working doing this, but it is a long process. Dr. Brian Henning suggested that Spencer Gardner from the

planning department present to the committee about the work they are doing under the new Growth Management Act.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 5:30 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

**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 18, 2024

SUBJECT: Top Priority Sustainability Actions from SASSC

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.

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

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 was climate adapted landscaping, pollinator gardens, storm gardens, and “postage stamp” 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 3 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.

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.

Priorities that received support from multiple Steering Committee members, but did not make the top four included:

- developing a program to improve resilience in dealing with extreme heat
- transit-oriented development / 15-minute communities
- improved disaster planning, hazard mitigation and emergency management