

# SAS STEERING COMMITTEE

## *Regular Meeting*

**Date:** May 7<sup>th</sup>, 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 April 2, 2024 Minutes
- Staff Report (Kelly)- 10 minutes
- Chair Report- 10 minutes

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

- Kathryn Alexander on Soil Smart soil improvement program -30 minutes

### **Public Hearing - oral public testimony and vote**

- Memo to PIES regarding our priorities – 30 minutes

### **For the Good of the Order**

- Announcements
- Comments

### **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**

- TBD

Join Zoom Meeting

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

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# SAS STEERING COMMITTEE

## Minutes

*April 2nd, 2024*

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

### **ATTENDANCE:**

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

*Not Present:* Sarah Burruss, 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.

**Staff Report:** We are still working towards restructuring the SASSC and have been meeting with City Council members as well as members from the Mayor's administration. There is a study session on 4/18 to discuss these changes. If anyone from this steering committee would like to be on the new version of the group, they will need to apply for it and be nominated by the mayor. After being nominated by the mayor, they will need to be confirmed by the City Council. Additionally, there is an internal meeting happening this month at City Hall that will start the process of inter-department collaboration regarding resiliency efforts, grants being applied to, and external partnerships.

**Chair's Report:** There will be several parts of the Chair's Report tonight. As a part of Expo 50, there will be a water symposium hosted by the Spokane River Forum on May 30<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am-4:30pm. The Chair would also like to encourage the members of the steering committee to educate themselves as much as possible on the upcoming I-2117 on the Washington ballot in November. The Climate Institute is hosting a symposium on Friday April 9<sup>th</sup>, surrounding the state of Environmental Justice in the Spokane community. The Lands Council is also hosting several events as a part of Expo 50 including a SpoCanopy Tree Planting and a legislative summit in June.

### **WORKSHOPS:**

***Tyler Kimbrell (City of Spokane Planner II) reports on Bicycle Priority Network and Centers, Corridors Study (No public testimony will be taken during this workshop.)***

***Memo to PIES regarding our priorities***

The PIES memo is coming together and getting finalized. The committee discussed having all the recommendations reviewed through a racial equity and environmental justice lens. Some possible ways to do this would be to use a racial equity checklist put together by the committee a few years ago or send it to the City Council's equity subcommittee. The original recommendations from the Sustainability Action Plan that the PIES memo pulls through were reviewed through and EJ lens so repeating that process may not be entirely necessary.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> , 2024 at 5:30 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

**PREPARED BY:**

Ruby Nelson

**APPROVED BY:**

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

From: Steering Committee of the Sustainability Action Subcommittee

Date: May 7, 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)