

SAS STEERING COMMITTEE REGULAR STUDY SESSION
City of Spokane
Sustainability Action Subcommittee Steering Committee (SC)
May 17, 2023

Call to Order: 6:02pm

Attendance

Present: Larry Luton, Naghmana Sherazi, Pragya Rai, Mindy Howard, Matt Hollon, Brian Henning, Rowena Pineda

Staff/Others Present: Kelly Thomas, Tony Newton, Kirsten Angell, Mike Petersen

Note Taker: Tony Newton

Agenda Items

1. Natural Environment Group

a. GOALS

- i. Goal 1- Establish partnerships with community organizations and agencies to leverage funding and invite community input
- ii. Goal 2- Build awareness and engage the community in Natural Resources stewardship
- iii. Goal 3- Increase urban tree canopy and climate-adapted plant landscapes
- iv. Goal 4- Protect and build climate resilience in natural spaces within Spokane

b. PRIORITY ACTIONS

- i. Develop a Green Corps Program (or similar program) to generate citizen volunteers trained to implement planting, monitoring and maintenance phases of PLANT Ordinance City
 - 1. Parks does have an interface for community members to sign up for volunteer opportunities. This can help build the foundation for expanding volunteer opportunities
- ii. Incentivize establishment of native, climate-adapted plantings
 - a. Spokane Ponderosa 100,000 tree planting partnerships, on City Parks
 - b. Department of Transportation roadways and commercial properties

- iii. Assess opportunities for citizen science work to contribute to a database that can be accessed to better understand ecosystem health and management needs within natural areas

c. QUICK ACTIONS

- i. Collaborate with Parks to develop a collaborative, volunteer-based effort to create pollinator pocket gardens in four parks, one in each quadrant of the city
 - 1. A lot of existing community support and existing pollinator network, pre-COVID
 - 2. Sky prairie pollinator park
 - a. (3 weed parties organized)
 - b. Lack of dedicated staff
- ii. Create a Master Planting Plan to increase City's urban canopy from 23% to 40% cover by 2030; equity framework to prioritize low-canopy and low-income neighborhoods
 - a. GIS analysis and review of inventory to determine planting areas
 - b. Removing regulatory obstacles to increasing urban canopy
 - c. Citizen engagement to plant residential and commercial properties
 - d. Ted Henson has volunteered to work with the City to help create a tree plan using GIS data
- iii. Spokane Urban Nature and Spokane Parks Department work to identify key natural lands and ensure they are protected

d. PRIORITIES

- i. Create opportunities within K-12 education, colleges, and universities for students to contribute input and service work to City natural resources programs and projects
 - a. Seattle has Youth Green Ops program that pays and trains youth
- ii. Support regional conservation and restoration of natural areas and corridors
- iii. Prioritize evaluating biodiversity within City Natural Areas so that at-risk species and habitats are protected through focused management actions
- iv. Assess opportunities for citizen science work to contribute to a database that can be accessed to better understand ecosystem health and management needs within natural areas

- v. Spokane Urban Nature and Spokane Parks Department work to identify key natural lands and ensure they are protected
- vi. Looking to future needs
 - 1. Funding
 - 2. Support from city administrators and staff
 - 3. Leadership moving forward

e. Questions and Discussion for steering committee

- i. [WCCN](#)
 - 1. Potential resource/organization/funding that can assist some of the priorities/goals
 - 2. Specifically for overburdened communities
- ii. Maintenance on street trees? Is there data that is accessible?
- iii. How can residents in extreme heat communities be engaged with?
- iv. How do we engage with youth around tree planting?
- v. How to create a youth volunteer program that is inclusive?

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Prepared by:

Tony Newton

Approved by:



Councilmember Lori Kinnear
PIES Committee Chair