

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:


