

SAS STEERING COMMITTEE

Minutes

October 3, 2023

Call to Order: 6:00 pm

ATTENDANCE:

Steering Committee Members: Chair Larry Luton, Esther Angell, Sarah Burruss, Brian Henning, Matt Hollon, Mindy Howard, Staci Maier, Rowena Pineda, Pragya Rai, Naghmana Sherazi

Not Present: Dave Garegnani, Michelle Howard, Jennifer Thomas

Staff: Council Sustainability Initiatives Manager Kelly Thomas

Public: Larry Andrews, Kerry Brooks, Jim Hedemark

Agenda Items

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

Kelly gave her Sustainability Initiative Manager report and updated the SC on the last EJEW meeting, and also announced that the October 18 study session was cancelled.

Larry gave the Chair's report. He announced that we will have elections in December for the Chair and one of the Vice Chair positions, both of which are a term of one year and expire at the end of this year. The SC will take nominations that are due by November 7. He also reported that two people have thus far applied for the Steering Committee vacancies, which is still open. He reminded that Council President Kinnear wants the Steering Committee to be involved in the selection and screening process, which means we'll have to update our founding resolution.

WORKSHOPS:

Roundtable Discussion of the General Facilities Charges Letter of Support and Voting:

Members were asked to vote using our 5-point scale (see below as reminder):

1. I can say an unqualified "yes" to the decision.
2. I find the decision acceptable.
3. I can live with the decision, but I'm not especially enthusiastic about it.
4. I do not fully agree with the decision, but I do not choose to block it.
5. I do not agree with the decision, and I feel we should explore other options.

- Sarah Burruss: 1
- Stacie Maier: neutral (non-voting per Avista policy)
- Brian Henning: 2
- Esther Angell: 2
- Larry Luton: 1
- Matt Hollon: 1
- Mindy Howard: 2
- Naghmana Sherazi: 2
- Rowena Pineda: 2
- Pragya Rai: pass
- Other comments: Jim Hedemark asked Larry Andrews to speak on his behalf. Larry Andrews stated that GFCs would negatively impact fire response. Another countered that GFCs have nothing to do with the size of the pipe to a fire hydrant, just to a residential home. [Marlene Feist was consulted by text by Kelly, and Marlene confirmed that the GFCs and their new proposals only apply to the meter connection to residential homes. The transmission system (which includes fire lines to hydrants) is completely different].

Continuing Discussion of Priorities from Working Groups:

Stacie Maier said her top priorities were: 1) tree canopy work, and wondered how do we align with Priority Spokane; 2) re-use of existing buildings from BE 1.7. Wanted to know more about that, and said that the State has a clean buildings energy code, and looks at EUI (energy use intensity) measurements.

Esther Angell cited urban canopy (with federal funding); green corps; and water resources (reducing pumping from the aquifer).

There were some additional comments from those who'd already stated their priorities in the previous meeting:

Rowena commented that we need to increase our community input prior to decision making. For instance, with tree canopy and other priorities, we need to ask how it's addressing health disparities, and how it's being measured. What is the impact to environmental justice?

Sarah Burruss wants to change her priorities to: 1) river flow; 2) bike paths; and 3) encouraging the re-use of existing buildings over building new.

Larry Luton also wanted to change his priorities and pull out tree canopy and replace it with BE 1.7, to reuse existing buildings. He said he'll keep as his other two "people-oriented communities" and waste reduction for all City events.

A question was asked whether the area of agreement on BE 1.7 was for home insulation.

Brian Henning wanted to add BE 2.6, to subsidize home energy efficiency retrofits for affordable housing units.

Mindy Howard noted that environmental justice is a consideration, and that all of these priorities are important actually, because we are in a crisis.

Kelly Thomas will review the SAP for what is already being done in the City.

Brian Hennings agreed that that effort will help and that we should update the SAP with what's already happened.

Larry Luton echoed that, and also encouraged all to look at the "annotated" list of working group priorities that he circulated, as it has resource links that he identified.

Rowena liked the "crosswalk" of our priorities with what the City is already doing. Noted that Kelly should also check on identifying funding sources.

Brian Henning expressed an interest in having Spencer Gardner come to speak about HB 1181 and how the City is implementing that work. (HB 1181 adds a climate goal to the Growth Management Act (GMA) and requires local comprehensive plans to have a climate element with resilience and greenhouse gas emissions mitigation sub-elements.)

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

PREPARED BY:

Kelly Thomas

APPROVED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ron Kinnear". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "R" and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.