

SAS STEERING COMMITTEE

Minutes

December 5, 2023

Call to Order: 5:32 pm

ATTENDANCE:

Steering Committee Members: Chair Larry Luton, Esther Angell, Sarah Burruss, Dave Garegnani, Brian Henning, Staci Maier, Rowena Pineda, Pragya Rai, Jennifer Thomas

Not Present: Matt Hollon, Michelle Howard, Mindy Howard, Naghmana Sherazi

Staff: Council Sustainability Initiatives Manager Kelly Thomas

Public: Larry Andrews, Kirsten Angell, Jacob Cain, Bob Lutz

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 November 7 meeting were approved, with changes as submitted by Brian Henning, and circulated to the Steering Committee.

Sustainability Initiative Manager Report: Kelly reported about the solar panel fee waiver decision, now deferred until February 5. Council wants to find an alternative funding measure to backfill fee waivers, before voting, so it would be premature to approve at this time. Also want to clean up the accompanying SMC language about the definition of renewable energy sources. Couple different definitions, and they need to be consistent. We have been out of compliance, as we're not supposed to waive fees unless we have an alternative funding source. *Two people expressed an interest in seeing the exact language of how we're in violation of these fee waivers.* EJEW group has been meeting twice a month, now in the process of putting together a checklist, to use together in a working relationship with the Equity Subcommittee as a lens for evaluating policy proposals. Also – grants internally and externally, as potential partnerships. Climate Planning Grant that our Planning Dept is working on to update our Comp Plan. Our intern starts in January. Working together with Climate Pollution Reduction Grants and our Integrated Capital Management and Planning groups. Continuing to monitor the State Building Code.

Chair's Report: Larry made a pitch for any interested parties to consider applying for the District 2 open seat on Council. Mayor-elect Brown announced her 5 committees on her transition team. Each committee has 3 co-chairs. This group is pretty well represented there.

WORKSHOPS:

Election of Officers.

There are now two uncontested races. Larry asked if anyone else had a nominee. No one else spoke up. Larry proposed a "secret" ballot process, to use the chat feature to submit votes to Kelly. So, everybody, go to chat feature, and let Kelly know your votes for each position. Larry Luton is the sole nominee for the Chair, and the sole nominee for the Vice Chair position is Naghmana Sherazi. All votes received from Steering Committee members present, and Larry and Naghmana were both elected unanimously 8-0. Staci Maier, who arrived later, abstained from the vote as per her internal policy at Avista. Clarification given about Mindy Howard, who was also nominated for the Vice Chair position, but declined this afternoon.

Presentation by Health and Wellbeing Working Group from Bob Lutz.

[Power Point presentation included on following pages]

Questions:

Brian Henning: *re: slide on all-hazards mitigation. It's his understanding that City is not covered by any all-hazards mitigation plan, formerly covered by County plan. But when we started our own department of emergency management, we did not do the necessary work to remain under the County's plan and so now do not have our own. So we are not covered by anything, and therefore not eligible for FEMA relief, BRIC program, etc.* A discussion on hazards mitigation ensued and Bob made it clear that this was the priority that was seen as the one with greatest import. Then some of these other elements would fall into place. **Jennifer:** suggested working with The Spokane County Long-Term Recovery Group which was set up in place after the Medical Lake and Elk fires and would stay in place. On the County's website, there is information about it, and they meet every other Thursday. [Info can currently be found here: [LTRG \(Long Term Recovery Group\) | Spokane County, WA](#)].

Discussion Round of Proposed Changes to Resolution 2022-0019:

Background by Larry: Potential changes to our authorizing resolution. Larry stated that he had prepared some significant elements as a summary. He also offered a quick historical background. One of the things we've seen happen since the Steering Committee has gotten up and running, since the beginning of the year, has been that all of the work groups have questioned, "What is our role?" The long and short of it is that the work groups were not being asked to meet on a regular basis anymore. So we got the work groups back in action and working on clarifying for the Steering Committee what their priorities were, based on that report that Kara had put together with their help just prior to her leaving. So much of this year has been spent getting

those reports from the work groups. Most common comment heard from the work groups was whether they were going to be asked to meet on a regular basis, and what their role was in this process. So, these work groups don't know where they stand with this.

So, how do we deal with these issues? In the agenda packet is a strikethrough version of the old resolution, showing our suggested changes and asking City Council to allow us to amend it. Calling attention to four big changes. So first, Larry would like to ask each of the Steering Committee members where they would like to start with each of these four elements and take them one at a time.

Discussion ensued.

The original resolution also had in it that a 3-person panel of the City Council would screen applicants and suggest to the full Council appointments for the Steering Committee. Council wants to change that appointment process and wants the Steering Committee to take the lead on screening new members, so there is proposed language in there trying to do that.

We've also had an issue on and off about recording the meetings. City Council actually passed a resolution requiring us to record the meetings.

There are other ways to go on each of these three items. Let's start with the change of the SASSC to the SAS and not have work groups.

A discussion ensued that indicated people felt that the work groups were important to keep.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 5:30 pm.

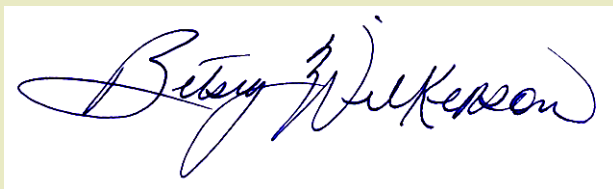
ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm.

PREPARED BY:

Kelly Thomas

APPROVED BY:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betsy Wilkerson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Betsy" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Wilkerson".

Betsy Wilkerson
City Council President
Chair, Public Infrastructure, Environment and Sustainability Committee