

Hillsboro Sustainability Task Force Meeting Summary

May 21, 2020, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Meeting held via Zoom

Attendees

Heather Robinson, Laura Trunk, Fawn Bergen, Carol Brown, Jeff Pazdalski, Anthony Martin, Linda Everett, Tom Arnold, Mia Hocking, David McInay, Troy Gagliano, Makena Krause, Peter Brandom, Jason Robertson, Dacia Bakkum, Kristel Griffith, Bob Grover, Nina Carlson, Ryan Stee, Mac Martin, Laura Schaefer, Steve Callaway

Absent: Adam Haslam, Emily McBroom, Kya Dillon

Check-In/Welcome

Heather welcomed everyone and reviewed the agenda. She then asked for introductions and for everyone to share what they might take with back to the 'normal' world when it returns.

Overview and Proposed Structure Updates

Peter thanked the Task Force for their participation in the development and implementation of the Environmental Sustainability Plan (ESP). He said 90% of the actions in the original ESP have been completed and that level of success could not have been achieved without the commitment of the Task Force and its constituent partners. Peter shared information about the action plan update and let the group know the final plan will be presented to City Council during a work session on July 21.

Review of Action Prioritization Voting

Jason Robertson said actions that received 40% or more of the total votes from the prioritization survey, within their individual thematic areas, should be considered for advancement in the final plan (e.g., they had the most support among voters). He said the Task Force would ultimately decide which actions move forward, and that all actions are included in the vote totals, including separate tables for above and below inclusion "thresholds." The Task Force can "save" an action below the threshold if it believes it is essential to meeting public goals expressed through community input, or otherwise is necessary to implement in order to achieve actions most-supported by the public. He reminded the Task Force that the other 2035 Community Plan focus areas have about 40 actions each, on average, and that the Environmental Sustainability survey included more than 140 action proposals – so the goal is to produce a commensurate number of actions for this new focus area vis a vis voting, analysis and deliberation.

Natural Resource Conservation

The group discussed a water re-use action that did not receive enough votes to make the initial cut.

Mac said Clean Water Services has a growing interest in water reuse throughout the community. More reuse means less water will need to be put into the Tualatin River. Mac suggested a possible demonstration project at Rood Bridge Park. Kristel and Mac both suggested the reuse action be included and vetted with their respective groups and consider possibly modifying the action language. Kristel commented there are strict codes for water reuse and the construction of require infrastructure could create barriers. Jason reminded the Task Force that reclaimed water had been an action in the original plan, and remained a priority for the future, but might be better-suited as a new action in a future update of the plan (amended annually) since the current best-use of reclaimed water remains recharging of streams during summer months.

An action regarding unleaded aviation fuel was discussed, but it was determined that the voting results were too low to keep it on the list of approved actions. It was also noted that, at present, little can be done to influence fuel choice given the current design of aviation engines. The group agreed to track this issue and consider advocacy measures in support of engine design enhancements.

For the action “Dedicate a portion of public rights of way along major streets/roads for *native* trees, where appropriate”, Tom Arnold suggested reviewing the City’s approved tree list to see if native trees are already included. He also suggested looking at the City’s design and construction standards and cautioned that we need to be thoughtful with regards to planting trees in the right of way – especially where there is a potential for road expansions. Bob also stated that very often, trees are not the best vegetation for a given site, considering other infrastructure, other vegetation, maintenance requirements, and other needs.

Energy & Mobility

Mayor Callaway expressed an interest in the no-idle policy; maybe consider ‘encourage no idling’ rather than prohibit it since it would be hard to enforce. Carol expressed agreement. The group suggested working with businesses to deploy signage and literature. Tom Arnold said that Hillsboro Public Works has a no-idle policy for Public Works vehicles. Jason suggested adding a reference to the no-idling policy to an existing action, which he would share in the revised action set.

Nina expressed concern about the potential effects of Home Energy Scoring on home affordability. Mayor Callaway commented that it provides the owner/renter with information about the cost to operate the home – similar to MPG for a car or energy star rating on a water heater. Councilor Martin reiterated that the cost of the assessment is very low compared to the cost of a home, and that the impacts to affordability are not yet clear with data in Portland. Peter said that the City had conducted a recent analysis of these topics and would forward the memo outlining findings.

Anthony asked if there is variable pricing for electricity use for commercial buildings/businesses to encourage businesses to reduce nighttime lighting/light pollution.

Material Recovery and Renewal

Councilor Martin requested that we keep the multi-family recycling education action. Jason Robertson will review the other multi-family related actions to see if there might be an opportunity to include and/or combine with another action. (Update: this action has been incorporated into the “Expand

recycling education related to why items can/cannot be recycled and alternative products and practices”)

Kristel noted that multiple education-related actions are not on the list. Makena shared schools need much more sustainability related education. Heather noted there are relationships between some of the actions on the approved list and some of those that are not. She commented those that are not on the approved list could ultimately benefit from those actions that are. (Update: Jason added STEAM/STEM education to an existing action proposal).

Final Action Plan Setting

Nina and Kristel would like for utilities to be consulted regarding activity in the public right of way (ROW).

Nina also suggested that the Oregon Homebuilders Association be involved with the on-site diesel construction policy discussion, and other groups who have been involved in existing programs in Oregon.

Additional partners were suggested for some actions, such as incentivizing green roofs.

Suggestions for Potential Partners

Homebuilders Association of Oregon

Public Comment

None.