

Advisory Committee on Sustainability and Innovation (ACSI)



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 10/12/22, 9am-11am

Remote Access Only

Next Meeting

TBD

Remote Access Only

ACSI MEMBERS PRESENT / PHONE

Adah Crandall, Jona Davis, Mara Gross, Tori Heroux, Rick Hodges, Sasha Pollack, Emma Sagor, James Wooten, Amanda Zuniga

MULTNOMAH COUNTY LEADERSHIP / STAFF / PUBLIC MEMBERS PRESENT

Tim Lynch, Knowledge Murphy, Sara Mihm, John Wasiutynski (Office of Sustainability), Hayden Miller (Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson)

ACTION ITEMS

- **Office of Sustainability:**
 - **Knowledge Murphy** will:
 - Send a Doodle poll to find dates for a meeting to discuss the annual letter, as well as an all-ages social gathering. Masks are encouraged.
 - Share a Google doc that includes subcommittee chair names, meeting times, login and Jamboards for everyone's review.
- **ACSI members:**
 - Contact **Knowledge Murphy** if your status as an ACSI member is changing.

DECISIONS MADE

- None.

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **John Wasiutynski** shared that the Office of Sustainability is currently hiring a [Senior Climate Resilience Coordinator](#), with an application deadline of October 31, 2022.
- **Sara Mihm** announced the [Multnomah County EcoChallenge campaign](#), which includes events taking place throughout October. **Adah Crandall** will co-present at, "Climate Change and Our Mental Health: Listening to Our Youth," with Oregon Health Authority.
- **Mara Gross** shared that she and **Amanda Zuniga** and **John Wasiutynski** have met quarterly with **Commissioner Vega Pederson** and **Hayden Miller**.
- **Hayden Miller** shared that the **Office of Commissioner Vega Pederson** continues work on leaf blowers. Beginning in March 2022 their office convened a work group including **John Wasiutynski**, advocates, stakeholders, and business representatives to develop policy

recommendations for **Commissioner Vega Pederson** and **Commissioner Carmen Rubio** regarding policy action that the City of Portland and/or Multnomah County can take to phase out the use of gas-powered leaf blowers. A report including policy recommendations, to be presented to the commissioners, is being finalized.

- **Sasha Pollack** shared that on Wednesday, 10/12/22, OPB is hosting an event, [Oregon youth demand action on climate change](#), and **Adah Crandall** will be speaking.
- **Knowledge Murphy** shared that **Silvia Tanner** will be honored this Friday at the Oregon Citizens Utility Board conference for their Consumer Champion award.
- **Mara Gross** shared that the voter registration deadline is 10/18/22 and that ballots are forthcoming.

REVIEW AND APPROVE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

- The meeting minutes from April 2022 were approved unanimously by **ACSI members** present.
- The meeting minutes from July 2022 were approved unanimously by **ACSI members** present.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

- **Mara Gross** solicited feedback from the group regarding the best way to communicate recommendations from **ACSI members** to the **Multnomah County Board of Commissioners**. **John Wasiutynski** followed up with context related to the annual letter and presentation to the **Multnomah County Board of Commissioners**.
- **John Wasiutynski** shared some reflection questions for **ACSI members'** consideration as it relates to the central purpose of the committee, including, "What is the committee's purpose? Do we give ideas to County staff?" etc. Tactically, when **ACSI** has proposed that the County advocate on particular issues in Salem or how to activate the Climate Action Plan, those have proven valuable. Past wins for **ACSI** includes recommendations on diesel and an environmental justice snapshot, and a forthcoming success includes **Chair Deborah Kafoury** announcing a renaming process for the Sauvie Island bridge.
- **Emma Sagor** shared uncertainty around taking initiative as an **ACSI member** versus waiting for direction from the County to act. A suggestion she shared was to keep a register, sticky wall, or spreadsheet of topics and ideas that are discussed where members can see what is being discussed. **Emma Sagor** expressed that a shared jam board, as **Knowledge Murphy** has used, would be helpful.
- **Knowledge Murphy** acknowledged the constant overlap between subcommittees, citing the Climate and Energy with the Air Toxics subcommittees, and the Air Toxics and Transportation subcommittees.
- **John Wasiutynski** suggested that **ACSI members** bring their own agendas and collaborate with the committee to advance that agenda. He cited former **ACSI members**, **David Heslam** and **Mary Peveto**, and how they were able to move their work forward.
- **ACSI members** discussed pairing new with existing **ACSI members** to discuss history and context, as well as providing deeper and more frequent check-ins to provide greater depth and information on how **ACSI** can make an impact.

- **Emma Sagor** suggested shifting the structure of subcommittee meetings where **County staff** can lead on part of the meetings, discussing leverage points and ways **ACSI members** can help, and then providing time for **ACSI members** to discuss their own agendas.
- **Tori Heroux** offered support for the idea to connect intersecting subcommittees.
- **Amanda Zuniga** requested regular subcommittee chair check-ins, and that members should communicate with each other to build rapport and create relationships.
- **John Wasiutynski** said that prior to meetings, Office of Sustainability staff can check in with subcommittee chairs to identify key issues for discussion.
- In the chat:
 - **Tim Lynch** wrote: “One thought on authority, the County does develop a formal legislative agenda (starting now) that ACSI could potentially influence.”
 - **Tori Heroux** wrote: I liked that Amanda initiated an outdoor in person event for the climate subcommittee. I love the flexibility of remote meetings and think we should keep them but I would love for us to have some sort of social opportunity in the future to get to know fellow ACSI members.

ANNUAL LETTER DISCUSSION

- **John Wasiutynski** shared that a new **Multnomah County Chair** will start in January 2023. Once a new Chair begins, she will be coming with her own priorities and there is an opportunity for the committee to think thematically. For example, asking “How would you judge success four years from now?” **ACSI members** can provide recommendations to provide a policy agenda over the next four years, offer a hybrid thematic/laundry list of recommendations.
- **Hayden Miller** said that there is value in both a laundry list of recommendations and providing a thematic recommendation in the annual letter. When thinking of the County’s core functions, sustainability doesn’t appear to be one of those core functions, however, this committee is great at explaining the sustainability and climate policy ideas intersect with those core functions and values. **The Office of Jessica Vega Pederson** is eager to think about innovation but direct priority recommendations are helpful.
- **Sasha Pollack** expressed support for past ways of providing recommendations, which included connecting County assets and responsibilities in the County charter, with ways that sustainability can be improved.
- **Mara Gross** expressed uncertainty about how far the public health authority extends, and if that includes transportation or air toxics.
- **John Wasiutynski** said our **Board of Commissioners** is also the **Board of Public Health**, and they can pass rules and regulations across the entire county, including incorporated jurisdictions. Our charter powers come in conflict with an incorporated jurisdiction, where the City would have a higher authority. Health authority supersedes this home rule when it pertains to a matter of health. **ACSI members** can recommend that the **Board of Public Health** takes a particular action but it must have a strong, solid link to health impacts.
- **John Wasiutynski** said that 2023 will be a long session in the Oregon legislature and the timing of the annual letter, traditionally presented prior to the session, will flag what is important

to staff and provide opportunities to give testimony and work in coalition on certain priorities and that the session will direct where our lobbyists spend time addressing issues. Providing lobbyists with specific areas of priority, from **ACSI members'** perspective, will be important.

- **Emma Sagor** recommended organizing the Jamboard by big policy areas, and within each of those what the County is already doing, as well as incorporating big and new ideas.
- **Tim Lynch** suggested including vision and values.
- **Adah Crandall** recommends asking for more than we expect to get, anticipating that requests will become watered down. "I don't want to be told that a livable planet is too radical... It may seem big and scary if we want future generations to be able to survive, and that shouldn't be too big of an ask."

ACSI MEMBER RECRUITMENT

- **Knowledge Murphy** asked **ACSI members** to send recommendations for new members to recruit.
- **Amanda Zuniga** reminded folks that subcommittee meetings are open to the public and people can join.
- **Tim Lynch** said that the **Office of Sustainability** tries to align efforts with our environmental justice partners and having more voices about where community organizing is heading will help to shape the direction of our work.
- The deadline for applications for one new member is in early December.
- Stipends will be delivered to **ACSI** members by end of year.
- A new **ACSI** chair vote will take place prior to year end, and a vote for a vice chair will take place in early 2023.
- **Amanda Zuniga** expressed interest in the Chair role but others are also welcome to step into this role.

REVIEW ACTIONS AND ADJOURN