

# Advisory Committee on Sustainability and Innovation (ACSI) Annual Retreat Meeting Minutes



Thursday, September 29, 2016  
1 - 4pm  
Tonkon Torp

Next Meeting:  
Wednesday, 10/12/16  
9 - 11am  
Multnomah Building, 6th floor, Room 625

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## ACSI MEMBERS PRESENT

Loulie Brown, David Heslam, Edward Hill, Bradford McKeown, Rebecca O'Neil, Roberta Robles, Kimberlee Stafford, Michael Tynan, Ryan Vanden Brink, Jackie Yerby

## NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Beth Crane, Mary Peveto, Douglas Tsoi

## MULTNOMAH COUNTY LEADERSHIP/STAFF

Chair's Office: Nancy Bennett  
Commissioner Bailey's Office: Jules Bailey, Henry Burton  
Office of Sustainability: John Wasitynski, Tim Lynch, Sam Baraso, Sara Mihm  
Department of County Human Services: Casey Filice  
Office of Diversity and Equity: Jonathan Ostar  
Health Department: Jae Douglas

## COMMUNITY MEMBERS

None

## MEETING DECISIONS & ACTION ITEMS

### Decisions:

- The following items were postponed until the January 2017 ACSI meeting given the full agenda for the October 2016 ACSI meeting:
  - Green and Healthy Homes Initiative
  - Equity-focused screening question for future ACSI projects

### Action Items:

- **Office of Sustainability** will work with ACSI members to draft the ACSI letter to the Board of Commissioners.
- ACSI will also send a thank you to **Commissioner Bailey** for his work and support of ACSI.
- **Bradford McKeown** will create a Google doc for ACSI members to help organize projects the group would like to work on in the coming year.

## MEETING MINUTES

### Introductions/Announcements

- **Commissioner Bailey** welcomed the group and expressed gratitude for the work accomplished. He:
  - Sees ACSI as a unique think tank for the region that touches a variety of sectors.
  - Expressed interest in continuing to work on toxics, climate, and life cycle analysis.
  - Encourages the group to express views, even on topics that the County does not regulate (e.g., oil trains).
  - Is confident that Commissioner-elect Jessica Vega Pederson will support work that ACSI focuses on.
  - Thanked Jae Douglas for working to highlight the intersection of public health and sustainability.
- **Chair's Chief of Staff, Nancy Bennett**, expressed support for ACSI and work on climate change. She:
  - Requests that ACSI count on **Chair Deborah Kafoury** as an active participant in the topics tackled.
  - Encourages the group to push the topic of climate change with decision-makers.
  - Wants the group to delve deeper into quality affordable housing and long-term impacts.
  - Agrees with **Commissioner Bailey** that life cycle analysis is an area to work on.
- **Environmental Health Director, Jae Douglas**, supports the intersection of Environmental Health and Sustainability, and looks forward to moving the relationship in a positive direction.

### Updates

- **Office of Sustainability staff** provided updates on:
  - Diesel
  - Clean Diesel Contracting Policy
  - Courthouse project pilot
  - Building coalition of supporters
- **Wood Smoke**
  - Curtailment policy, education, and wood stove replacements
- **CSPACE**
  - Several deals are now in the pipeline, totaling \$35 million
  - Seismic upgrade component to go to the Board in November
  - Will request legislative amendments to add water efficiency, energy storage, and electric vehicle charging stations as eligible improvements.

### Building Codes

- **David Heslam** shared that Washington and California energy codes are stronger than those in Oregon. Seattle's code is tougher than the code at the state level.
- **Tim Lynch** said that as a new comprehensive policy is being developed, some affordable housing projects have recently added green building requirements. He encouraged the continued work in this area to elevate this quality affordable housing conversation.
- **Portland Housing Bureau** says that the cost of operations is more important than the initial capital investment plus financing.
- On messaging, **Jae Douglas** urged the group to avoid language that frames green building as elitist, and instead communicates green building as healthy, safe, and long-term affordable. **Nancy Bennett** shared a policy-maker viewpoint that stresses the quantitative vs. qualitative benefits, and agreed that the focus should be on operational costs that save money in the long run.

## ACSI Letter 2016

- **Office of Sustainability** will draft the ACSI letter to the Board of Commissioners and include a thank you to **Commissioner Bailey** for his work and support of ACSI.
- **Topics for consideration**
  - Green and Healthy Homes Initiative
  - Air toxics
  - Radon & Lead
    - Joint recommendation from ACSI and Environmental Health committee that expresses commitment to more work on lead and radon testing.
  - CPACE
  - Green Banks
  - State climate legislation
    - Workforce Development to train/educate toward our stated climate goals, as well as address jobs infrastructure.
  - Building codes
  - Quality affordable housing
    - Additional terms to consider: Preservation, durability, healthy
  - Develop environmental justice lens for climate and other policy areas.
    - **Edward Hill, Rebecca O’Neil, Jon Ostar, and Jackie Yerby** volunteered to be involved in this topic.
  - Advocating for transportation package that prioritizes environmental justice principles.

## Focus areas for 2017

- **ACSI Lens**
  - The group discussed the screening questions that help ACSI prioritize which policy initiatives and programmatic changes the group should focus on.
  - **Commissioner Bailey** advised that more progress can be made when the group can make recommendations that become a Board vote. He recommended that the questions be inverted and serve as a tiered-screen.
  - **Nancy Bennett** encourages ACSI to work on practical things that the Chair and Board can support, and that will influence the state.
  - **Jae Douglas** shared an example with tobacco retail licensing and a take back program that could be lead by Multnomah County and further, influence the state.
  - **Michael Tynan** added additional questions for consideration: Is this even a good idea? Is this evidence-based? Will it help public health? Should we or someone else be working on this?
  - **Jonathan Ostar** said that an equity-based question should be included: If ideas are proposed from community representation, equity should be a priority when making decisions.
- Green Banks
- Home energy scores
- Green and Healthy Homes Initiative
- Healthy, safe, and affordable housing
- Air quality