

Advisory Committee on Sustainability and Innovation (ACSI)

Meeting Minutes

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2015

8:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY BUILDING, 6TH FLOOR, ROOM 635



ACSI MEMBERS PRESENT

Sam Baraso	David Heslam	Mary Peveto	Ryan Vanden Brink
Loulie Brown	Bradford McKeown	Roberta Robles	Jackie Yerby
Beth Crane	Rebecca O'Neil	Kimberlee Stafford	

NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Douglas Tsoi, Michael Tynan

MULTNOMAH COUNTY LEADERSHIP/STAFF

Commissioner Jules Bailer, District 1
Christine Lewis, Office of Commission Jules Bailey
Ben Duncan, Office of Diversity and Equity
Jae Douglas, Health Department, Environmental Health
John Wasiutynski, Office of Sustainability
Rasheeda Webber, Office of Sustainability
Tim Lynch, Office of Sustainability

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

None

Meeting Decisions and Action Items

Decisions:

- **Mary Peveto** appointed Vice-Chair
- ACSI quarterly meeting times changed to 9:00 – 11:00 moving forward
- 10/8/14 and 11/20/14 meeting minutes approved

Action Items:

- Office of Sustainability will send Doodle Polls to schedule climate, energy and air toxics sub-committee meetings
- Office of Sustainability hiring, ACSI members to help spread the word to their networks
- John Wasiutynski, Chair Jackie Yerby, Vice Chair Mary Peveto, and former Chair Rebecca O'Neil will present to the County Board on January 23rd, 2015 at 10:30 AM
- Next ACSI meeting April 8th, 2015 from 9:00 – 11:00 AM

Meeting Notes

Welcome, Introductions & Announcements

- ACSI members and County staff introduced themselves.
- Jackie Yerby has been appointed Chair for 2015.
- Welcomed Sam Baraso, Beth Crane, David Heslam, Bradford McKeown and Ryan Vanden Brink as new members.
- New members would be getting an official letter from the Chair shortly.
- Welcomed Ben Duncan, Director of Office of Diversity and Equity, who will regularly attend ACSI meetings.
- John Wasiutynski official appointed Director of Office of Sustainability by County Chair.
- Office of Sustainability will be hiring new staff person, focused primarily on CPACE implementation.

Operating Principals and Shared Agreements

- **Jackie Yerby** asked members to review the newly adopted ACSI Charter for guidance. Suggested additional shared agreements, emphasized importance of both contributing and listening. Emphasized importance of not talking over

each other. Also suggested identifying issues for discussion ahead of the meeting to bring to ACSI Chair/Vice-Chair and Office of Sustainability staff to talk through and find place on the agenda.

Vote on ACSI Vice-Chair

- **Mary Peveto** offered to serve as Vice-Chair again.
- **Jackie Yerby** offered that continuity of leadership was valuable.
- No one else expressed interest in serving.
- **Mary Peveto** appointed Vice-Chair by unanimous vote.

Review/Approve previous meeting minutes:

- 10/8/14 and 11/20/14 meeting minutes approved.

ACSI Focus Areas from 2014

- **Mary Peveto** and **Rebecca O'Neil** provided background on ACSI focus from 2014, highlighted priorities in the ACSI 2014 letter to the County Board. Encourage new members to review the letter.
- Before the ACSI Charter was developed in 2014, there was no governance for this group. The process was a great outcome and effective process for this group. Encouraged everyone to read the document.
- Subcommittee for air quality was able to tap into broader resources such as Multnomah County Health Department. Mary mentioned that she joined the sub-committee before she was officially an ACSI member, good example of the flexibility that sub-committee structure allows in bringing in outside experience.
- Air quality sub-committee focused on the risk of diesel in the county, and getting the issue on the county's legislative priority list.
- Vision of the subcommittees is that they do the bulk of the work, bringing back information and recommendations to the full ACSI quarterly meetings.
- Letter included direction about fossil fuel divestment.
- Energy sub-committee primarily focused on C-PACE, with some discussion of how to support low income weatherization programs. Letter to the Board encouraged the County to move forward with a C-PACE program. Energy sub-committee has lost a number of members due to ACSI turnover, need for fresh faces.
- Letter also requested that the Board keep the Office of Sustainability independent, and at the executive level of the County.
- **John Wasiutynski** gave thanks for the support and said that direction from the Chair is that the Office of Sustainability will remain intact.
- ACSI letter was received positively by the board. Chair Kafoury said that the letter and ACSI's work is a model for citizen involvement at Multnomah County.
- Suggestion that ACSI write an annual guidance letter. End of the calendar year is good timing for recommendations to the Board given budget development begins at the same time.

ACSI briefing to the Board of County Commissioners

- **Christine Lewis** offered apology on behalf of Commissioner Bailey who was not in attendance because of illness, but reiterated his commitment to the group.
- ACSI members discussed how to present to the Board and who would take part.
- Members present decided John Wasiutynski, Chair Jackie Yerby, Vice Chair Mary Peveto, and former Chair Rebecca O'Neil should present.
- Presentation would include slides with recommendations from the letter.

Focusing ACSI 2015 Work

- **Jackie Yerby** suggested some priority areas for ACSI in 2015. Focus on supporting Commercial PACE, and make sure Climate Action Plan gets vetted through this group. Jackie is happy to have Ben Duncan come to the meetings because we want to prioritize equity within ACSI's work.
- ACSI members agreed on the need to refocus the energy sub-committee.
- Another energy opportunity is to look to the Cully Weatherization Project as an example of innovative place based weatherization strategy. Opportunities for this committee to learn more about it.
- Office of Sustainability staff suggested energy work should be in two different groups. A stand alone subcommittee for CPACE, given the amount of work it will take to have a new ordinance at the county by the end of the year, which is the goal.

- Suggestion that there is value in getting folks from City of Portland BPS (Bureau of Planning of Sustainability) to attend ACSI meetings given overlap in their work, including commercial building energy performance disclosure.
- **Commissioner Jules Bailey** attended only briefly due to illness, but reaffirmed his support for the work of ACSI.
- ACSI members agreed that continuing the air quality work is important.
- Small discussion on HIA (Health Impact Assessment)
- **Jae Douglas** said that she hoped to maintain this capacity at the county. Suggested that health and broader issues of the built environment could be tackled as part of the air quality conversation. ACSI members expressed interest in exploring this idea.
- Suggested subcommittees: Energy, Air quality, CAP (new group).
- ACSI members voted to support moving forward with these groups, with additional refinement to take place ahead of the next full ACSI meeting.
- Office of Sustainability will send around doodle polls for three subcommittee meetings. If an ACSI member is interested in the topic, then they can respond with their availability in one or more of the sub-committee meeting polls.
- **Jackie Yerby** suggested that quarterly at large ACSI also take a dive into specific county issues. Today will be around the Climate Action Plan, maybe a focus will be around public health in a future meeting

Climate Action Plan

- **Tim Lynch** provided a handout on the County's climate work, including the Climate Action Plan (CAP) and Climate Change Preparation Strategy (CCPS). CAP sets countywide goal of reducing GHG emissions 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. CCPS sets a path for preparing our community for the impacts of climate change that we are already starting to feel and that will worsen over time. Many activities support both carbon mitigation and climate preparation like home weatherization and increasing tree canopy. As part of the 2015 update to the CAP, County and City of Portland convened climate equity working group made up of six community based organizations. The equity workgroup had a 2 part goal: support city/county staff in bringing equity in CAP design/implementation and empower community based organizations to have a voice in climate and sustainability policy making. County priorities moving forward include connecting air quality and climate change (black carbon), and development a heat response plan that includes cooling centers.
- **Jae Douglas** raised the issue of future climate refugees. Discussion about climate refugees, including the distinction between climate refugees and climate migrants. All agreed that it is a big and important conversation that needs to continue.
- **Tim Lynch** outlined several roles for ACSI, including providing feedback and support for the CAP 2015 update, and providing a community voice and accountability for the County on its implementation of its climate plans.

Next steps/Adjourn

- Look for Office of Sustainability hiring announcement
- All are welcome at Board briefing on January 23rd, 2015 at 10:30
- ACSI members voted to move meetings back one hour. Meetings moving forward will run 9 – 11 AM.
- Next ACSI meeting April 8th, 2015 from 9:00 – 11:00 AM