

Advisory Committee on Sustainability and Innovation (ACSI)

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 7/11/18, 9am - 11am
Multnomah Building, 6th floor, Room 635



Next Meeting

Wednesday, 10/10/18, 9am - 11am
Multnomah Building, 6th floor, Room 635

ACSI MEMBERS PRESENT / PHONE

Ryan Vanden Brink, David Heslam, Rick Hodges, Orlando Lopez Bautista, Ralph Mastro Monaco, Mary Peveto, Khanh Pham.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY LEADERSHIP / STAFF / PUBLIC MEMBERS PRESENT

John Wasiutynski, Tim Lynch, Sara Mihm, Cynthia Abrams, Dang Dinh, Maggie Johanesen (Office of Sustainability), Hayden Miller (Office of Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson), Andrea Hamberg (Environmental Health), Dani Bernstein (Office of Community Involvement), Jessica Berry (Transportation Division).

ACTION ITEMS

- **Office of Sustainability**
 - Will identify which ACSI members' terms are ending later this year and will share this information directly with members, as well as at the ACSI Annual Retreat.
- **John Wasiutynski** will
 - Share event information for Air Quality by Design, set for 8/14/18
 - Share Ensuring Healthy Air, the air quality feasibility report that was presented to the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners earlier this year.
 - Confirm the location for the 9/24/18 ACSI Retreat and send out a calendar invite to ACSI members.
- **Tim Lynch** will share Climate Action Plan information with ACSI so that members are all on the same page about where the County has made commitments.

DECISIONS MADE

- None.

APPROVE MINUTES FROM APRIL 2018 MEETING

- Minutes from April 2018's meeting were approved unanimously.

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **John Wasiutynski** shared that Sam Baraso and his partner welcomed a baby. Hooray Sam! And, our first CPACE deal is going to close this week.
- **Andrea Hamberg** shared that Matt Hoffman has left the County, and a new job description to fill his position will soon be posted. The person to fill this role would be the County's air quality expert, and would ideally have experience with other environmental toxins and environmental justice.
- **Mary Peveto** shared that on August 14, Neighbors for Clean Air is sponsoring an event called Air Quality by Design which will include Chair Kafoury, a panel of air quality experts from around the country, and information on the recent air quality feasibility report.
- **John Wasiutynski** shared that this weekend, a community energy justice summit, "Power for the People," will be held. It was organized by representatives of local environmental/social justice groups with support from Commissioner Vega Pederson and Office of Sustainability. The content of the summit will include level setting about our energy system, and how to bring distributed energy resources to low-income people and communities of color.

- **Cynthia Abrams** is currently a student at Whitman College, and during her internship, is working on plastics reduction research.
- **Dang Dinh** is currently at Oregon State University, and during his internship, is working with Government Relations on property taxes and Office of Sustainability on expanding the Home Energy Score within Multnomah County.
- **Maggie Johanesen** is currently at Portland State University, and during her internship, is working on energy resiliency in Multnomah County with a focus on low-income and vulnerable communities.

ACSI CALENDAR

- A document outlining the ACSI work plan was shared and reviewed.

ANNUAL RETREAT PLANNING

- The retreat will focus on identifying and developing recommendations that ACSI will include in an annual letter for the Multnomah Board of Commissioners, as well as discussing future recruitments for potential vacant ACSI seats.
- **Hayden Miller** shared that the annual letter is a valuable tool for Commissioners and drives how they think about implementing sustainability and policy over the coming year. Commissioner Vega Pederson's legislative priorities include diesel and cap and invest and would like ACSI to include what budgetary considerations can be included in her priorities to institutionalize environmental justice at the County.
- **Mary Peveto** requested to include a meaningful conversation about the County's environmental justice resolution during the retreat.
- Additional areas to consider discussing during the retreat include additional legislative priorities that would direct more resources to EJ issues, as well as updates to be included in the 2020 Climate Action Plan.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE RESOLUTION UPDATE

- **Hayden Miller** shared that Multnomah County is nearing the end of a year-long process to develop an environmental resolution for the County, which will be presented to the Board of Commissioners in Fall 2018.
- This environmental justice resolution stemmed from ACSI's 2016 annual letter to the Board and aims to institutionalize environmental justice principles into Multnomah County's work. The resolution is likely to include three parts, including an affirmation of values, tracking environmental justice outcomes and metrics, and an adjustment to ACSI to embed environmental justice into the group's core values and recommendations.
- ACSI members are encouraged to provide feedback on the process and resolution, as well as meet with Hayden for further discussion on the process, or to provide feedback.
- The group discussed spending time to understand the County's budget, or at the very least, the areas in which ACSI could have an impact to help reflect community priorities, prior to writing the annual letter to the Board.
- **David Heslam** suggested that helping to define metrics from community priorities would be a way that ACSI could provide constructive input.

OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY & SUBCOMMITTEE CHECK-INS

- **Climate and Energy:**
 - This subcommittee has not convened frequently as staff have been on the community energy justice summit, "Power for the People," as well as how to meet the 100% renewable by 2050 goal.
 - The group has focused on evaluating the progress of the 2015 Climate Action Plan in preparing for the 2020 update. Topics of discussion have included environmental justice and metrics that hold the County accountable. Next step for the sub-committee is to dig into the Climate Action Plan so that members are all on the same page about where the County has made commitments, and how those commitments have or have not been implemented.
 - Multnomah County has looked into joining a public nuisance complaint against the fossil fuel majors, however, the case brought by other local jurisdictions in California was recently dismissed in federal court. The County is now seeking alternative ways to engage in a larger legal strategy around climate change.
 - Finally, Multnomah County presented to the Board of Commissioners about recent findings covering the installation of solar on affordable housing. This report was well-received, especially by Chair Kafoury, who is anticipating receiving recommendations for legislative priorities to direct more resources toward low-income populations for access to solar.
- **Transportation:**

- The subcommittee has been discussing how the County can advocate bus electrification and improved infrastructure to Trimet, with respect to Trimet's flexible funds and in consideration for the community's outspoken desire for service enhancement. In addition, the group has discussed the Regional Transportation Plan, as well as congestion pricing.
- ACSI has an opportunity to make strong recommendations to County leadership that encourages Trimet to reflect our values, as well as to advocate where the County spends resources (e.g., enhancing pedestrian and transit options where they are currently limited).
- **Jessica Berry** shared an update on the Capital Improvement Plan and suggested that ACSI provide feedback. This Plan will ultimately be approved by the Board of Commissioners and maps out what will be built next. ACSI can consider creating a separate letter, in addition to the annual letter to the Board of Commissioners, related to this Plan.
- **Air Toxics:**
 - The subcommittee has largely focused on local collaborative and regulatory options for air quality management and will continue to seek out opportunities that exist within our current system.
 - In the 2019 session, the remaining money from the VW settlement, about \$56 million, will be allocated and ACSI will play a role in advocating where this money can be spent.
 - The County, along with other local government partners, is working on establishing clean diesel contracting requirements. The next step will be to engage with external stakeholders, like industry and advocacy groups, in a workshop.

NEXT STEPS, MEETING EVALUATION, ADJOURN

- Include almonds and/or additional nuts at future meetings.