

Environment and Sustainability Task Force Meeting Minutes

The Environment and Sustainability Task Force meetings are recorded. Agenda materials and recordings may be reviewed/copied by contacting the Board Coordinator at 214-671-1200

Meeting Date: November 13, 2020
Convened: 1:07 p.m.
Adjourned: 3:00 p.m.

Task Force Members Present:

Sandy Greyson, **Chair**
Rita Beving, **Vice-Chair**
Pamela Rogers
Dr. Maria Boccia
Aaryaman Singhal
Tracy Wallace
Janette Monear
Michael Martin
Benjamin Samples, II
Tony Robinson
Raphaella Silva

Task Force Member(s) Absent:

Phil Crone
Erryn Hopson
Ples Montgomery, IV
Alan Hoffmann

Staff Present:

Susan Alvarez, OEQS, Task Force Staff Liaison
Sheila Delgado, Director (I) OEQS
Pharr Andrews, OEQS
Katy Evans, OEQS
Brittany Hailey-Wells, OEQS
Kevin Overton, OEQS
Danielle McClelland, OEQS
Art Bashor, City Attorney
Don Raines

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order

Action Taken/Recommendation(s):

Chair called the Environment and Sustainability Task Force meeting to order at 1:07 p.m., Friday, November 13, 2020 at Dallas City Hall, via TEAMS Virtual Meeting Service, Dallas, TX, 75201. A quorum was present.

2. Public Comments

There were no Public Comments received.

3. Approval of Meeting Record of October 16, 2020 Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes of October 16, 2020 meeting

Motion by: Tracy Wallace

Motion seconded by: Aaryaman Singhal*

*Motion approved with the addition of the following comments to section 5 of the 10/16/20 meeting minutes:

- “Aaryaman commented on electrifying buildings to reach net zero carbon emissions. There was general agreement that this was necessary to reach net zero emissions but would not be pursued this year due to priority for capacity-building in the first year of CECAP implementation.
- He also commented on the need to prioritize renewable energy generation. Texas will need a shift in the grid and market in order to successfully transition to renewables. There was discussion about how to shift the grid.
- Aaryaman also suggested prioritizing mixed-use development and equitable zoning practices in the Forward Dallas Plan”

4. Update on Task Force Members' Comments and Suggested Action Priorities from October 16th Meeting

Sue Alvarez met with the Sustainable Development & Construction Department (SDC) regarding radiant barriers and sub-metering. SDC advised this is a subset of the work they will be doing in Spring 2021 when updating the Development Code. Sue proposed creating a subcommittee from the EAS Task Force to advise this planning effort.

Sue spoke with the Outreach team regarding the Resource Conservation Core.

Re: Aaryaman’s comments on zoning— Sue commented that OEQS is working with Planning & Urban Design on the update to Forward Dallas and will specifically be advising efforts related to industrial zoning and addressing inappropriate land uses. This is a priority for Council and is also an action item in the CECAP. It will likely not be completed this fiscal year due to pending economic development policy changes from the Office of Economic Development.

Sue gave an update on the status of the list of private grants available. The team needs more time to compile all the resources.

Ms. Greyson asked if Sue identified any legal barriers to Alan Hoffman’s suggestion for mandating roof permits. As of this meeting, Sue did not have any further information but will follow up.

Ms. Greyson asked for more information on the low-income home improvement program. Sue will email the information.

Aaryaman asked about the timeline for creating a subcommittee for the development code update. Sue anticipates the committee being formed at the beginning of next year to align with NCTCOG’s planning process. Sue suggested working with the City’s team that will be working with the NCTCOG to avoid duplicating efforts. Ms. Greyson requested that task force members let Sue know within the next month if they are interested in being on the subcommittee. Michael

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Martin requested more information on the scope of work. Sue spoke about the time commitment and noted an action item to get a better explanation of the specific process to pass along to the task force.

5. Review of FY 2021 Proposed Work Plan by CECAP Section:

Pharr Andrews and Katy Evans presented on the year-one implementation actions for Goal 4 (solid waste), Goal 6 (ecosystems & green spaces), and Goal 7 (food & urban agriculture). The presentation is available at www.dallasclimateaction.com/resources

On Solid Waste—

Tony Robinson asked for clarification on the GHG emissions data for waste. The data is from the City's 2015 GHG inventory. Sue provided more information on the offsets the City receives from selling its excess gas. Tony also asked about reducing the waste stream. Pharr said paper and plastic are priorities for waste reduction.

Janette Monear asked if the solid waste data included organics. This was confirmed. Danielle McClelland commented that around 40% of waste in the landfill is organic waste.

Dr. Maria Boccalandro asked about objectives related to education and outreach. Per Danielle, Sanitation currently has marketing and education campaigns focused on waste reduction. Additionally, an update to the Solid Waste Management Plan is a part of the Year-One Work Plan.

Ms. Greyson asked for clarification on the meaning of a “voluntary green procurement pilot.” The pilot will involve procuring recyclable or less carbon intensive materials for a City event and then scaling it up to actual policy as an update to the current Green Procurement Policy. Sue anticipates the pilot taking place in Spring 2021.

Ms. Greyson suggested adding a milestone related to implementing a pilot program to separate organic waste from bulk waste to reduce contamination and create an opportunity to sell or reuse organics. On further review, SW3 encompasses this suggestion. Danielle informed the task force that SAN does have a pilot in progress and will tentatively launch at the beginning of 2021. Ms. Greyson requested more information on the number of pilot locations. Danielle will get more information.

Ms. Greyson requested that one of the SW5 milestones be revised to read “Formally adopt the *updated* Local Solid Waste Management Plan.”

Michael Martin asked about code compliance and enforcement for solid waste actions. Michael also requested data on the number of waste citations issued each year.

Tracy expressed concerns, on behalf of South Dallas residents, regarding the lack of response from 311 to waste complaints. Sue and Ms. Greyson agreed to look into it. Tracy then asked for additional information on the timeline for implementation of Objective 4 and actions to transition to electric waste trucks. Per Sue, the City is working with the National Renewable Energy Lab on a comprehensive EV fleet conversion study and purchases will be informed by this study. The contract is currently in progress and is scheduled to be completed within this fiscal year.

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Dr. Bocalandro asked about incentives for residents and businesses to adopt the Zero Waste Management Plan. Sue said the biggest incentive is reduced cost for waste management. Pharr mentioned the Green Business Certification Program (GBCP) as an additional incentive. Michael Martin commented that the GBCP is a good opportunity to build pride and boost morale among businesses in the area.

On Ecosystems & Green Spaces—

Janette suggested that the task force do a deeper dive into areas of opportunity in this goal.

Ms. Greyson asked about the cost to the Parks Department (PKR) to implement sustainable landscaping practices. PKR is currently exploring options for electric and autonomous landscaping equipment and organic pesticides and are expected to save money by doing so. PKR will present several pilot projects to the ENVIS Committee on December 7th.

Ms. Greyson asked for clarification on EG3 milestone #4. This milestone refers to development of a more proactive strategy for *post-storm* debris management. Sue will investigate whether or not this milestone aligns with the All Hazards Plan from the Office of Emergency Management.

Ms. Greyson asked about collaboration between the City and Frankford Preservation Foundation (and other organizations) on Blackland Prairie preservation efforts. Sue will identify resources to assist these organizations and explore opportunities for future meetings with the organizations.

Janette Monear gave a brief update on the Urban Forest Master Plan (UFMP). The plan is expected to be available and presented to Council in January 2021.

Janette also provided an update on the Cool Schools Program. The program received a grant for \$7 million to study twenty schools. Seven schools are currently a part of the program and seven more will be added next year. This program aims to expand the urban tree canopy and increase access to parks in Dallas. The City of Dallas and DISD will both renew the ILA in December. Janette spoke about the requirements for selection into the program in response to Ms. Greyson's concerns about the schools only being in Dallas. Janette mentioned that there is at least one school in Richardson as well. Tracy requested the list of schools. Janette will share the list with Sue and Sue will distribute to the task force.

Aaryaman asked for more information on the Tree Mitigation Fund. Per Ms. Greyson, there is around \$7 million in the fund and discussions should be had about exploring opportunities to open the fund up for other uses. Aaryaman followed up with a question regarding planting trees in medians and assistance for irrigation systems. Ms. Greyson agreed this should be a part of the discussion on opening the fund to more uses. Janette mentioned that there are funding opportunities through partnerships—such as with the Texas Trees Foundation-- as well.

Rita Beving encouraged the prioritization of electrifying maintenance equipment. Rita also suggested creating a program for residents to donate money for tree planting. The Dallas Parks Foundation currently works to raise money to help augment the PKR budget. Rita suggested more robust advertisement be done around the program.

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Clarification was given on the difference between Branch Out Dallas and Branching Out Dallas.

Sue and Ms. Greyson will discuss how to update the task force on progress on the UFMP. Don Raines followed up Aaryaman's comment on irrigation with an additional suggestion to explore opportunities for runoff water reuse.

Dr. Boccalandro asked if all of the MRF was being used. OEQS will get more information.

On Food & Urban Agriculture—

Rita asked about the City's partnership with Kroger to address food deserts. Sue will get more information for Rita.

Tracy commented on the need for the City to lead by example by reducing plastic waste at events. This is included in solid waste actions to reduce waste and in the Green Procurement Plan. OEQS also successfully piloted FA14 at the 2020 North Texas Climate Symposium by donating excess food to a community food bank.

Dr. Boccalandro provided information on a professor who is piloting satellite gardens in D.C. She also provided information on DCCCD's LOVE Garden program and asked about an Open Space Plan. Multiple departments are currently working on open space planning, including PUD with the Forward Dallas Plan. Don Raines said his priority in the plan is green infrastructure. Additionally, the Urban Agriculture Plan is now in the scoping phase.

Janette Monear requested a map of food deserts and an overlay of locations of grocery stores, community gardens, farmers' markets, etc, Sue provided information on where to find these databases. Janette commented that both public *and* private lands should be studied. Don confirmed that they will be.

Don suggested that we quantify the GHG benefits from different land uses.

6. Informational Materials on Formation of an Environmental Commission

The committee should review the informational materials in preparation for preliminary discussions at the next meeting.

7. Meeting Wrap-Up

Motion to adjourn meeting.

Motion by: Janette Monear

Motion seconded by: Rita Beving

Passed by majority.

The November 13, 2020 Environment and Sustainability Task Force Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

ATTEST:

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Chair
Environment & Sustainability Task Force

Task Force Staff Liaison
Environment & Sustainability Task Force