



Sustainability Board
February 25th, 2024 – 6:00 PM

Please join in-person or from computer, tablet, smart phone.
<https://meet.goto.com/405842165>

You can also dial in using your phone: +1 (872) 240-3311 Access Code/Meeting ID: 405-842-165

Meeting location: Edgewater Civic Center, 1800 Harlan St.
Noll Conference Room

****Requests for ADA accommodations (including American Sign Language interpretation or CART) can be made by emailing cityclerk@edgewaterco.com****

1. Meeting Called to Order

2. Roll Call

Present: Xerxes Steirer, Bruce Perry, Andy Vieth, Jaclyn Poliseo

Not Present: Brian Bartle, Jeanette Papp

3. Approval of Agenda

Approved

4. Land Acknowledgement

5. Sustainability Plan Strategic Update

Assessment Phase Takeaways Report-Out & Discussion

Process Timeline

- We are aiming to do another work session with the board the week of May 12th
 - **Action Item:** Follow up with board to confirm a date
- Board will receive the Plan draft before June 24th work session on May 26th

Existing Plan Review Takeaways

- Be more explicit, longer-term, interaction/interface with other policy documents
- Inquiry into Comp Plan guiding principles > they actually pre-dated the comp plan

Environmental Footprint Report Takeaways

- **Action Item:** Confirm correction or follow up with Melissa about adjusting the 27% City Operations in final report
- Net between the City and the Community Operations
- EV use not reflected because sitting EVs don't consume energy when idling

Work Session Feedback

Purpose & Strategic Direction

- Key Framing Element:
 - In addition to Air Quality as a key framing element, add heat (island) aspect
 - Lilly explained that during the drafting of the Sustainability Plan 2019 that all categories were fighting over “owning” air quality
 - The above two elements are very relatable
 - At the same time we don’t have much control over our air quality
 - Consider having the larger umbrella component to be “pollutants”
 - Air quality sounds more technical than “pollution”
 - **Action Item:** Run this by the public at the workshop

Category Confirmation/Role of the Plan

Plan Refinements & Key Considerations:

- “Climate Change” is very polarizing whereas “Pollution Reduction” is not

Goals & Actions Brainstorm by Category

- Response to the phrase “water conservation strategies”
 - Comment: we’re not trying to conserve, rather maintain water quality and address water runoff
 - With bigger houses being built we are going to have to manage more runoff
 - A lot of concrete upcoming because of ADA standards and the mobility plan
 - How can we compensate for this growth?
 - Acknowledgement that we rely on open space in our neighboring communities for green spaces
- Energy
 - Integrate the EV action plan - EVs are not the only aspect of transportation emissions and sustainability
 - Plug in the micro mobility plan draft from PIE into this strategic update
 - The State is likely to mandate solar and electrification permitting
 - But this doesn’t catch installation faultiness by contractors
 - Is there anything like this that has consumer protections
 - Average turn around in COE is 5 days, the cost is \$900
 - Suggestion to have an expert installer to review
 - What can we do in Edgewater to make the process safer for people?
- Social Vibrancy
 - Intergenerational interaction given its importance for human health
 - Importance of the influence of transportation modes in how people interact
 - “Social Vibrancy” important as a category and human element
 - Especially because of the disruption AI is going to have on society
 - “Education and Outreach” is related but more separate than (Jackie) formerly thought given the above point made, which is significant
 - Not sure if it is a subcategory of Social Vibrancy or its own category
 - Educ/Outreach as a tool we apply to everything

- The value of having Educ/Outreach as a category is that it can have goals/actions under it which then elevates it as a priority
 - Educ/Outreach as a subheading in each category
 - Green Business program called out as its own subsection
 - Social Vibrancy often misconstrued (as the miscellaneous category)
 - Idea to rename the category “Social Vibrancy and Outreach”
 - Call out the Ambassador program in this version of the plan...
- “Community Activation” as a goal and then specific locations as to how to accomplish it
- Add “Economic” element to the Social Vibrancy
 - How will we make sure people who live here can do so sustainability and that those who want to move here can
 - Housing not included in version 1 because too large a topic to tackle in this Sustainability Plan
 - Economics is relevant to the the Green Business aspect

Community Survey Results

- The “areas of life affected” ranking generally aligns with our categories, resonate
- Q. Of 4 categories which to prioritize?
 - Energy addressed by Xcel’s programming
 - Land & Water highest category
 - Visceral to people, i.e. Sloan’s Lake smells in the summer, the watershed isn’t doing well, a lot of concrete being poured
- Q. Why the above category?
 - Land & Water / Waste & Materials
 - In final report > make sure to use quotes from the survey
- Energy
 - Heat island concept potentially a unifier
- Social Vibrancy
 - Confirmation of ongoing desire for events and green business practices
- For pending action items from SP2019 to prioritize (other was an option and low enough to disregard going forward)
 - Land & Water -
 - Waste & Materials -
 - Energy
 - Pursue higher SolSmart designation to support creation of PV supportive systems and policies
 - Transportation is a big component of Energy, huge source of consumption
 - Infrastructure - undergrounding the utilities (Ames/Benton alleys have to be redone anyways > Lilly has discussed with Dan so the seed has been planted)
 - Social Vibrancy
- What would make the most impact - Top Open-ended Comment Themes
 - Education most present in open ended sentiment in the survey

- Again, validates the current plan categories
- Policy and incentives overlaid other categories, although some very specific
- Quotes
 - Shift messaging about “lawn removal” > it’s not that grass is inherently bad, it’s the species is better/worse
 - We rely on Resource Central for marketing language
 - The City can step in and address this
 - Use quotes to negotiate contracts with haulers
 - We need to demand better of them, not necessarily switch
 - E-bike and e-scooter share
 - **Action Item:** Send PIE’s draft to the board
- If the City could do one thing to increase your interest...
 - Education/awareness/transparency and community engagement top response
 - Interest in hands on resources
 - Clear and easy to understand communication, including Spanish
 - More collaboration with businesses

Stakeholder Interviews

- Make sure to list what communities participated
 - 90-minute small group sessions allowed for very robust conversation
 - Overarching theme was: Emphasize practicality, measurability, and alignment with community priorities “PMAC” (sister to SMART goals)
 - Use and Relevance of the Plan - approached differently by different communities
 - Board Question: do we need the plan to feel relatable by the average person?
 - Suggested Improvements
 - Desire for SOPs
 - Annual policy push that aligns with Council goals
 - Board did do this for the first few years
 - Presentations given to Council by the Board
 - Not as necessary anymore
 - Rather, City Staff should communicate what should happen before the budget
 - Would productively influence our monthly meetings
 - **Action Item:** Determine when would be the right time to do the retreat and presentation
 - This shifted when the budget was no longer the board’s responsibility and instead City staff’s
- Alignment with City & Community Goals - no comments
- Metrics and Tracking - no comments
- Implementation & Practicality - no comments
- Education, Engagement & Outreach - no comments
- Challenges in Achieving Sustainability Goals - no comments
- Sustainability, Resilience & Climate Change - no comments

Emerging Updated Framework

Were there suggestions about how to educate?

- Most input was about activities that have a demonstrable ROI
- Provide guides/handbooks
- **Action Item for the Public Workshop:** Ask what mediums of communication or activities are most effective for outreach and education
 - List out our seminars - what are top issues/topics people are interested in?
 - Ask what the barriers are?

Goals

At Community Workshop - seek feedback on what's missing from a Goals standpoint

Actions - no comments

- Hierarchy of short and long term actions
- Community and City Operations layers differentiation
- Action Item: review environmental footprint report and extrapolate most "tackle-able"

6. Staff Comments and Updates

- a. Secretary Vacancy on the Board
 - i. Going forward the City staff liaison will take the minutes as well as utilize an AI note taker
- b. Legal Training for board members
 - i. Two regular training dates per year will be set for board and commissions members to attend
- c. Resource Central's Transformative Landscape Change Challenge
 - i. The Board's help rallying volunteers for a planting event in May/June would be appreciated
- d. Arbor Day Celebration at Ring in the Spring
 - i. The City Arborist will be present to support the Board in leading a tree planting ceremony toward the end of the event.
 - ii. The board prefers that the hole be pre-dug for the ceremony
 - iii. The board will also host a sustainability-focused activity throughout the event
- e. Confirmed 2025 City events for Sustainability to table
 - i. Larger events that Partners In Energy will attend to prompt the Home Energy Squad Program:
 1. Ring in the Spring - 5/10
 2. Hometown Fest - September
 - ii. Smaller event that is being considered that would be run by the Sustainability Coordinator and/or Board
 1. Bike to Work Day 6/25
 - iii. Sustainability Seminars 2025
 1. Shaima will begin scheduling sessions for the Fall

7. Upcoming Meetings & Events

- a. Sustainability Board March 25th meeting will not be held in the Noll Conference room. Instead it will be held in Putnam.
 - i. Most of the Civic Center facility will be closed for maintenance the week of March 24th
- b. Spring Alley/Curbside Cleanup - March 22nd from 7:00am-9:00am
- c. Spring Roll-off/Drop Off - March 29th from 9:00am-1:00pm at Jefferson Middle/High School North Parking Lot

8. City Council Updates

- Permitting for solar installation will be mandated by the State this year
 - This is not necessary or good for Edgewater but we likely will have no say in the matter - Councilwoman, Lilly Steirer, lobbied against it at the capitol recently

9. Category Updates

- Energy
 - Continued interest in installing an energy use dashboard in the Civic Center lobby
 - Bruce will follow up with Shaima
 - *Heat Map News* has a guide to decarbonizing your life > it could be sent out to Ambassadors
 - Bruce will see if there's a way to get over the paywall for COE residents
 - Planning and Zoning Code Changes
 - The Board should keep track of how implementation of the Comp Plan impacts Sustainability
 - Bruce will continue attending P&Z meetings and will monitor this and report back to the board
- Social Vibrancy
 - Work on developing the Welcome Packet
 - Shaima and Jackie will work together on creating the one-line and flyer to incorporate into utility bill welcome emails
- Land and Water
 - Andy will contact Shaima about updating the Land Acknowledgment and designing the Resource Central funded garden in Citizen's Park

10. CC4CA Update N/A

11. Agenda Setting - March 25th, 2025

- Sustainability Plan Update - process update
- Discussion on Sustainability Board updates to Council - determine dates
- Volunteer Appreciation event on May 15th
- UFMP Implementation - Discuss policy prioritization (review of Appendix C)