

Name of Group: Environment

Meeting Date: January 24, 2022

Meeting Time: 6PM

Meeting Location: Zoom

Members Present: Carl Kolosna, Leigha Larkins, Pilar Gutierrez, Ariana Vaida, Tobin Freid, Summer Alston, Celeste Burns, Rickie White, Jennifer Hill Carrington, Nate Baker, Idreese Foxworth, Bonita Green, Mitchell Sava, Laura Stroud

Welcome, Group Agreements,

- Welcome to Laura Stroud
- Members of the group take turns reading each of the agreements

Info and Updates from Staff

- Schedule for drafting policy ideas and policy language before community-wide engagement in Spring 2022.
- The purpose of the Policy Working Groups is to not have policy development (pre-engagement) happen in a black box. Dream big! The time for limitations will come later.
- Over the past couple of months, we've worked together to develop policy content related to our 8 environmental and public spaces and recreation Goals and Objectives. We organized that content into topic areas. This content is really good! It's super detailed and bold. Thanks so much for your work so far.
- Staff is working with this content, along with all content from our previous rounds of engagement, to develop draft policy language.
- At our next meetings in February and March, we'll be sharing that draft language back with you all, and we will work together to revise and finalize the draft policy recommendations.
- Finally, community-wide engagement on the draft policy recommendations will happen in Spring 2022, roughly from April through July 2022.
- After that Engagement, we will share what we heard from the general community back with you and will work together on making further revisions and adjustments to the policies based on feedback.

Share Policy Development Process Overview and Staff Work.

- This will be the focus of our next meeting when we start sharing out draft policy language, but we wanted to share a quick overview of how we're developing draft policy statements in prep for Spring engagement.
- Over the past few months, we began working on a process of organizing a record of your discussions in documents, spreadsheets, or flow charts to identify gaps, priorities, policy language, and action items.
- We started with a simple flow chart to parse out what parts of our discussions are goal or objective level, which ones are good candidates for policy language, and what are good action items we can consider for Action/Implementation:
- We want to spend most of our time today zooming out a bit and talking about higher-level policy language.
- Staff has created spreadsheets showing your input, input we've brought in from the last round of engagement on goals and objectives where residents have brainstormed policies and actions, and relevant ideas from other plans.
- For the environmental group, we focused on mapping the content you all developed onto the Goals and Objectives. This is because things are so interconnected! We know that trees, for example, have stormwater benefits, air quality, psychological, heat-island reduction, etc. A lot of the content you all have developed maps onto multiple Goals and Objectives.
- For this group, a lot of the content you all have developed falls into the Action/Implementation level of detail. Let's talk about Air Quality as an example. We need to develop content to answer the question "what, overall, are we trying to achieve by doing these things?"
- Based on the content you all have developed, we need bigger picture ideas. In a lot of ways, we want to distill down the Objectives into discrete calls for action – but without too much detail. Share Minneapolis Example of Air Quality Policy: <https://minneapolis2040.com/policies/air-quality/>
-

Policy Discussion

- We're going to read through each of the 5 environmental objectives and then brainstorm some big picture conclusions/call to action for each one. This will help to bridge the Goals and Objectives to the detailed feedback you all have given us.
- What is the main call to action for this Objective? Try to limit your response to a sentence (two at the most!)
- "We need to...."
- Every community should be able to decide what's best for them. Are we considering what the actual outcomes of these policies might be? Will the benefits accrue effectively?
- Green space means different things to different people
- Focus on process; provide equitable access to green space through community decision-making
- Not everyone lives in a "neighborhood" which can be very challenging. Are we giving enough consideration to the folks who don't live in defined "neighborhoods."
- Some people think that Green space is just about the environment only. I think the Green Space is more than just the environment. For me, it means an area where there is green space and how it impacts the residents or people.
- Are there two buckets?: 1) Natural/conservation areas and their resilience are not equally distributed across the city or county but we need to focus on those areas for conservation and NR protection; 2) urban and suburban greenspace (a product of development).
- The goal cannot only be carbon neutrality. We must reduce existing carbon levels and regenerate environmental features that have been lost.
- Focus on encouraging/requiring redevelopment and infill development, especially for legislative processes (not permitted by right).
- Be mindful of technical language and how we can communicate these policies to the broader community
- Focus on education in the community on what "carbon neutrality" really means.
- Center low-wealth communities and communities of color when planning for a sustainable future.
- more racial equity-focused practice in the implementation of land use decisions, including transportation and infrastructure decisions that often exacerbate existing racial and income-based disparities in communities
- I wonder if we could capture CN, etc., with the prior objective enabling this objective to be more about the equity impacts. And yes, say what we mean in simple words.
- I'm all about farmland protection, but this seems a bit tacked on here to me. This goal could be split into two: 1) land use/farmland protection and 2) access to food
- Affordable food isn't always the healthiest option for some folk.