

CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Environmental Board – Special Meeting

6:00 PM
April 28, 2021

Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Board members:

Nancy Davidson, Chair
Jamie Finch, Vice Chair
Dani Madan*
Don McQuilliams
Rishi Hazra*
Cameron Fisher
Lara Lebeiko
Dan Hintz
Anne Newcomb

Administration/Staff:

Megan Curtis-Murphy, Senior Sustainability
Coordinator
Liepa Braciulyte, Sustainability Intern

Janet Wall, Alternate
Tom Anderson, Alternate
Surya Bollapragada*, Alternate

*Youth/young adult members.

CALL TO ORDER

DAVIDSON called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Minutes of Mar. 24, 2021
- b) Minutes of Apr. 19, 2021

The minutes of Mar. 24, 2021 and Apr. 19, 2021 were APPROVED as presented by unanimous consent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Connie Marsh – (Resident) MARSH congratulated Ann Fletcher and Larry Franks for their environmental awards and achievements. In terms of the CIP, she said that from stormwater to transportation and parks and trails projects, everything in the CIP is related to the environment. Marsh mentioned that the near-term projects are most likely to have the adequate funding, so it's important to discuss whether the right near-term projects are prioritized.

AGENDA ITEMS

- a) **Environmental Awards, (I)**
Presented by:
Mayor Pauly

MAYOR PAULY awarded the Ruth & Dan Kees Award for a Sustainable Environment to Larry Franks, Vice President of Friends of Issaquah Fish Hatchery (FISH), and the Community Environmental Award to Ann Fletcher, founding member of Issaquah branch of People for Climate Action.

b) **2022-2027 Capital Improvement Plan and Transportation Improvement Program, (D)**

Presented by:

Megan Curtis-Murphy, Senior Sustainability Coordinator

CURTIS-MURPHY gave a short overview on the Capital Improvement Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program.

The Board provided feedback on the CIP as a whole, and provided input on the criteria, on specific projects, and the CIP involvement process. Many members shared they wanted to see each project's environmental impacts described in the CIP and have more environmental criteria to aid in the project prioritization process. In addition, many members shared that they wish to see more projects that prioritize greenhouse gas emission reductions and other environmental benefits. A summary of the feedback (attached) will be provided to the City Council as requested.

REPORTS

1. CURTIS-MURPHY announced that the Board Chair and Vice Chair elections are in May. The Board is looking for nominees; the elections will be in the next Board meeting on May 12th.
2. CURTIS-MURPHY announced that on April 5th, 2021, Issaquah City Council adopted the Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Ordinance. Language was added to the ordinance to include additional building types, including some townhomes. The other amendment made was taking out the section of the ordinance that stated that affordable housing can replace EV-ready/EVSE spots to EV-capable in order to achieve cost neutrality. Both of these additions were recommendations from the Environmental Board.
In addition, Curtis-Murphy said that the Regional Code Collaboration will be submitting an amendment to the State Building Code Council to allow jurisdictions to require single-family charging. They will be submitting this on behalf of King County and if passed, it would become an option in the next energy code update.
3. CURTIS-MURPHY provided an update on the Storm and Surface Water Master Plan. City staff will create a video for Board and Commissions to provide more background information on the Plan. Curtis-Murphy will send the Storm and Surface Water Master Plan survey and video to the Board in mid-May. Staff will be accepting any feedback on the Plan from the Board.
4. CURTIS-MURPHY announced that the next Board meeting is on May 12th. In that meeting, the Board will receive an overview of the citywide climate and sustainability action plan, and a summary of recent environmental bills passed in Washington state.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 PM.

Environmental Board Feedback
April 28, 2021

Topic	Feedback
General CIP Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest in seeing the projected environmental impact or benefits of each project in the descriptions. • The descriptions didn't provide enough information on projects including why it is being put forward now, later in the Plan or which projects didn't make the cut. • Comment to consider and improve the environment through CIP projects, not just reduce environmental impact. Consider percentage of project for the environment. (Ex: HVAC project and building projects can be all-electric instead of using gas and other fossil fuels. Using electric rather than fossil fuel equipment on projects.) • Suggestion to break out the projects by stormwater utility projects and restoration projects to highlight environmental benefits of restoration. • Would like to see how projects align with overarching environmental goals/targets. • Interest in seeing how projects are connected, maps could help. • Interest in seeing what partnerships already exist on CIP projects or could be included to help the City achieve greater benefits. (e.g. Partnership for privately owned streetlight conversion to LEDs, etc.).
Project Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest from the Board in learning more about how the projects were evaluated and providing input on the selection criteria. Does each selection criteria carry the same weight? • CIP should have more environmental criteria. The current criteria only address environmental concerns or detrimental environmental impact of not doing a project. Interest in seeing projects that improve the environment or reduce GHGs as a criterion. • Would be great if CIP projects had an environmental target, like having to offset emissions, achieve K4C (King County Cities Climate Collaboration) goals, or have other benefits. • More thought and deliberation should be given to the criteria and prioritization process. Currently, it appears the criteria are all given equal weight, and are chosen by the proponent of each project.
Project Specific Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very supportive of the land acquisitions, bike lanes, walking infrastructure, trails. • Interest in learning intentions of the land acquisitions (balancing recreation, habitat, critical areas, flooding). Some concern whether the acquisitions will actually protect stream and fish health. Current riparian buffers are inadequate. • Would like to see projects that focus on decreasing greenhouse gas emissions. (Ex: clean energy retrofits, solar on roofs or in

	<p>open spaces, geothermal heating, building electrification and moving away from natural gas, LED lights.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like to see investment in more green stormwater infrastructure to capture road runoff. Also interest in permeable asphalt/concrete. • Pump station is likely to have environmental impacts (e.g., debris); would like to see that explained in the CIP. • Concern that Gateway Park is a constrained area already, so concern about more trails here. • Interest in removing the retention pond at Tibbets Park that doesn't serve purpose anymore.
<p>CIP Involvement Process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good presentation overall. Glad City is involving community and the Board in the CIP process. • Wish the Board had received the CIP earlier to be better prepared and have more context prior to the presentation. • Interest in having the Board be involved earlier and providing input on the environmental impact criteria. • There were some questions on operating budget vs. capital budget.