

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Environmental Board**

6:30 PM
October 11, 2023

Tibbetts Manor, 750 17th Ave.
NW, Issaquah

MINUTES

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Board members:

Jamie Finch, Chair
Nancy Davidson
Anne Newcomb
Prajakta Ghatpande
Alix Lee-Tigner
Ashwin Kannan*

Administration/Staff:

Stacy Vynne McKinstry, Sustainability
Manager
David Reedy, Sustainability Coordinator
Kathleen Hillery, Civic Spark

Dixie Bair, Alternate
Janet Wall, Alternate
Joy Lewis, Alternate

*Youth/young adult members.

Don McQuilliams, Vice Chair (excused
absence)
Tom Anderson (excused absence)
Ashwin Manoharan* (unexcused absence)

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair FINCH called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Chair introduced the minutes, which were included in the agenda materials. The minutes were approved as presented by unanimous consent.

- a) Minutes of September 13, 2023

PUBLIC COMMENTS

AGENDA ITEMS

- a) **Comprehensive Plan Climate Goals and Policies - Other Elements**

Presented by:

Stephen Padua, Long Range Planning Manager

PADUA provided a verbal introduction to the Comprehensive Plan update process to date. REEDY explained the process for choosing policies outside of the Environmental Stewardship and Climate Resilience Element to bring before the Environmental Board. Board Member DAVIDSON and NEWCOMB asked staff to review all of the policies and strengthen verbiage used.

Board Members FINCH, DAVIDSON, LEWIS, and NEWCOMB asked for some policies to be clarified, especially as to whether the policy is focused on municipal operations or community-wide impacts. An example of this issue is the proposed policy within the Utilities Element which articulates a desire for the City to move away from natural gas. Board Members DAVIDSON and LEWIS recommended splitting policies throughout the Comprehensive Plan that seemed to address multiple topics within one policy. By

splitting policies, the Board Members feel that the policies could be clearer and stronger by standing alone.

Board Members FINCH, DAVIDSON, and LEWIS identified additional areas of improvement within the policies, including adding a policy related to solar panels on public lands, developing a policy for low carbon construction practices, and building out policies that identify how we will achieve stated goals. Additionally, Board Members expressed interest in strengthening policies that encourage cooperation between the City of Issaquah and other entities to achieve goals and incorporating language supporting incentives.

Throughout the discussion, PADUA provided additional context as needed, such as on the process of building the Comprehensive Plan, policies included within the Housing element related to missing middle housing, and policies within the Transportation Element related to Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) reduction through multimodal transportation.

After reviewing all of the draft goals and policies, the Environmental Board recommended that staff make updates to the relevant Elements based on the discussion. The revised elements will undergo further review by staff, Boards, Commissions and Council Committees over the next few months. The Board will review the elements again in early 2024.

b) **Comprehensive Plan – Environmental Stewardship and Climate Resilience Element**

Presented by:

David Reedy, Sustainability Coordinator

REEDY provided a brief overview of changes made to the Environmental Stewardship and Climate Resilience Element since it was last seen by the Environment Board in September. Board Members provided overall comments as well as comments on subelements.

Board Members GHATPANDE, NEWCOMB, and FINCH asked for clarification on development and relation of some of the targets laid out in the Issaquah Climate Action Plan and incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan. Board Members FINCH and LEWIS expressed it would be helpful to focus Comprehensive Plan policies on what the City of Issaquah can achieve related to GHG emission reduction versus what the State or another entity can achieve. VYNNE MCKINSTRY and REEDY offered to look closer at those specific policies and provide more detail on how the targets were decided on and developed.

Board Members FINCH, LEWIS, DAVIDSON, GHATPANDE, and NEWCOMB provided comments and suggestions to the transportation set of policies including providing more context, splitting policies up, and developing extra policies that recognize Issaquah as a shopping and future transportation hub. Board Members GHATPANDE and LEWIS expressed support for community engagement efforts in an ICAP update to get at some of the comments on policy. Board Members FINCH and LEWIS requested a more in-depth discussion around trees and tree policy and provided specific recommendations on how some of the tree policies could be strengthened. Additionally, Board Member LEWIS asked for additional work on the topics of wildlife and biodiversity.

REPORTS

ICAP Implementation Update

VYNNE MCKINSTRY noted the ICAP update report in the packet which will be going to City Council on October 23rd.

Environmental Board Workplan

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 PM.

