



Austin Independent School District

**Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes**

March 21, 2018

5:30 – 7:30 pm

Carruth Administration Center, 1111 W. 6th Street, Board Auditorium

Attendees

Members in Attendance

Pamela Abee Taulli
Alecia Casper
Amir Emamian
Colleen Garland
Kris Hafezizadeh
Cari Land
Sherry Lepine
Lauren Maples
Amanda Mortl
Anne Muller
Matthew Nelson*
Susan Peterson
Mary Priddy*
Justo Ramirez
Abby Randall
Lonnie Sclerandi
Ilya Schmulenson
Richard Shearman
Anneliese Tanner
Dub Taylor
Jessica Wilson

Visitors

Christopher Stanton
Griselda Vargas
Drew Johnson
Aimee Aubin

Staff Coordinators in Attendance

Darien Clary
Paul Turner

Members Not in Attendance

Bianca Bidiuc Peterson
Karen Bishop
Rob Borowski
Liz Cardinal
Sam DeSanto
Laura Gass
Charlie Gutierrez
Sarah Holland
Monica Lopez Magee*
Melina Martinez
Vivian Perez
Ryan Spencer
Cory Skuldt
Chris Stewart
Jeff Wacker
James Tosh
Cynthia Wilcox
Louis Zachary

Citizens Communication

Anne Muller

* Indicates Committee Co-Chair

Minutes

I. Welcome and Approval of Minutes

The ESAC Co-chair Matthew Nelson facilitated the meeting and called the meeting to order at 5:36 pm.

Due to Spring Break, the March 21st Agenda was not posted on the AISD bulletin board outside of the Carruth Administration Building the week prior. Thus, approval of the January 24th minutes was postponed until the May meeting.

Mr. Nelson then reminded members that ESAC Co-chair elections would be held during the May meeting and that there would be two positions opening: Community Member and AISD Employee. The two-year terms are up for both positions, and members can nominate themselves or a fellow member. AISD Sustainability Manager, Darien Clary added that she would send out the nomination forms to members.

II. Citizens Communication & Announcements

The ESAC Member, Anne Muller, announced the Barrington Green School Park celebration on Saturday, March 24 at 9am (see flyer in meeting materials). The park is a collaboration between the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department and AISD. The celebration will include family activities, nature play, and other outdoor activities.

III. Presentation: Active Transportation & Air Quality

Panelists included Anton Cox, Capital Area Council of Governments Air Quality Program; Katherine Gregor, City of Austin Transportation Department, Active Transportation & Street Design Division; and ESAC member Christopher Stanton, Founder & Executive Director of Ghisallo Cycling Initiative.

Anton Cox: Capital Area Council of Governments & Commute Solutions.

Commute Solutions is a transportation demand management program that focuses on mobility and sustainable transportation options for trips to and from work and school. The My Commute Solutions platform is for individuals and organizations who want to log their commute.

Employers can also ask employees to log telework hours to see how many GHG emissions were reduced and money saved. The platform also has a ride-matching tool for carpool and vanpool. the program also offers contests and incentive programs with a new prize drawing each month for those who log their commutes.

Katherine Gregor, City of Austin Transportation Department.

Austin was selected as one of ten cities for the Big Jump Program. The program challenges Austin to double biking within particular parts of the city in 3 years. The 22 square mile urban core was selected as the target zone for Austin. Katherine focuses is on identifying barriers and motivators to spark behavior change for cycling in Austin's residents. The program's Smart Trips interfaces with Commute Solutions, and the fourth program cycle will begin in east Austin this fall. Projects and activities underway include bikeway activations to promote use and safety; Bike to Manor Road event with free bike repairs and bike giveaways; Austin Earth Day Festival; Bright Green Futures grants for schools that want to improve bike safety and ridership; and Yellow bike Program bike giveaways. Bike safety is a key initiative to help the city reduce the number of people who die or are seriously injured in traffic crashes to zero.

ESAC Member Christopher Stanton, Founder & Executive Director of Ghisallo Cycling Initiative
The Ghisallo Cycling Initiative is a youth bicycling nonprofit. The organization engages 16,000 youth and provides about 49 hours of after school programming in 20+ sites across Austin, including schools, parks and recreation centers. The Cycle Academy includes a merit badge system for safety skills development - it is not just activity based. Additional initiatives by the Ghisallo Cycling Initiative include bike rodeos that take over PE class for a day to teach bike safety and riding skills; bike fix-a-thons; Golden Rollers senior tricycle program; and bike releases at the Community First Village. The organization is also piloting a bike lending library and bike to school program at Langford Elementary. The goal is to reduce barriers to entry into bike riding.

After the presentations, Katherine Gregor asked members for ideas about engaging middle and high schools. The ESAC member, Lonnie Sclerandi, mentioned that SF Austin High School has a mountain biking club that may be interested in collaborating. The ESAC member, Abby Randall noted that there may be opportunities with the Just Keep Living programs at Akins and Regan High Schools. The ESAC Member, Anne Muller, suggested creating a one-pager e-flyer that could be shared via email and AISD communication channels. Presenter and ESAC member, Christopher Stanton, added that it may be interesting to see transportation profile for each school to determine bike riding feasibility.

Please see the ESAC Meeting Materials for the presentation slides with additional information.

IV . AISD Sustainability Updates

Austin ISD Sustainability Manager, Darien Clary, began by presenting plans for AISD Earth Week, April 16-20th. The goal is that every AISD student will take a moment to think about how they can make the earth a better place and perform an action to do so. The AISD Earth Week website will host daily PA announcements, activity ideas for each AISD sustainability action area, Green Meme contest info, and featured school activities. Darien Clary also shared a unique opportunity that came about regarding professional development for outdoor learning. Robin Moore of the Natural Learning Institute was in Austin to facilitate a design charrette for the Nature Play area at Pease Park. He agreed to share an hour of time with AISD Construction Management, Educational, and Administrative Staff on Friday, March 9th to support AISD professional development for outdoor learning, now that Outdoor Learning is included in the AISD Ed Specs. This was particularly relevant to staff involved in 2017 bond modernization projects.

V. Action Area Updates

The ESAC Member and AISD Energy and Water Manager, Richard Shearman, presented the Energy & Water Action Area Update. The subcommittee conducted the first ESAC community engagement activity which took place at the Austin Energy Science Fest. They had 145 participants and provided tips that other teams can use during their community engagement activities. Also, the AISD Energy and Water Sustainability web page now has links for schools to view their solar production. The ESAC member, Anne Muller, asked if solar energy production data was available for the solar classrooms. Richard Sherman responded that it was not. The City of Austin Watershed Protection Department is offering two lunch and learns to AISD Construction Management staff. Topics include rainwater harvesting, rain gardens, and passive "leaky" cisterns for new construction projects. Houston and Maplewood water is monitored in conjunction with the Pecan Street Project, and the data will help detect and avoid long-running leaks.

The ESAC Member, Rob Borowski, presented on behalf of the Transportation & Air Quality

subcommittee. The update noted that the Capital Metro Bus system will be launched in June under the Cap Remap initiative. The aim is to make bus service simpler, better connected, and more reliable.

The ESAC member and AISD Zero Waste Specialist, Amanda Mortl, provided the Waste and Procurement Update. She shared a video about recycling that Eastside Memorial High School Students made, and shared info about cost for landfill, recycle, and compost disposal. She also met with AISD procurement staff to learn more about practices in place for fluorescent light and toner/ink cartridge disposal. To support composting for the AISD breakfast in the classroom program, Amanda Mortl found 4-gallon buckets through the Austin Materials Marketplace that are available at no cost. The subcommittee conducted the community engagement activity at the Gus Garcia Family Night and had about 40 participants.

The ESAC Member, Anne Muller, updated members about the Nature Action Area. Schools are now getting regular feedback through the improved Schoolyard Improvement Form, and the review committee meets every other week. Anne Muller announced that the Girls Outside program was looking for women to lead the activities and that anyone interested could let her know before April 14th. The subcommittee has been busy amassing a database of nature learning features at schools, and has only three schools left to survey. They implemented the community engagement activity at the Sustainable Food Center Family Night and have plan to implement at the Barrington Green School Park Opening, the AISD Outside Training, the Hope and Sunset Valley Farmers Markets, and the Boone Elementary PTA meeting. The staff trainings were already mentioned in the Energy and Water subcommittee updates. The Monarch Lab conducted a 2-day training for over 30 AISD teachers, and there are many existing and new schools that want to become Monarch Heroes.

The ESAC Member, Anneliese Tanner, provided the Food Action Area update. Recent activities include the Johnson's Backyard Garden radish sampling at all campuses for Earth Week. The grower's carrots will also be featured for Farm Fresh Fridays. The Harvest of the month for all Texas Farmers is leaf lettuce. AISD Nutrition and Food Services is continuing to phase-out Styrofoam trays, although the purchase of recyclable trays has been delayed because of production issues by the vendor. However, compostable trays are now being used in all middle and high schools.

Please see Meeting Materials for additional information regarding action area updates.

VI. Presentation: Drew Johnson, AECOM- Practical Applications of Sustainability in the 2017 Bond Program

Drew Johnson of AECOM provided the ESAC with a presentation about the bond program with attention to bond projects that have been started and their status, campus architectural teams, AISD Educational Specification, and project sustainability goals. He also outlined the community engagement requirements and process for projects and role of the Campus Architectural Team members which include regular participation in CAT meetings; involvement for the duration of the project; assistance to maintain project scope, schedule, and budget; work collaboratively; and be respectful of others' ideas. The CAT is the bridge between the school community and the designers. All project teams have had kick-off meetings to determine their strategies to achieve LEED Silver certification. The District's sustainability consultant, ACR, is leading these conversations and will help to bridge district wide goals across projects. They are also helping to facilitate Austin Energy Green Building certification for projects. Drew Johnson shared the draft LEED scorecard and site concept for Menchaca Elementary.

Please see the ESAC Meeting Materials for the presentation slides with additional information.

The following questions and answers were addressed during the discussion that followed:

Q: How are erosion issues at Doss Elementary school being addressed?

A: The erosion issues are known, and the method to address them is being assessed. Strategies may include water conveyance to water infrastructure on adjacent Murchison site. The site has roughly 301 trees which help with erosion, but also pose design challenges.

Q: Do you have overarching guidance about sustainability standards, and how are they applied to each campus?

A: LEED is standard that most people are familiar with, but ACR sustainability consultants are drafting minimum standards on the LEED scorecard for AISD projects. These are communicated to project teams through ACR.

Q: Are you looking into "School as a Teaching Tool" concepts?

A: Yes, we are challenging our designers and CATs to do this, especially at TA Brown where it will be a "living lab."

Q: What are you doing for construction waste?

A: We are aligning with LEED goals for waste diversion. Design teams were selected on the way they design for sustainability goals. Many of the teams want to push for LEED points, and waste diversion is part of this. At AISD, construction waste recycling began with the 2004 bond, so this is already a known practice for AISD projects.

Q: Is there thought to partner with other city agencies for net zero energy - perhaps covered parking with solar?

A: That will affect long-term district financing. If there are opportunities to partner, email Darien or Drew Johnson.

Q: What is ACR doing?

A: They are working with AISD Sustainability to provide sustainability design standards for schools.

Q: How is idling being reduced through design?

A: We are looking into ways to get people through the school pick-up/drop-off area quickly to reduce idling. (An ESAC member suggested well designed shaded areas so people can turn off their cars and wait comfortably. We also need to design walkable and bikeable access to the schools and partner with Safe Routes to Schools Programming.)

Q: How do we channel sustainability suggestions?

A: ESAC Members can email Darien and Richard to share with ACR/project teams. In the future, there will be an online inquiry form.

Q: Why is it that some kids that transfer cannot be dropped off at a bus stop that will get them to the right school?

A: From AISD Executive Director of Facilities, Paul Turner: It is a capacity consideration and effort to have efficient routes. You may want to contact the AISD Transportation Director, as his department can help families find the closest route.

VII. Request for Information and Future Meetings

No requests were made.

The meeting officially adjourned at 7:38. Drew Johnson's presentation continued after for those that wanted to stay and ask questions. The next regular ESAC meeting will be May 23, 2018.