

# **LRSC August Meeting Minutes**

8/24/22 | 3:00pm Willie L Hinton Resource Center - Auditorium

# Welcome & Introductions - 3:04PM

Commissioners (\*= Absent):

| **Jan Baker**  **Larissa Barry**  **Kate Fletcher**  **Rachel Furman**  **Scott Hamilton**  Andrew Jester\*  **Uta Meyer** | **Rachel Cotner**  **Anna Morshedi – Vice Chair**  **Ann Owen**  **Wesley Prewett - Chair**  Sheridan Richards\*  Jeremy Stehle\*  **Andrew Vogler** |
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**Guests:** Robyn Madden, Kathy Hofmann, Nancy Mallett Hyde, Kendra Danielle

**City Officials:** James Owen (Mayor’s Office), Lennie Massanelli (Sustainability Officer), Brittany Nichols (Sustainability Educator), Jon Honeywell (Director of Public Works), Dr. John Landosky (Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator)

# Special Guest Speaker & Q/A - Jon Honeywell (Director of Public Works)

Jon Honeywell gives brief overview of the Department of Public Works, then Q&A:

**(Wes) How do you incorporate sustainability into projects you oversee?**

We’ve started experimenting where possible with street operations green infrastructure items like rain gardens and permeable pavement (examples: Pine/Cedar and Main Street). Solid Waste does handle yard waste and convert to mulch and compost. Landfill methane gas collection contract expires in May of next year and exploring opportunities with new vendors to make better use of that methane (RFP in the works).

**(Ann) Is there a possibility to police the running of red lights more strictly? Is there a way to sync lights better?**

It is against state law to have cameras on street lights - the city has lobbied on that in the past unsuccessfully. Legislature is not in favor - would have to be statewide push.

Technology changes all the time to make that easier to do and yes, this is something we look at. There is a test system on the University corridor (Cantrell to Asher) right now that utilizes an adaptive sensor system to allow the most efficient flow of traffic. It is very expensive - that project was 1.5 million dollars and accomplished through a federal grant. Goal would be use this on the most traveled corridors/major thoroughfares.

**(Rachel C) How does this technology affect pedestrian and bike travel?**

I would need to ask and verify how accurate they are with bikes.

**(Anna M) When the IRA passed, were there projects in the queue that seem more possible?**

Don’t know a lot of the details of IRA yet, but ARPA did help fund drainage work (3 million) around the city where we’ve had maintenance issues. ARPA round 2 funds will be going towards targeted community development projects. BIL is all competitive - we are actively pursuing funds for bridge replacement, sidewalk trail replacement projects.

**(Lennie) Can the commission help with these projects and accessing BIL money?**

Yes, especially during the application process. Write letters of support and such.

**(Rachel C) How can this commission help with full adoption of the complete street ordinance?**

Public meeting process to prioritize projects from the bond, sharing project request lists and take new ones. Resurfacing is the best opportunity. Now is the time to submit projects that you’re wanting to move forward. We can loop in the commission to review the project requests and give feedback. Kavanaugh as an example, was over-politicized and affects more than just bike traffic, which made it a very public facing project. Push back can come from many different directions. Can we do better at getting these decisions made beforehand (resurfacing)? Yes.

**(Wes) How would you recommend the commission engages more with PW?**

Working through LRSO is a good avenue - they are good liaisons. I can be responsive via email to immediate questions, and can come back and speak to the group.

**(Wes) Is there an opportunity for long-term sustainability planning within the department?**

Yes, LRSO brings this up when feasible and they are working to make recommendations that make sense. PW operating budget does not have it built in, solid waste and street operations has more wiggle room budget-wise. It will take a dedicated funding source to be proactive on sustainable policies from building services perspective. We can consider asking for more than current line item of $20k for FY 2024

# Citizen Input

**Robyn Madden** is with EPIC Glass Recycling - used to be involved with the commission and glad to hear updates from the group.

**Nancy Mallet Hyde** - thank you for having an online option!

# City Director & Liaison Input

**Director Capi Peck** is out of the country and unable to join us today.

**James Owens**, Policy Analyst and Mayor’s Office Liaison updates:

RFP Overview: 2022 Mayor’s State of the CIty Address pledges 100% Clean Energy for city operations by 2030. In May, LRSO, Mayors Office, and Jon Honeywell met and tasked the group with creating RFP to meet this goal. On June 28, first draft released to LRSO and LRSC for recommendations. July 13-14 recommendations came back to Mayor’s Office. James is tasked with blending those recommendations and aligning with Mayor’s vision of pursuing an Energy Performance Contract with Solar Development. The current version is now in Procurement and expect to hear back from them soon and have asked for a collaborative process during finalization.

First, thank you for those recommendations - some of those have led to some changes, namely: removing GHG reduction language (we have no goal for that or baseline), change contract term to 20 years (this will be term for PPA, but other EPC options could be flexible), wanted to allow flexibility to award multiple vendors and separate solar from energy reduction in buildings goal, added workforce development piece for solar.

**(Larissa) How long would it be before work begins?**

James - unsure.

Brittany - EPC negotiation can take upwards of a year. Solar array could take less time.

**(Kate) Who did the mayor’s office consult when they made the clean energy goal for 2030? Can the commission see the most recent draft?**

The Mayor writes his speech with staff input - so that 2030 goal was his own. I advocate for sustainability constantly when I get to meet with him. This is something he understands and has a vision for.

The LRSO does have the newest draft and Brittany is currently working on the edits that remove GHG reduction as explicit goal (as that is unstated at this time and we have no baseline) and trying to recommend language that allows for proposals from solar-focused solutions.

**(Uta) Are we concerned about net metering law changing in December? What role would the city play in advocating for continuing with this process if the laws change?**

Wes suggested that the City of Little Rock join the coalition of folks advocating for the continuation of the 1:1 net metering law.

**Update on Policy Review, next steps clarified with LRSO**

* We will create a 1 pager memo template for the commission to fill in for focus areas identified for each team.
* City staff will then provide internal policies/programs, contact information and process tree to move policy ideas forward.
* 1-pagers will be created within working teams, ideas will be brought out to full commission for discussion, and then escalated to proper City Government channels

# LRSC General Report

* 1. **Introduction of consent agenda from now going forward (anything that requires discussion?)**
     1. Jan, Rose Creek Trash Boom Cleanup
        1. 2 hour monthly volunteering expected
           1. Boom needs to be cleaned after big rain events
           2. Notice is an issue
        2. This Saturday at 9am
           1. Can share on social media
           2. You would get wet (waders are good)
        3. The Initiative group will meet tomorrow evening at 5:30 in the park
           1. Bring Your Own Chair
     2. *Uta makes motion to approve consent agenda; Kate seconds; motion carries*
  2. **Introduction of Sustainability Action Plan Resolution**
     1. LRSO is working with Dir. Peck to introduce a resolution directing theSust. Office to engage in the creation of an all-of-city-government Sustainability Action Plan
     2. LRSC has started creating action plans in the past
        1. [2020 Sustainability Roadmap (2015)](https://www.littlerock.gov/residents/sustainability-office/2020-sustainability-roadmap-updates/)
        2. [2025+ Sustainability Action Plan (2019)](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1t2XTvb7MkEikk6kouusA32JzEommtgI3cQTX5IgS7rk/edit)
     3. This project has the support of some Board members and we would like to ask them to direct the heads of each department to engage in planning with the LRSO
        1. LRSC will start by helping to write the resolution and create a Board presentation
        2. If resolution passes, LRSC will help direct what all is covered in the SAP
     4. Plan to take the resolution to City Board in October
        1. Planning meetings: 8/30, 9/6, 9/27 (invitations to come)
     5. *Wes motions to create Ad-Hoc to write resolution, Kate & Anna second; motion carries*

New Business  
Ann wants to help make sure that the next Music in the Park event will have recycling - she is happy to volunteer and help make that happen

Meeting Adjourned - 4:28pm

# **ADDENDA**

# LRSO General Report

* 1. [Cooperative Task List](https://docs.google.com/document/u/1/d/11-9t46-cRryQPnrhZgoYYN69FW6EQM2pHUIR1aRtk7U/edit) *Updated*
     1. [Cooperative Sign Up](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/u/1/d/1o2uPbdCANeJOIJUz-Zfu-ooOAvlxIAXdUQGpbqMH-3c/edit)
  2. 1 minute radio spots on KUAR
     1. Interest?
  3. Website updates underway, including GRCP, GG4E, Clean Energy and more
  4. Email went out with GRCP update on 8/10/22
  5. Next Green Events - Volunteer on “Cooperative Sign Up” above
     1. Great Arkansas Clean Up, Sept. 10th
     2. Zoo Brew, Sept. 15th
     3. Family Day with Arkansas PBS, Nov. 5th
     4. Harvestfest, Oct. 22nd
     5. LITfest, Oct 7-9 (?**)**
  6. Future updates - what does LRSC what to hear from Office?

# Consent Agenda

* [June 2022 Meeting Minutes](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zmj5fWa_8mWyYuxA_0RZ9jQR_8pjV1e9b75PO0LwOuI/edit?usp=sharing) (No July Meeting)
* [NATURAL ENVIRONMENT - August 2022](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1POj1-cjRElIXMais-L_5tbOI0f25R8kxte7xHwUdvFA/edit?usp=sharing)
* [BUILT ENVIRONMENT - August 2022](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aqxYLzDh7O2luH0FQO3PpYNzfTI5VISBcd9HOTZa7Vg/edit?usp=sharing)

Zoom Chat dialogue

**From Larissa Barry (she/her) to Everyone 03:15 PM**

the audio for everyone but our guest speaker is real choppy

**From Rachel Furman to Everyone 03:27 PM**

can't hear Rachel well

**From Larissa Barry (she/her) to Everyone 03:31 PM**

is there a timeline for the Gill street bridge project?

**From John Landosky to Everyone 03:31 PM**

Larissa, the last I heard it was Fall 2023, but Jon might know better

**From Larissa Barry (she/her) to Everyone 03:45 PM**

when is work expected to begin after contracting?

**From Larissa Barry (she/her) to Everyone 04:06 PM**

BYOC

**From Larissa Barry (she/her) to Everyone 04:11 PM**

I'd vote to invite someone from procurement

**From Me to Everyone 04:13 PM**

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rcqLXq8qB0Y0ULgZtsqO1MX8uB9CDXGj/edit

**From Rachel to Everyone 04:23 PM**

great idea

I would love to help with writing and/or reviewing

didn't hear any of that last part

**From Kate to Everyone 04:25 PM**

Do we need to vote on Wes' motion to form the sub-committee?