

7:30am to 9:00am at EHRA's offices

Attendees on April 9, 2019

Auggie Campbell
Jim Russ

Natalie Weiershausen
Maurice Mullaly

Carmen Kumpula
Peter Huinker

Michael Bloom

1. **Welcome/Introductions**Jim Russ
2. **Committee Business**.....Jim Russ
 - a. Education and Advocacy: Advancing Sustainable Infrastructure
 - i. The Envision Rating System for Sustainable Infrastructure
 1. *The committee discussed that Harris County is advancing efforts to get Envision certified employees. The goal is for certification to be in the RFQ and the county is moving in the direction of making it a requirement.*
 2. *ACEC will be doing a 2 hour introduction event but this will not provide the certification. There is no plan for ACEC to offer an 8 hour class that would lead to the credentialing test. The committee discussed that WHA could host a class at their office. Bloom reported that he is a trainer and would put a cost estimate together for WHA staff review. There is an online version of the training however Bloom believed that the cost of in-person training was less than the online course. The committee discussed WHA hosting the training on May 8th. The participants would still need to take the test at a later time.*
 3. *Bloom reported that he is working on a project for Steve Costello that looks at providing incentives to incorporate green infrastructure into private projects. The study was conducted over 1 year and there will likely be a press conference in the last week of May. Bloom reported that he will give an update to the committee at the June meeting.*
 - ii. Future Sustainable Infrastructure/Sustainability Technical Forums
 - iii. Elevator Speech for the WHA Sustainable Infrastructure Committee
 1. *The group decided to start with the goal paragraph that is written on the committee's 2060 Plan board. The paragraph is below:*

QUALITY GROWTH PARTNERS 2018



- a. *“The traditional infrastructure development paradigm will shift as planners, designers, and project sponsors partner with elected officials and other policy-makers to create and implement new policies and strategies to promote a network of sustainable, resilient infrastructure in the region.”*
 2. *Weiershausen reported that the paragraph is a good start and should be simplified. Campbell reported that the committee should address the significance, items in the current situation that is holding them back and why our community should care.*
 3. *The group discussed that the goal of the elevator speech is to explain to others what the committee does, help WHA branding and encompass our efforts of trying to promote this culture. The committee discussed working to build something that will last and have benefits.*
 4. *Campbell reported that this can also be implemented on WHA’s Sustainable Infrastructure webpage.*
 5. *Huinker suggested the term **LEAP**:*
 - a. *Leadership*
 - b. *Educate*
 - c. *Advocate*
 - d. *Promote*
 6. *Kumpula will create a Google Doc for the committee to make edits to the paragraph and continue work on the elevator speech.*
- iv. *Educate the Law Makers on a culture of Sustainability*
- b. *Sustainability Stars Applications*
 - i. *Kumpula reported that a 2019 Sustainability Stars application will be sent to Marlene Gafrick for the Treehouse. Campbell reported that he has meeting with Lonestar and will send the application to them as well. The group discussed the Conrad Basin as another potential project for consideration. Commissioner Cagle and Mormon might also have projects they would like to submit.*
- c. *Update on 86th Legislature*
 - i. *Campbell reported that HB13 would be going to the floor this week. Campbell reported that HB13 has 100 sponsors and is likely to pass. The committee discussed that HB13 focuses on economically distressed areas and keeps money away from metropolitan areas. Campbell reported that he can summarize this bill for the committee. The SB500, supplemental budget, is moving forward and includes the money from Creighton’s SB7. Campbell reported Perry has filed SB8 which is a long-term resiliency plan for the state.*
 - ii. *The committee discussed that Resiliency Day is April 10th.*
 - iii. *The tax bills, HB2 and SB2, will go to the floor this week. Campbell reported that the sporting good tax bill is moving forward.*

- iv. *The group discussed HB1059 which requires a Green Infrastructure Report from the TCEQ every two years. The TCEQ is against this bill due to it being an unfunded mandate. The bill has republican and democrat co-sponsors and will likely move forward.*
- v. *Campbell reported that a MUD bond election bill has been filed by Huffman, SB323, which requires the proposition to be brought to a panel of three Judges 120 days before it is taken to voters. There is also a bill that is aiming to get rid of the voter trailer system for the MUD boards.*

3. Open Discussion/Adjourn

- a. *The group discussed inviting Commissioner Cagle to the meeting on May 14th. The group also wanted to invite Marissa Aho, City of Houston Chief Resiliency Officer, to the June meeting.*

Mission Statement

Sustainable infrastructure enhances the long term economic, social, and environmental outcomes of development and infrastructure within the greater West Houston Association region. The committee’s mission is to advocate for the use of sustainable infrastructure concepts through the education of members and stakeholders and recognition of projects and practices.

2019 WHA SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE
All Meetings at EHRA Offices, 7:30 am

Tuesday, January 8	Tuesday, July 9
Tuesday, February 12	Tuesday, August 13
Tuesday, March 12	Tuesday, September 10
Tuesday, April 9	Tuesday, October 8
Tuesday, May 14	Tuesday, November 12
Tuesday, June 11	Tuesday, December 10

