

Arvada Sustainability Advisory Committee (ASAC) Minutes

March 11, 2026, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Hybrid meeting: Arvada City Hall, 3rd Floor CCR Room + Zoom Meeting

Name, Role	Term Exp	Attendance	Name, Role	Term Exp	Attendance
ASAC Member Attendance:					
Alex Pray, Chair	2027	X	Kia Ruiz, Member	2027	X
Dar-Lon Chang, Vice Chair	2026	X	Krystle Morey, Member	2026	X
Kristin Klipka, Secretary	2028	X	Laurel Mattrey, Member	2026	X
Aaron Coffeen, Member	2026	V	Mark Jelinske, Member	2027	X
Emma Boff, Member	2027	X	Michelle Martin, Member	2027	A
Haley Hall, Member	2028	V	Marissa LaPorta, Member	2028	A
Harriet Hall, Member	2027	V			
Arvada Team:			Guests:		
Randy Moorman, Council Liaison		A			
Steven Russell, Staff Liaison		X			
Eric Lewin, Staff Liaison		V			

X = Present, in person | V = Virtual participant | A = Absent

Minutes

5:30 p.m. Convene

- Convened at 5:35
- Land Acknowledgement
- *Approval of February 11 minutes*
 - Dar-Lon motioned, Krystle seconded; passed unanimously by voice vote

5:35 p.m. Public Comment (3 min/ speaker)

- No public comment

5:50 p.m. General Business

- Updates from Committee members
 - Winterfest update
 - Contacts with the public:
 - Kia: An easy segue into convos at Winterfest: “I’m in flip flops at Winterfest, let’s talk about climate change.”
 - Dar-Lon: gave public comment about Winterfest feedback at last CC meeting; council was receptive to the message
 - Alex: Some people saw “Arvada” signage and just wanted to talk about City of Arvada business. Otherwise, pretty positive and

- Dar-Lon: Date & place set for youth climate summit (4/24) at Jefferson Sr and Jr HS in Edgewater
 - Dar-Lon: Green Careers workshop is still looking for speakers to speak with HS students about green career paths, skillsets, next steps, courses and internships to take
 - Dar-Lon will share link with Emma, Mark, Steven
 - Discussed opportunities and what are “green careers”
 - Kristi: Denver Zoo has a lot of conservation education professionals; might be a good resource to reach out to
 - Krystle: Snow pack is low and Denver Water considering options ranging from “drought watch” to “drought 1 restrictions”
 - Kia: Will be speaking at Parks Committee after the ASAC meeting, looking to build bridges
 - Aaron: recommended checking out CO Climate Week (<https://coclimateweek.com/>)
 - Alex got a heat pump installed thru HEAR; contractor handled all the paperwork; it was a positive experience; loan serviced through RENEW CCEF program
 - Multiple members discussed personal experience with heat pumps dealing with super cold weather; sometimes a little chilly in super cold, but otherwise no major issues.
 - Alex got a new position “Distributed Energy Resources Manager” at his company. The committee congratulated him on the promotion.
 - Alex will not be at next meeting (may be online if conference agenda permits)
 - Alex spoke with Arvada BID
 - Kia: speaking with Parks committee today; connected with Parks leadership at Winterfest and discussed liaison role possibility
 - Plans to discuss: “This is who we are, what we do, and let’s talk about crossover under city strategic plan”
 - Krystle: Parks is doing incredible work w native grass conversion projects
 - Kia discussed recent high turnout re: dog park removal rumor; the rumor is untrue but still attracted a huge crowd.
 - Consensus on the Committee: People love their dogs.
 - Mark: What’s the status of building code adoption?
 - Steven: Moving along, adopting LECC
 - Mark: Is a redline available?
 - Steven: Not available yet but will let Mark know when it is
- Updates from Council Liaison
 - Steven: Mayor Pro-Tem Moorman is not here today. He is prepping for lobby day at the state capital tomorrow. Asked Steven to report that he’s really excited about momentum for waste diversion and composting with EPR!
 - Updates from Staff Liaison
 - EPR update
 - Steven: Issues with website, Debbie Reed and Steve now set up and getting application started. It’s long but not unreasonable.
 - Arvada is serial number 7 for municipalities that signed up.
 - Have set up a regular check in with EPR staff (weekly)

- Getting everything set up for reimbursement of recycling costs for all Arvadans enrolled in city program. Folks enrolled in private industry rely on their hauler participating in program to get the reimbursement.
- Things the team is investigating:
 - When will refunds roll out to City and residents?
 - Mayor Pro-Tem Moorman advocates rolling out a composting program at the same time, and messaging it as a cost neutral change to the city program.
- What we've learned:
- EPR is only for recycling. Composting resources not coming.
- Utilities Team talked to Council last night.
- Compost:
 - At workshop, Council was supportive of doing a compost program, but has questions about the form it will take. Council asked staff to investigate and report back on the demand for a program like this and potential models for program design.
 - Details are all TBD; staff just started looking into this recently.
 - Working with Republic to get costs and terms for city pickup program; Republic proposal requires whole-city participation
 - Laurel: Opt in or opt out?
 - Steven: In the Republic model proposed, everyone in the city would be automatically enrolled, and would have to opt out if they don't want it. But the details are TBD.
 - Alex: Year round program?
 - Steven believes that's what was discussed, but stressed that details are not worked out yet
 - Steven clarified that while the cost of composting and the reimbursement for recycling may be close together, this might not be dollar for dollar. So could be a slight negative or positive cost.
 - Laurel: Possibility to do a quick survey?
 - Steven: That might be possible, but does come with costs and uncertainties. All options are on the table. Will have an internal meeting next week to work out next steps. Staff need more info and research, but see momentum from Council.
 - Mark: Knowing timing is important for messaging
 - Steven will come back with more details.
 - Krystle: In her program, frequency changes in winter but is year round.
 - Steven: Some communities do every other week recycling and compost, which feels like a good approach.
 - Alex: Boulder does that
- Krystle: Is EPR for single family?
 - Steven: Yes, single families and multifamily housing with fewer than 8 units
- CASAP update
 - Steven opted to be "radically transparent": He's running behind schedule on incorporating recommendations from City Council and public comment.

There were a lot of comments to sort through (around 400 net recommendations). He has the recommendations grouped and organized now and began working through the edits recently.

- Part of implementing the feedback will be adding new sections, including: a Resiliency section under climate action; an Economic Model section; an Air quality section; Community Highlights throughout the document; A section on cross-departmental collaboration; and 14 additional strategies (and counting)
- That said, he acknowledged that this takes time and he's running behind. At this point, he's not sure they'll have a fully edited and designed CASAP in time for a 4/21 vote.
 - Laurel: Thinking of pushing it back?
 - Steven: I think we have to. The deadline for handing off to design already passed, so even if he wrapped up edits today, he's not sure that it'll make it through design process in time.
 - Steven added that multiple new sections and strategies will need to be reviewed for text edits by the team as well.
- Steven said he'd take some help with drafting the community highlights if anyone is interested.
 - Krystle volunteered to help Steve with text on Friday
- Steve added that he'd love to get a text review for some of the new content from anyone who's willing and able. Will follow up with more info.
- Sidebar re- compost:
 - Laurel: Would it be helpful to have folks send emails to council to show support for composting?
 - Steven: It never hurts for community members to let Council know how they feel on an issue.
 - Added that the meeting where compost was discussed is public info, anyone can watch it online (<https://youtu.be/Q6YMiFf40IE?t=2412&si=A1KK0oOF7M6oDB7x>)
 - Kia: As Mayor Pro-Tem, Randy will be acting Mayor because of Mayor Simpson's announcement last week. Keep in mind he'll be busy and we shouldn't bombard him with EPR questions/comments.
 - Kia: Possible collaboration with Republic to talk about collaboration
- Discussion re resiliency content:
 - Kia: For new Resiliency section, consider language of "community risk reduction" (5 Es)
 - Laurel: Council wants you to talk about data
 - Kia: After the Marshall fire resiliency is a buzz word, but need to make sure we're in line with Fire district
 - Dar-Lon: Microgrids are included in our discussion about resiliency, right?
 - Mark: Resiliency is lots of things, including public safety.
 - Laurel: Boulder views resiliency like making sure folks can afford resiliency measures for extreme measure

- Mark: Climate resiliency includes heat waves, affordable housing, cooling, heat pumps could be an angle; affordable housing is resiliency and climate.
- Kia: Resiliency is mentioned in Arvada strategic doc on quality of life
- Laurel: Resilience was brought up with Lots
- Harriet: Resilience was a key concept in mental health, now shows up in disasters. It's important to recognize resilience as a concept that has universal applicability and does not belong just to sustainability. Human thing because people need to survive. Think about how what ASAC does relates to people being resilient/surviving is important and will be meaningful to broader community
 - Emma: Agrees on resiliency as a mental health issue. It doesn't need to be a traumatic event; for example, Arvada parks helped with her resiliency for post partum
- Steven discussed his method for organizing comments on resiliency: Tagged all comments that touch the topic and compiled them in one document to reference while writing. This won't be a huge section, about the same length as Climate Action and Sustainability sections. May need to do a resiliency update in the future, but going for a few-paragraph essay length and a handful of new strategies for now. Positioning resiliency as the other side of the coin for climate action.
 - Steven: Thanks Kristi for note taking on this!
- Emma: Section on EVs?
 - Steven: Not a standalone section at this time, but doing a "fleet update" will be on the list of suggested next steps.
- Laurel Asked if there are any specific tasks the committee can help with re: CASAP development/update.
 - Steven: Text reviews would be helpful, and again Community Highlights (kudos Krystle for volunteering!)
 - Alex: Let us know what sections to review
 - Steven will compile additions outside of the main doc and will send out a digest of excerpts.
- Other outreach:
 - Also doing podcast in April;
 - Steven: Kudos to folks who've done presentations/ outreach/ engagement.
 - Steven also did additional outreach to Arvada United Methodist Church last week
- Scraps update
 - Doing a write up on potential pilot
 - Pilot will be a nice stop gap and provide data collection while we wait for potential composting program rollout
 - Contract is getting redline from Legal Team. More to come
- Update on new committee member interviews

- 3 positions, 4 interviewees. Awesome candidates. We made offers to top 3 but one of the candidates only had ASAC as second choice. We will be happy with any of the 4 candidates.
- More to come in the future. One was a high school student; exciting that we will have youth representation on ASAC!
- Building code vignettes
 - Building Code Team wants to do video vignettes about the new building and energy code rollout. Asked ASAC to support with advice on the content
 - Alex interested in advising
 - Mark: Timeline?
 - Steven: Sooner than later, no specific date but soon. Jessie (Comms Team) has already put together some outlines
 - Steven will reach out to Alex and Mark to connect them with Jessie
- BPC update
 - Building policy working groups for diff topics. Kind of like think tanks. Steve working in implementation and rollout group, Kyley is in residential transparency group, and Rozalynne is in benchmarking group. Participation does not commit Arvada to taking action but ensures we will have a role in forming the policy templates. Templates will be available to communities to adopt, if desired.
 - Mark is available to help but Steven indicated BPC is for staff only
 - Starting the process for hiring new staff
- Youth engagement event
 - Did a sustainability and resilience workshop with emergency management. Had around 60 students from local HS.
 - In workshop, Steven and Emergency Manager Brian Wilkerson led students in dot-voting activity.



- Notable clusters:
 - Affordable housing most important to students & their families (yellow dots)

- Students want Arvada to prioritize action on: GHG reduction, water security/drought, and water conservation (red dots)
- Arvada doing a good job with shade/tree canopy and biodiversity/habitat (green dots)

6:45 p.m. New Business

- Earth Day Proclamation
 - Steven: Will connect with chairs to discuss this. 5 minutes of speaking time. Meeting 4/21,
 - Everyone please come for group photo if you can.
- CASAP final stretch: Keep the momentum going
 - Review upcoming meetings and comment themes
 - The group reviewed a spreadsheet about themes from Council comments and a schedule for upcoming meetings
 - Laurel, Emma, Kristi, and Mark volunteered for outreach at upcoming meetings
 - Alex opened discussion recapping previous council engagements; suggested we be strategic - don't overdo it, but keep the message up that the community is supportive of CASAP
 - Laurel: Are we looking to pick topics and schedule out?
 - Alex: Yes. we don't have to hit everything on the list, but let's be strategic on hitting the points that will have most impact, do the most work to convince council; i.e. talk about what sustainability means to you and talk about issues where you're an SME
 - Kristi confirmed that when we do outreach to other community groups, our asks of the groups is that they do any of the following:
 - 1. Show up to support via public comment at a Council meeting as individuals or group
 - 2. Sign a Letter of Support as the group, and send to Council (we have a template, encourage heavy customization)
 - 3. Show up on vote day
 - Outreach to community groups: Members reviewed the draft of letter of support to share with community groups
 - Some edits were discussed, but not much. Members encouraged to review the letter offline and add notes via comment on Google Doc.
 - Letter is in ASAC shared drive, main folder (link: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1EeRia08m9NQ0MY7BMvilcmoyb8ZQjvX92_p9aFuW58Q/edit?usp=sharing)
 - Encourage heavy editing
 - Emma noted that Google Doc has a "building blocks" tool that can make a one-click email template that sends email on behalf of user.
 - Alex noted that there's a form to use for public comment so just sending an email might not attach it to public comment, but good to know for other future actions
- Discussion: Follow-up on subcommittee structure and possible subcommittees
 - Alex brought up a parking lot item: creating subcommittees. Thinking of life after CASAP adoption
 - Intent of subcommittees:

- Meeting outside of this meeting in order to advance action on items that need extra attention
- Krystle: focus on items that are “burning,” current, pressing, and/or have a clear deadline/driver
- Steven: Advises that committees are time bound and have clear scope, no death by committee
- Past ideas:
 - Subject-matter committees on action priorities (i.e. water, buildings, etc.)
 - Communications & outreach
 - Kristi: this can include things like getting ready for events/ tabling
- New ideas:
 - Alex: CASAP might have actions that lend well to subcommittee formation
 - Water efficiency plan update
 - New member orientation
 - Governance
- Procedure:
 - Identify a need in ASAC meeting
 - Krystle: Draft a scope document/proposal as part of proposing a subcommittee
 - Set schedule/ time
 - Coordinate with chairs
- Dar-Lon: check on public meeting laws - if we have a certain number of members at a subcommittee meeting, may trigger records and notice requirements
 - Steven will look into CO Sunshine Law and how it would impact public records requirements for committees
 - Alex: other committees have subcommittees, so this must have been worked out by someone.
- Alex: Can connect ASAC with relevant staff:
 - Steven thinks this is doable sometimes, but can't guarantee staff support for subcommittees. Any interactions with staff will be one-off/ad-hoc and dependent on staff capacity.
- Steven advised making a procedure for sub-committee formation:
 - It should be an official ASAC action (approval/launch voted on by committee)
 - Members should have a proposed scope that establishes limits, intended deliverables, and timeline
 - Subcommittee provides updates at ASAC meetings for duration of subcommittee action
- Krystle suggested it might make sense to start with comms and education subcommittee and go from there
 - Alex: agrees- let's start with comms and go from there.
- Mark: curious about how this dovetails with roles for ASAC ; establish “who listens to us” ;

- Steven: This also aligns with Kia's comments earlier about Liaisons to other committees
- Alex: Meeting 1 can be establishing scope, intent

7:30 p.m. Adjourn

- Adjourned at 7:37