

Arvada Sustainability Advisory Committee (ASAC) Minutes

April 8, 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	A	Kia Ruiz	2027	X
Dar-Lon Chang, Vice Chair	2026	X	Krystle Morey, Member	2026	V
Kristin Klipka, Secretary	2028	X	Laurel Mattrey, Member	2026	V
Aaron Coffeen, Member	2026	V	Mark Jelinske, Member	2027	A
Emma Boff, Member	2027	V	Michelle Martin, Member	2027	V
Haley Hall, Member	2028	X	Marissa LaPorta, Member	2028	V
Harriet Hall, Member	2027	V			
Arvada Team:			Guests:		
Randy Moorman, Council Liaison		X	Suzie Post		V
Steven Russell, Staff Liaison		X	Riley Blankenship		X
Eric Lewin, Staff Liaison		X			
Jaqueline Rhoades, Staff Liaison		A			

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

Minutes

5:30 p.m. Convene

- Convened at 5:33
- Land Acknowledgement
- *Approval of March minutes*
 - Haley motioned, Kristi seconded; passed unanimously by voice vote

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

- Suzie Post introduced self to the Committee
- Riley Blankenship also introduced self to the Committee.
 - Riley will be joining virtually next month
 - Riley has a background in remote sensing and is an Xcel employee working in wildfire mitigation

5:50 p.m. General Business

- Updates from Committee members
 - Kristi: Laurel and Krsiti were at Council on April 7th and gave public comment about CASAP.

- Kristi highlighted equity considerations in sustainability and discussed why it's important to consider/keep in mind. Overall vibe and reception was positive.
 - Laurel: Highlighted thorough engagement process, emphasized staff vetting, and also touched on community-oriented benefits, preserving parks and water, and why her family chooses to live in Arvada.
 - Dar-Lon: gave kudos and said ASAC has done a great job of covering almost every meeting since February with public comment re CASAP
 - Dar-Lon: JeffCo Youth Summit is 4/24. The event piggybacks on student leadership conference
 - Dar-Lon recruited reps from a great array of sustainability jobs for students to learn about
 - Laurel is joining to talk with students about how to take next steps in forming a climate career, representing gov side
 - Also including a representative from City of Denver to talk about CASR program, a consultant from Spirit Environmental, and a member of the media who works with CO Environmental Film Fest
 - Kia: This has happened in JeffCo before - JeffCo Eco Club did a similar action in the past
 - Dar-Lon: Expressed gratitude for pointing this out. It's the first time for THIS org (Mountain Mommas) to execute the event. Mountain Mommas aims to bring more climate action to JeffCo, recruit students to speak with school board; was also successful at getting a sustainability coordinator hired
 - Kia: Met with Councilmember Rebeckah Lovisone to discuss CASAP, address any concerns
 - Councilmember Lovisone shared many thoughts, including:
 - Getting youth involved to speak about CASAP and engage with climate/sustainability action is a big opportunity
 - Interest in expanding the agriculture components of CASAP
 - Support for recommending sustainability projects to Neighborhood Leaders
 - Concern about why/how it took so long to produce, and discussed how "perfect can be the enemy of the good"
 - Curiosity: if environmental standards elsewhere (i.e. state, county) exceed ours, can we exercise home rule or are we bound to them?
 - Wants to see us break down silos, conduct more small shareholder engagement and community-oriented actions
 - Discussed presenting to and working with Parks committee
 - Dar-Lon: Gave kudos to Kia and expressed that it's good to continue meeting with Councilmembers to get an idea of what they need in advance of vote
- Updates from Staff Liaison
 - Big win: the new building code amendments and / LECC were adopted by Council on 3/24!
 - Arvada is an early adopter of LECC, leading the pack!
 - CO Climate Week was an awesome conference. Many takeaways and networking opportunities, including:

- SB26-003 is a new bill that builds an industry and policies around EV battery recycling
 - More info: <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/SB26-003>
- Local B-Corp industry is an exciting opportunity for engagement and driving sustainable economy
- Equity pipelines and training programs in the green trades
- Grid vulnerability from a national security perspective, and the role of renewable and resilient energy systems for security
- Latino insights shaping conservation; a large poll analyzed priorities across demographic groups and drilled in on latino perspectives
 - More info: <https://hispanicaccess.org/ccpoll>
 - The Hispanic Access Foundation is a national organization that runs an air quality monitoring program called El Aire Que Respiramos. Steven is meeting with them to suss out whether there's an opportunity to collaborate
 - More about Hispanic Access Foundation: <https://hispanicaccess.org/>
- Lots of exciting new new tech and innovations around carbon monitoring and building decarbonization
- Implications of this year's snowpack are not good
- Women who Charge is a great local network that arranged several of the talks at CO Climate Week, and could be an interesting organization to engage with.
 - More info: <https://womenwhocharge.org/>
- Behavior Change in Recycling
 - Great workshop put on by The Recycling Partnership and heavily featuring EcoCycle + Randy
 - Provided resources on a behavior change model. Steven and Utilities Manager Debby Reid attended and will seek opportunities to incorporate the model during EPR rollout.
- Extended Producer Responsibility update
 - Finalizing the applications for Local Government Service and Engagement & Outreach funding streams. Waiting on #s from Republic and doing a lot of financial analysis. This app is not easy, but it will be worth millions of dollars when implemented, so staff are investing significant time to it.
- Building Policy Collaborative update
 - Setting up contracting for Building Electrification Specialist and Energy Code Specialist
 - Continuing with the Power Ahead colorado/ BPC program, policy workshops, etc.
- New member on-boarding
 - Four new members starting next month. Riley and Suzie are present; Malea and Ed are joining next month.
 - Malea is a non-voting "Youth Advisor"
 - Steven shared what he's already planning and asked for suggestions on materials to include in new member packet
- Sunshine Law and subcommittees

- CASAP update
 - Edits following public comment and Council feedback all processed. Steven is doing some fine-tuning and final review, then sending out to team for final text review.
 - Highlights:
 - Added an air quality callout
 - Added a resiliency section
 - Expanded the action planning and implementation sections
 - Added an economic model section
 - Expanded the collaboration section
 - Revised the GHGs section
 - Expanded details on the climate goals
 - Re-configured all goals as follows:
 - “Goals” renamed to “Key Priorities”
 - Goals will use SMART format and be detailed in annual action plans
 - “Land stewardship” renamed “Environmental stewardship”
 - “Economic Development” renamed “Sustainable Economy”
 - Added: about 10 new metrics, 24 new strategies, 9 new partners, 1 new Key Priority, and 2 new existing programs
 - Dar-Lon: Will the final draft be available for review before the final vote by Council?
 - Steven: If anyone is interested in doing final text review, please reach out.
- Eric added one update: City has engaged a communication plan on drought for website and is forming a task force. More info to come here.
 - Kia: Is there any role for ASAC to advise on drought plan?
 - EL will check in with team and follow up
 - Kia: any pushback/ questions on drought plan?
 - EL: not a lot of pushback, but a good level of engagement generally
- Kristi: regarding the new members - our youth advisor should be able to vote
 - Several members expressed agreement
 - Steven: this was the word from legal and the clerk’s office.
- Updates from Council Liaison
 - Welcome new members!
 - Acknowledged the great work of the committee
 - Gave kudos to Mark for his advocacy and work with staff on building code updates, adding “it’s exciting to be a leader”
 - Acknowledged the committee’s presence at Council. It has been noticed by Councilmembers.
 - Recommended keeping it up and noted significant impact potential
 - This friday Randy will be giving State of City Address
 - This is the first time that sustainability and climate will be included in the annual address
 - Regarding EPR: there are discussions on Council about leveraging savings from EPR to implement compost. We will need to make these moves soon.
 - Randy is watching some state legislation:
 - SB26-003 - EV battery recycling bill

- SB26-146 (newly introduced) the “Skip the Stuff” bill tells restaurants & food order platforms to not automatically provide single use servicewear.
 - We’ve seen iterations of this in the past; this time it’s led by youth (Cherry Creek HS)
 - Hearing 4/23 at 1:30 - Randy encouraged folks to come testify, esp youth
- Expressed interest in the city exploring membership with CC4CA after adopting CASAP. This is a great org to work with for program implementation.
- Kite fest is next week.
- Encouraged exploring opps for drought education, noting that constituents have complained in the past about the “browning of Arvada” and concern about water rates more than drought; but that the message today is different and people understand better.
 - Randy: Let’s get out front of lawn transitions. Perhaps organize a tour to demonstrate that this is easy to do, and cost-effective
 - Kia recommended that Arvada seek to incorporate communication strategies for behavior change from Recycling Partnership workshop.
 - Emma: MVNC does a pollinator tour (this summer it’s June 27- a saturday)
 - At event, residents volunteer to show gardens to people; not exactly drought related, but pollinator-focused gardens do mean you’ve likely converted at least part of your yard from turf
 - <https://www.arvadaco.gov/1253/Pollinator-Garden-Tour>
 - Advised sharing event on newsletter
 - Stated that the classes are great and helped her feel informed enough to convert her own yard.
 - Also shared Denver Botanic Gardens Plant Sale, which features many native and xeric plants
<https://www.botanicgardens.org/events/special-events/spring-plant-sale>
 - Laurel: Can we consider partnership with RC? Turf conversion program? Let’s get in front of the public and talk about how you can have a really nice yard after turf conversion
 - Steven shared that we do partner on this program and that it sold out this year within a week or two. Utilities team just decided to expand the budget; Steven will look for the date for expanded availability and
- Other questions:
 - Dar-Lon heard about the blue ribbon ceremony for Republic’s new transfer station. Does this facility offer any impacts for Arvada that could benefit our delivery of compost service?
 - Randy: Can be helpful; Republic eager to utilize if we adopt compost
 - Dar-Lon: What do they do at the transfer station?
 - Randy: This facility won’t do processing on site; it’s like a hub-and-spoke system that brings materials to transfer station then put it on a truck and take out for processing
 - Kia: Is the Mayor back?
 - Randy: Yes! She came back today.

- Kia: The Arvada mill is turning 100 are you baking, Sunday?
 - Randy: No, not this year.

6:30 p.m. New Business

- 4/21 Earth Day Proclamation
 - ASAC invited to Council on 4/21 to accept a proclamation for Earth Day.
 - Dar-Lon: we're looking for a volunteer to speak at the dias
 - Haley volunteered to speak
 - Kristi drafted a blurb, but encouraged editing/review. The draft is in the Google Drive.
 - Steven needs to provide RSVPS for the Clerk, so requested that everyone please respond to Calendar invite. Staff are expecting very high turnout for another issue on the agenda, so it's expected to be standing room only and/or spill into overflow rooms.
 - Dar-Lon recommends that those who attend arrive no later than 5:50
 - Dar-Lon: Do we want to say something to thank outgoing committee members?
 - Steven will discuss with communication manager, but doesn't think this is normally how a proclamation is accepted
 - Kia: Arvada had a recognition for offgoing members last year for Tara, but it wasn't well-delivered and didn't effectively honor her; this could have been better.
 - Staff and Members discussed who could attend and whether new members should join as well.
 - Dar-Lon Thanked Haley for speaking and everyone else who volunteer to attend
 - Kristi: All- please make edits/comments on the text blurb by next week
- ASAC Member transition
 - Dar-Lon: Member seats will change over between this month and next
 - Discussed on-boarding process for new folks
 - Kia debriefed with Tara on walks; recommended 1:1 connections to get a download from folks; matters of sustainability are interdependent so connection is a good means
 - Dar-Lon: in the past, we've also had welcome event, presented newcomers with binder. We haven't had a very formal process for departures; might want to change that and have a handoff of sorts. Thoughts on a going away/welcoming party?
 - Kia: great idea; also, hand off a binder; in the past, we have had a few members leave without ceremony; this is a loss
 - Krystle advises keeping the focus on new members
 - Marissa: it would be helpful to bring new members for a meetup/ 1:1. When she joined it took a long time to on-board
 - Kristi: Alex has been meeting with people
 - Steven is compiling resources for new members with info. Asked the committee for any suggestions on materials that would be helpful
 - Kristi: Roberts Rules 101
 - Kristi: acronyms cheat sheet for ASAC
 - Kia suggested revisiting communication agreements/ norms in the on-boarding process
 - Laurel suggested holding an event for the next meeting

- Kia expressed interest, but let's have some human connection before we go straight into business
 - Members discussed options for a meeting place following the normal business meeting. Some members asked about happy hour, but noted that one new member is under 21. Ice cream spots were suggested as well. The Committee landed on hosting something at the Memorial Park across from City Hall.
 - Steven will set something up for the park. Kristi advised ending the meeting early so we aren't staying too late past dark.
 - Kia motioned for the 5/13 meeting to end early and to have staff plan an event afterward at a park or indoor Kristi seconded ; passed unanimously
 - Harriet expressed concern about having a non-voting member
 - Multiple members agreed
- Member survey
 - Dar-Lon: a survey for members and member bios. What info do we plan for?
 - Kia advised sending over Google Forms
 - Kristi: Alex is drafting a form
 - Steven: for PII reasons this will come from me, including a consent to release contact info
 - Steven: What's important for you to know about each other to inform ASAC's work? What information would be helpful to you from a planning perspective?
 - Kristi: not just sustainability oriented, but side skills/hobbies (policy, writing, etc.)
 - Dar-Lon: Who really likes to do outreach/network?
 - Kristi: Organizations you're affiliated with that could help with committee work?
 - Suzie advised power mapping stakeholder connections
 - Marissa: What parts of CASAP you're interested in, or what subcommittees you'd be interested in serving on?
 - Dar-Lon: List out sections and check off interests?
- Reflect and debrief on the last year
 - Dar-Lon: how has committee evolved, where could we be of greater service? Prompted all members, starting with departing members.
 - Aaron:
 - The committee is in a strong, good place.
 - Nalini's departure was bumpy. Not sure if there was a clear/strategic vision, but Steven is a great leader/liason for committee.
 - Learned through all this that our group touches on just about every other group/committee at the City. We're coming up with ideas and plans that impact a wide range of the City's scope. this is exciting and meaningful!
 - After CASAP adoption, would urge committee to set another large milestone/goal to pursue and start working on. For example, this year water is going to be a big issue. Recommended strategizing around "hot topic" issues like water conservation and use in the city's functions. Waste reduction, renewable energy have great opportunity too.

- Keep the momentum and strategic vision moving forward! We spent most of our time/energy on CASAP, so once that's finalized/adopted, keep that momentum up/moving forward to whatever's next.
- Would have liked to see more install of solar/ renewable energy tech at city facilities. Tax credit programs come/go and we may have left opportunities on the table. There's a lot of opportunity for City to reduce footprint thru clean energy ops
- Dar-Lon: You brought a lot of expertise, especially on tech, finance, products, etc.
- Aaron is happy to stay a resource for ASAC.
- Krystle:
 - A while back, Arvada shifted the sustainability role over to public works, which was interesting but likely a good move.
 - Getting Steven on board was a great hire.
 - This committee has great diversity of voices. Use those voices to establish what sustainability means to the city.
 - It's going to be important to be opportunistic and jump on things when they become a focus for the committee; i.e. water conservation and compost are both top of mind and have lots of opportunity.
 - Krystle enjoyed being a part of the committee, feels that other members taught her a lot and her perspectives were expanded as a result of being part of the committee
 - Dar-Lon: Gave kudos for Krystle's expertise and support/work on CASAP. Krystle brought a lot of value with her expertise on water issues and speaking at Council
- Dar-Lon asked the whole committee: 'thoughts on the last year? Where can we go in the next year?' Dar-Lon encouraged frank discussion, adding that it's ok to critique his performance as Chair and provide recommendations for Alex as the new chair)
 - Haley:
 - Having CASAP in place will be helpful in structuring actions.
 - We can advise on progress reporting, dashboard/ tracking progress.
 - Benchmarking KPIs to track against will allow us to make progress in a more measurable way than during CASAP dev process
 - Dar-Lon: Part of why so unstructured bc we still didn't know what CASPA would be ; now we have concrete plan and can speak to/ measure plan
 - Kia:
 - Dar-Lon is being too hard on himself. ASAC didn't have structure or process and questioned whether Council even wanted to hear from them.
 - If you look at the longer history of committee, we've made a lot of progress. For example, the fact that we even hear talk about climate on Council is huge.
 - Also noted in the past there's been a sometimes antagonistic relationship with Council. Also noted that Nalini floundered bc she had to deal with this pushback

- Kia is glad we're in a better place now
- Dar-Lon: Gave kudos to Kia for her work to get us here. Agreed it's time to realize our potential
- Kia recommended putting together a timeline of the work of this committee
- Harriet:
 - Seconded what Kia said. As a long-serving member, has a long-term perspective. Things have definitely been moving the right direction
 - Gave kudos to Steven on progress and awareness of how to work with city government.
 - Nalini came into a tough situation, established an early path for Steven to pick up
 - Seconded the idea of a timeline for committee members to look at and see how far we have
- Steven asked for support in developing timeline
 - Kia recommended reaching out to Keith Emery and Mindy Mohr for support on this, and offered to put Steven in touch with Tara
 - Harriet also advised reaching out to Rachael Smallwood and Jessica Prosser
- Kristi:
 - In the next year, let's continue to be proactive in community outreach.
 - Referring to Lovisone's feedback about working with community groups, Kristi suggested keeping up engagement with council (not necessarily every meeting, but keeping it intentional)
- Laurel:
 - Wants to sit down with CASAP and identify what exactly can we impact/ what's in the realm of ASAC
 - Advised reviving the reports to Council again. It would be good to have more than a public comment, but have a dedicated time to share w Council "this is what we advise, as your advisory committee"
 - Dar-Lon: seconded- Laurel was the last to give address to Council. It would be nice to bring that back annually
 - Kia: recommended having a listening session w Council, noting this focused environment goes a long way, possibly further than just a report to Council. Advised a structured approach, pulling qualitative and quantitative data
- Dar-Lon asked Laurel for insights on tips on how to get Arvada sustainability dept from single person to a larger team? How did Boulder do this?
 - Laurel: it started with ppl in departments and moving people under a shared umbrella; socializing the idea of staff. ASAC can help advocate for this.
 - Laurel added that having a tax for sustainability made a big difference.
 - Dar-Lon noted that JeffCo is moving this direction too, currently sourcing funding for add'l staff members

- Laurel noted that Denver followed this approach as well, absorbing staff, building into a department
- Kia:
 - We need to work on local agriculture more ; local agriculture scales down resources to the way we think about ppl.
Arvadaco.gov/sustainability - there are multiple bullets on site about agriculture but it's lacking presence in CASAP
 - Other suggestion: work with Neighborhood Leaders to emphasize sustainability and resiliency projects in neighborhood grants program
- Addressed parking lot items and other ad-hoc topics not on the agenda:
 - Neighborhood leaders
 - Kia has brought this up before; we can propose project topics to neighborhood leaders program. Has drafted a list previously.
 - Kia will send info to Kristi and she will distribute offline. Won't have time for a full ASAC endorsement/ vote before the application opens. Will provide the resource to neighborhood services unofficially.
 - Planning outreach at May meetings
 - Dar-Lon Discussed outreach; members should continue to sign up for council meetings
 - Template for community groups
 - Kristi: no real feedback rec'd, so assuming it's good to go.
 - Members shared that they have already distributed the letter to other groups
 - Steven will seek clarification on requirements for sharing address in public comment

7:30 p.m. Adjourn

- Haley motioned to end early, Kristi seconded
- Adjourned at 7:28