

# Arvada Sustainability Advisory Committee (ASAC) Minutes

Jun 10, 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 |
|--------------------------------|----------|------------|-------------------------|----------|------------|
| <b>ASAC Member Attendance:</b> |          |            |                         |          |            |
| Alex Pray, Chair               | 2027     | X          | Laurel Mattrey, Member  | 2029     | X          |
| Dar-Lon Chang, Vice Chair      | 2026     | X          | Malea Fajardo, Member   | 2028     | V          |
| Kristin Klipka, Secretary      | 2028     | X          | Mark Jelinske, Member   | 2027     | V          |
| Ed Talbot, Member              | 2029     | X          | Michelle Martin, Member | 2027     | V          |
| Emma Boff, Member              | 2027     | X          | Marissa LaPorta, Member | 2028     | V          |
| Haley Hall, Member             | 2028     | V          | Riley Reid, Member      | 2029     | A          |
| Harriet Hall, Member           | 2027     | V          | Suzie Post, Member      | 2029     | X          |
| Kia Ruiz                       | 2027     | V          |                         |          |            |
|                                |          |            |                         |          |            |
| <b>Arvada Team:</b>            |          |            | <b>Guests:</b>          |          |            |
| Randy Moorman, Council Liaison |          | A          |                         |          |            |
| Steven Russell, Staff Liaison  |          | X          |                         |          |            |
| Eric Lewin, Staff Liaison      |          | X          |                         |          |            |

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

## Minutes

### 5:30 p.m. Convene

- Convened at 5:37
- Land Acknowledgement
- *Approval of May 2026 minutes*
  - Suzie motioned, Laurel seconded; passed unanimously by voice vote

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

- No members of the public

### 5:50 p.m. General Business

- Updates from Committee members
  - Emma: June 27 is Majestic View Nature Center Pollinator Garden Tour
    - <https://www.arvadaco.gov/1253/Pollinator-Garden-Tour>
    - Emma's house is a host site!
  - Mark: Attended Citizen's Fire Academy; very cool experience
    - <https://www.arvadafireco.gov/192/Citizens-Fire-Academy>
  - Dar-Lon: Volunteer appreciation event
    - Volunteer event was smaller, no recycle/compost, all landfilled; recommends adding diversion next time

- About 80 people present
- Live entertainment, food trucks, giveaways
- Recommends ASAC folks join next year
- Dar-Lon: Also attended Summerfest
  - <https://www.arvadaco.gov/1261/Arvada-Summerfest>
  - Waste Diversion present at event with station guides to help folks make diversion decisions
- Dar-Lon: attended Kiwanis breakfast
  - Councilmember Lovisone invited Dar-Lon to discuss how ASAC could have a role at the upcoming Toss'n 4 Tots Cornhole Fundraiser event
    - <https://k05804.site.kiwanis.org/tossn-4-tots/>
    - Event: Saturday, Aug 22, 11-3, Allen House Pavillion
  - Councilmember Lovisone's goals:
    - Hoping for a better waste diversion option than individuals taking waste home to personal bins
    - Wants to recommend to vendors what types of products to buy to increase diversion
    - Looking for assistance from ASAC to guide this, volunteer to help
  - Dar-Lon's observation: big events are well-covered, but small events aren't as well covered by waste diversion. Leading here can position Arvada as a model for other groups like JeffCo Schools.
  - Suzie: Suzie is a member of Kiwanis and volunteers to assist
  - Dar-Lon: This might also be a viable subcommittee concept
  - Alex: Arvada's events team has a model for this and may be able to support
    - Steven can help
  - Malea: regarding getting JeffCo Schools involved, Malea is interested in helping at her school
- Kia: Attended the Longer Table event. It went well - going to do 150 of these events leading up to birthday at Aug 1, when the org expects up to 5000 attendees
  - Can we get ASAC involved?
  - This one was organized by high school students
  - Event did not have waste diversion; Kia took diverted waste home herself
- Alex: Attended an Open House event at Arvada High School for Mountain Rail Expansion. This is the rail from Denver toward Winter Park, with hope to someday reach Steamboat & Craig
  - Met our Councilmembers there
  - RTD is looking at having a station in the NW metro area (likely Arvada)
  - The open house sought community input
  - Early feedback pointing to either Sheridan/Gold Strike OR Hwy 93 & 72nd
    - This decision comes down to whether it will be a hub/real rail stop (at Sheridan) vs more of a commuter opportunity (at Hwy 93 & 72nd)
  - CO Department of Transportation has secured some funding to move this forward in an incremental fashion
  - Laurel: Nothing about an I70 option?
    - Alex's understanding is that this is about working with existing right of ways heading toward Winterpark
  - Emma: there was a vote a while ago about this (date not known)

- Emma: would the City have to contribute to the development? Land could be hard to acquire for parking, etc..
  - Alex: This meeting did a good job of framing the discussion as “here are 2 options, what are your thoughts?” vs “where do you want a train station?” Used color coded maps that made limitations and tradeoffs clear.
- Alex: Consider joining the Utility Stewardship Committee - it’s an interesting opp to get involved in a shorter-term committee with the City. Staff are taking applications thru July; Alex sent info via email. Encouraged members to get involved if interested
- Alex: Got a copy of Arvada’s community report from Xcel. Some takeaways:
  - Decrease in Home Energy Audits (they are no longer free, so this dip is to be expected)
  - Increased participation in EV chargers, home battery program, etc.
  - Emma noted that her household is getting letters about how the home uses more electricity than others; does Xcel take electrification into account on this?
    - Alex: You can go online and change the profile of your home (i.e. I now have a heat pump) which changes the scoring
- Kristi: Met someone at a Majestic View Nature Center booth a while ago, where they talked about collaborating on communications and possibly having a booth at events
- Kristi asked if any members were interested in joining a newsletter subcommittee.
  - ASAC will take more ownership of the newsletter in the future because it has been too much for staff to keep up with among other competing priorities.
  - In the past, ASAC role has been limited to ASAC tip of the month, but ASAC will take an expanded role moving forward.
  - Time commitment is around 1 meeting/month and 1-2 hours/month writing/editing
  - Malea, Suzie, Kia, and Emma are interested
- Kia: Got an award to build out a neighborhood agriculture concept. Kia’s plan is to position this as educational piece on on how energy and food move through neighborhoods
  - Located at Hummingbird Farm
  - JeffCo climate team interested in joining
  - Alex: How can ASAC support?
    - Members can contact Kia if they want to get involved.
  - Kia: program design is 6 popups and workshops
- Updates from Council Liaison
  - Randy is out sick. No updates
- Updates from Staff Liaison
  - Compost program
    - Connected with Lakewood and Wheat Ridge staff for program design info. Basing Arvada model largely off of Lakewood model.
    - Pilot design is currently under review.
    - Next steps:

- Scheduling tour for leadership to see a dropoff site, chat with program leads, and ask questions
  - 3-quote protocol with purchasing, then staff will roll out a program with the selected vendor.
  - Arvada will purchase incentives for signups and subsidize participation for a limited number of residents.
- EPR update
  - We got redlines back (contract markup). Legal, sustainability, and waste teams are reviewing
  - Looks like we're not getting monthly reimbursement
  - BUT initial response indicates they approved the full cost of our proposal
  - Laurel: is the sustainability team getting new staff through funding?
    - Steven: New staff are going to waste team
  - Laurel: Can we keep asking for more funds?
    - Steven: It's an open door and we can make contract amendments when needed, but all expenses have to be justifiable
  - Alex: Do other haulers get to apply to EPR (i.e. private industry)?
    - Steven: Yes. There's a strong incentive for other haulers to pursue, so we anticipate most private haulers will join the program as well. They just opened up the application for private haulers.
  - Laurel: Are we going to use funds for composting?
    - Steven: Can't use funds for compost, funds must be reimbursed to residents. But we're planning on launching that dropoff program for compost for the remainder of our current Republic contract, and then will include composting in the next RFP cycle.
  - Next steps:
    - Negotiation and contract finalization
    - Then program launch and education/outreach rollout
- Funding
  - Susty team is working with limited capacity right now and had to pass on Charge Ahead Grant and may pass on BPC round 2 (we don't have great ideas for this grant and are limited on time)
- EV Infrastructure - Facilities/Fleet
  - Good news: we still have some funds from Xcel and Xcel is a flexible funding source we can apply to again in the future.
  - Kudos Alex for sharing data. That kick-started an internal conversation on addressing gaps in the public EV charging network.
  - Parks priority
  - Next steps:
    - ID a list of candidates
    - Scheduling visit for discussion on sites with Mike & Ike
- Our Facilities Manager, Kim V, is leaving the City (sad). This will delay hiring for the BPC Building Electrification Specialist. The conversation around EV infrastructure may be delayed as well. Steven will work with the interim manager and new hire to keep this work moving during transition.
  - Alex: Is the position posted?
  - Eric: It was posted last week and closes Friday, Jun 19.
    - One of the applicants quoted the CASAP!

- Member survey
  - Reminder to complete
    - <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfQkkxPEskDAncKn-QPGrJSeZjZ5SSTFUsgtPRFKV7s672nbQ/viewform?usp=dialog>
  - TY: Alex, Haley, Ed, Malea, Dar-Lon
    - The original survey forgot to ask about food allergies. Steven updated for remaining respondents and will reach out to collect food allergy info from those who already completed it.
- Communications
  - Steven will schedule a time to discuss handoff
  - Staff will send out a bulletin about CASAP and some info on water conservation
  - Next Arvada Report will feature waste diversion
- Boards, Committees, and Commissions (BCC) Working Group (aka the committee to fix committees) update
  - The process to publish new bylaws got tied up in the Council bylaws update process.
    - Staff intended to mirror BCC bylaws on a simplified version of Council's bylaws. But, since Council bylaws process is stalled, staff are going to advance a version just for BCCs
  - Annual report to CC - we're bringing this back. How does Jan/Feb sound?
    - The committee agreed, this is good timing.
  - Staff wanted to let ASAC know they can also schedule a "presentation" any time
    - This is a 15 min max presentation at the start of any CC meeting whenever something update-worthy happens.
  - In the new bylaws, protocols for public comment are going to change.
    - A new submit written comment feature online. ASAC Chair will read comments aloud into record.
    - Comment time will decrease
    - Clearer instruction that ASAC Members do not respond (like in full Council meetings)
- Trying out new spaces; will start moving the meeting around next month.
  - Laurel: Does this have to do with bylaws?
    - Steven: No, this was planned but didn't want to confuse new members by changing location before they started.
    - We have issues with access to the current room. It's hard for staff to let folks in and be present for the meeting.
  - Emma: Does it have to be at a government building?
    - Steven: Yes. Meeting needs to be open to the public. Looking mostly at Arvada PD substations, also Community Table.
    - Suzie: Standley Lake Library is a good option
- CASAP:
  - Final vote will be at the July 7 Council meeting
  - Had to move the vote ONE last time, due to agenda lead times and design process.
  - There will be a role for ASAC. Staff are strategizing on what that will be.
    - Dar-Lon: When would public comment be? 2am?

- Steven: Public Comment at start of meeting, not for individual agenda item
- Staff presentation (< 5 min) will cover:
  - Brief intro
  - What we did (and why it took so long)
  - Address the science of climate change, economics, weighting, etc.
- Top ten Key Priorities identified. Kudos folks who pitched in on scoring: Kia, Dar-Lon, Alex
  - Top ten key priorities:
    - BE03 Encourage compact, connected, and accessible development.
    - ES01 Caretake and protect sensitive habitat, wildlife, and waterways.
    - SE03 Empower community members to engage in small-scale and community agriculture as both growers and consumers.
    - TR06 Reduce emissions from vehicle miles traveled by enhancing Arvada's network of multimodal transportation options.
    - ES02 Make nature and sustainability more accessible and educational for Arvada residents and visitors.
    - UT04 Support and incentivize indoor and outdoor water conservation.
    - BE02 Encourage energy efficiency, green infrastructure, and low-impact design in private developments.
    - TR05 Reduce emissions from vehicle miles traveled by working with partners to provide reliable and accessible public transit options.
    - ES03 Sustain a healthy urban forest through strategic and effective maintenance
    - MP02 Develop additional funding and resources for Arvada's sustainability initiatives.
  - Mark: It would be nice if priorities were right up front in the CASAP.
- New legal contact; renew req for legal review
- Design has some typos, so Steven is giving it a fine-tooth review and multiple design reviews

## **6:45 p.m. New Business**

- Planning for 7/7 Meeting
  - Mark: For CASAP, should we be going to meetings and providing public comment?
    - Alex: Next week (6/16) is the only remaining business meeting prior to the 7th.
  - Alex won't be at the 7/7 meeting, because he will be celebrating his marriage (!!)
  - Alex: Not sure ASAC public comment necessary at this meeting, but thinks it's valuable to have physical attendance & public support
  - Alex asked Steven if ASAC should plan for a coordinated comment or speaking at the start of staff presentation

- Steven: I need to do more internal planning before getting you an answer. The role for ASAC will either be an intro at the top, or a statement during public comment period. We are very tight on time for the presentation portion (less than 5 min) so it will be tough to coordinate a meaningful comment there. Public comment is probably better, but staff will discuss and get back to ASAC.
- Eric: We're strategizing to make sure everyone has a role
- Alex: Any mobilization of other community groups is a plus, whether on July 7th or June 16th. We don't want to be the cause of a meeting running til 2 am, but good to give support.
  - Call to members: email folks you've coordinated with about the date change and get the word out asap about 7/7
- Alex: We're fortunate there hasn't been much negative to be on the defensive; We've only had one "climate change isn't real" public comment, so Alex advises keeping any comments brief and positive, to build on momentum
  - Alex also recommends emails to Council for the public record
- Dar-Lon: Thinking of meetings that go super late, it's often folks bringing up technicalities/ arguments
  - If there's a surprise argument about a vulnerability we can still plan for a quick rebuttal
  - Alex: Agrees about having someone ready/prepared to respond will be a good defense strategy
- Mark: Is there a role here for ASAC? Is Council calling on us for comment/response?
  - Dar-Lon: at the end of the public comment period, the Mayor will call for any final comments, this is when we can rebut any potentially negative public comments
- Alex: Remember: when they go low, we go high.
  - Just keep it positive; one person not believing in climate change doesn't necessarily call for rebuttal, but if there's organization it would be good to prepare for rebuttal
  - Mark: The argument he's prepping is: CASAP is a set of guardrails, not regulation. This is an opportunity for Council to set guidance without requiring hard/fast rules like "electrify all buildings." It's a roadmap, not regulation.
    - Alex: Right--nobody's getting rid of your gas stove here
- Dar-Lon: willing to take the role of coordinating rebuttals; will organize input and keep email open, folks send thoughts over email and Dar-Lon will organize the comments into one last minute rebuttal
  - Alex & Mark: support this idea
- Alex will send a calendar invite to all ASAC members
- Alex: if providing public comment on behalf of ASAC, that's a nametag moment

## **7:30 p.m. Adjourn**

- Adjourned at 6:53