**Land Use Action Team Convening  
Tuesday, June 8, 2021 – 5:00 to 6:30 pm**

**RESPONSES**

Opening question: **What is your prior connection to the Land Use Action Team?** For example, are you a new member or have you been on the team for years? What is one project, if any, that you’ve worked on as a member of the team? (up to 30 secs. to respond)

Annette Mills: Member of LUAT for 4½ years. Most recently, working on issues related to parking, helping educate our elected officials about how using land for parking impacts a lot of other issues.

Court Smith: Joined LUAT in 2017 when I was working on creating a clustered walkable village.

Dennis Stillwaggon: Joined at same meeting as Court, helped when needed. Is also on Transportation Action Team (TAT), looking at how to deal with circular carbon economy (agriculture, parking, etc.)

Daniel McKenna-Foster: I’ve been more of a mosquito, buzzing around LUAT.

Marge Stevens: Joined LUAT when there was an appeal at TAT to have some cross-discussion; has been a sporadic attendee; made presentation to City Council about the connection between parking and climate change.

Laurie Becker: Has been on the team since the early days, when LUAT was trying to go through the whole Land Development Code to see how it fit with the Land Use Action Plan.

Shelly Murphy: Stepped in when the team was going through the City’s Comprehensive Plan, to see what could be most sustainable.

Dave Rabinowitz: Joined LUAT when TAT wanted to collaborate; wanted to go through minimum policy requirements, made presentations to City Council as an individual.

Alexis Biddle: Land use issues are part of my work with 1000 Friends of Oregon; joined LUAT about 2 years ago. With LUAT, worked on development of a digital middle housing tour.

Court Smith: Thanks to Daniel for useful information that links land use and transportation issues. I was also a member of the TAT/LUAT group.

Question 1: The *Community Sustainability Action Framework* that guides our work has the following vision for Land Use: “Corvallis is a compact, resilient city with walkable neighborhoods, a vibrant downtown, and diverse natural areas interwoven in urban landscapes, whose community members actively participate in land use planning decisions.”  **What aspect of that vision interests you most?** (up to 2 mins. to respond)

Annette Mills: Most interested in the phrase “walkable neighborhoods” because of what it implies. A walkable neighborhood:

* Has plenty of trees to keep the neighborhood cool and shaded and the air cleaner, sequestering carbon and making the area more livable
* Has vehicular traffic moving at a relatively slow speed, implying that there are traffic calming features, such as curb extensions and narrowing traffic lanes (Noted that there are a lot of traffic calming features on the internet.)
* Encourages more people to get out of their cars and walk where they need/want to go.

Dave Rabinowitz: Walkable neighborhoods also need to give people a reason to walk. This means a mix of zoning, spreading jobs and retail around the neighborhood.

Alexis Biddle: Interested in the concept of a compact, walkable, equitable community. We need destinations and allow people to live in places they can walk in.

Shelly Murphy: Interested most in assuring that development doesn’t encroach on wetlands, all the trees aren’t cut down, and there’s green space and solar access.

Court Smith: Interested in walkability from a safety perspective, since there’s an inverse relationship between cars and walkability. Also interested in participation in land use and open space decisions.

Marge Stevens: Interested in “active participation” – watchdogging, paying attention to City Council packets, noticing trends and responding to my own city councilor or through other channels. Also interested in “diverse natural areas”; I appreciate wild spaces and creeks. Compactness is possible because of Oregon’s land use laws. I’ve been following Sightline Institute’s work on affordable housing. Sprawl is terrible; achieving equity may require us to change land use laws.

Daniel McKenna-Foster: Most interested in “compact, resilient city”. An ecosystem that’s resilient is diverse, can absorb more adaptations, grow and shrink as needed.

Laurie Becker: Interested in resilience, coming from a biological perspective - human, biological, ecological systems, food systems, and social structures. Also interested in community participation, especially underrepresented groups, actively engaged at City Council meetings and providing potential solutions.

Dennis Stillwaggon: Equity has two definitions – social and economic. There’s extreme pollution in homeless camps (water, waste, etc.). How do we reconcile the issues related to land use and homeless camps?

Court Smith: Highlight watchdogging – How to do it? Equity – How do we build equity? Focus on where people live – resilience; put pathways in longer blocks.

Shelly Murphy: Keeping an eye on what’s happening on City Council is important to me.

Marge Stevens: What underpins my values are ties with climate change and greenhouse gas emissions. Whatever I’m going to spend my time on relates to that.

Dennis Stillwaggon: It originally took 5 farmers to support each family, now it’s reverse (i.e., each farmer supports 5 families). How do we reach out to farmers to address transportation?

Question 2: During the past year, we have discussed several topics in our meetings. **What topic or topics are you willing to work on as a member of a Land Use Action Team work group? Or if you have an additional topic in mind, what is it?** (up to 2 mins. to respond)

Annette Mills: Continue working on issues related to parking, going back to City Council to reinforce the connection between parking and affordable housing, parking and climate change, and so on. Also, continue working with the Transportation Action Team on safer streets, which is definitely a land use issue. Take some of the concepts from the “Rethinking Streets” lecture that the Coalition sponsored last month, and create a strategy for moving those concepts forward. Finally, help plan the event about mixed use that the Land Use Action Team is co-sponsoring with the League of Women Voters in September.

Laurie Becker: Continue work on parking, completing the Arc GIS Hub for outreach to the community, and use it as a template for use on other issues; will be working with students this summer. Also, finish the sidewalk database and get Arc GIS Hub up and running, to begin a community dialogue and build awareness.

Daniel McKenna-Foster: Work on parking and transportation infrastructure; looking at parking and transportation in terms of allocation of space and how it reflects our priorities. Also, help others research their topics; could use Arc GIS Hub.

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Shelly Murphy: I come at everything as an educator. I want to work on mixed use, asking speakers not to give a presentation, but to respond to questions. Our panel will include a lender, a builder, a planner, and a citizen – and the audience can ask questions. I also like watchdogging; several developments are coming online.

Alexis: Working on House Bill 2001 implementation; parking could be a good leverage point to insert into that conversation. I’m interested in the Parking Reform Network (eliminating parking minimums); several cities are doing this.

Marge Stevens: Liaison with TAT on the Safer Streets Roundtable (follow up from the Marc Schlossberg talk). Also, watchdogging re. South Corvallis Redevelopment (Urban Renewal District). I’m willing to present testimony to City Council, especially if someone else writes it, like Annette did for the Parking & Climate Change testimony I presented.

Dennis Stillwaggon: Listening to webinars that I’m interested in.

Court Smith: Everything! I’ve worked on all of them. I’d like to see fixed-route autonomous transit in Corvallis, but CAMPO and ODOT aren’t including anything about fixed-route autonomous transit in their plans. I most enjoy researching, like I did for the solar report. I liked attending the TAT/LUAT group, but there needs to be a resuscitation of that group. I’d like to see more interaction between teams; what we’re working on relates to the focus of so many other teams (energy, housing, transportation, community inclusion, etc.), and it would be nice to have liaisons to these teams from LUAT.

General discussion: **How can we get more done on the LUAT?** We’re only meeting two hours a month, and that’s not enough to get much accomplished.

Annette: The Energy Action Team had some sessions like the one we’re having now, and out of those sessions, we identified what people were interested in working on and formed work groups. Three of the work groups have been very active. For example, Marge and I and other Energy Action Team volunteers have been doing foundational work on the Home Energy Score that would normally would have been done by City staff – attending webinars, having meetings with city councilors and realtors, and developing relationships with representatives from various agencies. Now that the foundational work has been done, we’re able to hand it off to City staff. The point is, we’ve been putting in a lot more than two hours a month between our quarterly team meetings and getting a lot done.

Laurie Becker: I would like to increase our team membership so we could form work groups and get more accomplished. We need to pull more people in – builders, realtors, and representatives from government agencies – to increase the diversity of viewpoints.

Marge Stevens: The City provides a lot of good information if you’re willing to take the time to read it – especially the City Council packet and 3-month calendar. It’s valuable to have different agencies represented on TAT; those meetings are at 3:30, so it’s part of their work day. Maybe LUAT should meet earlier.

Shelly Murphy: But that might disenfranchise others; some people need to work until 5:00 pm

Annette Mills: I’ve seen three different ways to increase team membership –

1) asking people personally, rather than putting out a general call for volunteers; deciding who you want on the team, and inviting them to join us;   
2) having an event and following up with people to invite them to a meeting to further explore the topic (example – Housing Action Team); and

3) creating a project that people are excited about, and inviting people to participate.

People representing various agencies and workplaces use the TAT as a good networking opportunity, but they generally don’t get involved with team projects.

Laurie Becker: It was great when we had the joint meeting with the League of Women Voters, and we generated some interest. But the work that LUAT does is long-term; it’s not like a work party. Educational events are ways for us to find out who’s interested in various topics.

Court Smith: Where is our leader – the person who’s going to energize us? I’ve said I’m not taking any more notes for LUAT. I’m happy to keep doing reports, but I’m not interested in setting up meetings or doing notes.

Shelly Murphy: It’s hard for us to get people to focus on land use.

Laurie Becker: Finding other organizations that might have a common interest would be a way to move forward.

Marge Stevens: My neighborhood association meeting, which Tracy Oulman (City staff) organized, put me in touch with the neighbors that will be impacted by the Marys Annexation. They should be interested in working with us to help create sustainable development of that property.

Laurie: There are some individuals, such as architects, who may have an interest in larger land use issues. I’ve been talking with Barbara Bull, but she’s not ready to commit.

Court Smith: I think it’s a good idea to invite realtors to our meetings.

Marge Stevens: Equity is about people’s voices being heard. NAACP has a new environmental issues group, and that group might be a good one to connect with land use.

Laurie Becker: Good idea. The Kellogg Foundation has developed Truth,**Racial Healing** & Transformation, which is a process to bring about transformational and sustainable change, and to address the effects of**racism.**

Annette Mills: Thank you all for attending. I’ll follow up with notes from this meeting, and, hopefully, we’ll be able to create some work groups based on what we discussed tonight. I’d like to connect with you individually to learn more about your interests and your capacity.

Court: Getting together to talk is important; it helps to create relationships.