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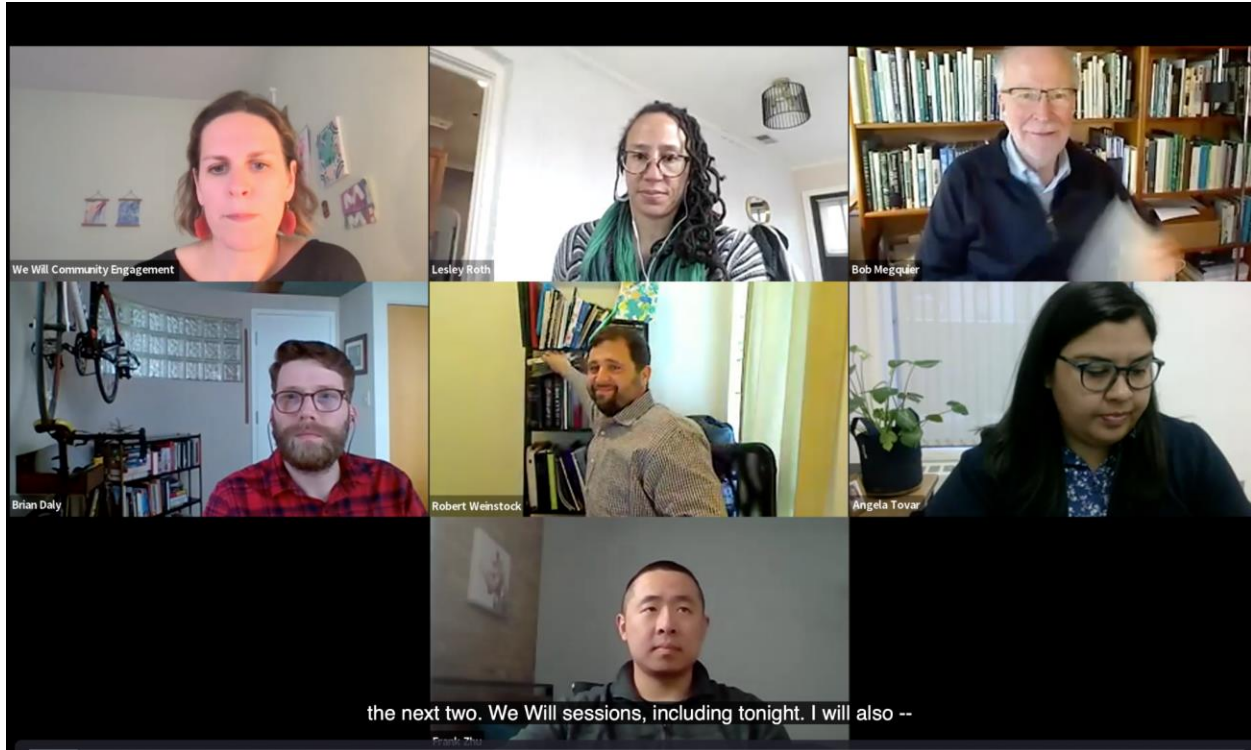
Environment, Climate + Energy Meeting #12

April 26, 2022, 06:00PM | 2 hours

Documented by: Sonal Soni

ATTENDEES

- Tomás de'Medici
- Bob Megquier
- Lesley Roth
- Marissa Strassel
- Angela Tovar
- Kyra Woods
- Brian Daly
- Rob Weinstock
- Shannon Madden
- Michele Davies
- Mike Tomas
- Iyana Simba
- Frank Zhu
- Bradley Roback
- Tomi Moore
- Kuldip Kumar
- David Yocca
- Naomi Davis
- Anne Nicklin



A Zoom meeting grid with seven participants. The participants are arranged in three rows: the top row has three participants, the middle row has three, and the bottom row has one centered participant. The participants are: We Will Community Engagement, Lesley Roth, Bob Megquier, Brian Daly, Robert Weinstock, Angela Tovar, and Frank Zhu. A subtitle at the bottom of the grid reads: "the next two. We Will sessions, including tonight. I will also --".

MEETING GOAL

Today's meeting includes revisiting goals 3, 4, and 5 to further refine their respective policies in clear, concise language for the upcoming pillar report.

WHERE WE ARE

Step 1

We Are*Setting the Stage*

Step 2

We Have and Need*Develop A Policy Toolkit*

Step 3

We Will*Set Policy Framework***KEY TAKEAWAYS**

- 1** | Refining and clarifying key goals, objects and policies helps make information more accessible to the public.
- 2** | Language should be intentional, especially those regarding climate change. Using terms like "adapt," "encourage," etc. may downplay the current environmental realities.
- 3** | According to pillar members, holding institutions accountable for breaking environmental regulations is a tangible action in combating climate change.

CONVERSATION HIGHLIGHTS

“There wasn’t too much to report back [from the Advisory Committee]. I think people were pleased to see our progress and to see how our goals have evolved over the course of these meetings.”

Angela Tovar | City of Chicago, Chief Sustainability Officer

“Over the next few months...cross collaboration [across pillars] is probably something that is going to be big.”

Iyana Simba | Illinois Environmental Council, City Programs Director

“(Goal 2, Objective 2.2, Policy A) states ‘Strengthen resilience by funding...insurance.’ My concern is that this means that insurance will be subsidized, which dampens the signal of what is risky, which is the opposite of building resilience. Instead it encourages risky behavior.”

Michele Davies | We Will Chicago, Environment, Climate and Energy Subject Matter Expert

“We won’t see a huge difference from what we created together and the revisions that [were made]... It’s a natural part of refining and it really is word choice – not so much content revision.”

Lesley Roth | Lamar Johnson Collaborative, Principal

“The City has already divested from fossil fuels. It was an ordinance that was passed last month in the City Council. The ordinance sought to restrict future City Treasurers from investing over the top 200+ fossil fuel companies. The current CTO Conyears-Ervin divested our operating budget this or last year.”

Frank Zhu | Guidehouse, State and Local Government Senior Consultant

NOTES

Advisory Committee Updates

- Angela Tovar presents the advisory committee updates. She notes that there aren't many new updates to share with the team. The questions the Advisory Committee posed to the pillar regarded the interconnected nature of the pillar's goals along with some questions about transportation. This is a good sign, Tovar says, because this means the advisory committee approves of the pillar's progress thus far.

We Will Chicago Plan Outline

- Lesley Roth starts the presentation on the We Will Chicago Plan Outline by updating pillar members with the progress of the We Will Framework Plan, and how all eight pillars' work over the past year will be incorporated, presented and used throughout the summer and beyond as the City collects feedback and prepares for the plan's implementation.
- Currently, the drafting of this plan document is underway, and pillar members will be able to review a draft in meeting #13 and will have the opportunity to provide feedback. The framework plan is meant to be an overview of the process, its grounding themes, and key the intent and goals of each pillar. The document will contain a "making the plan" introductory section, which introduces the pre-planning process and the work that was done to assemble each pillar team.
- It will also include a history of Chicago planning context and historical reckoning section to acknowledge the historical inequities the plan is aiming to overcome and address.
- This framework plan will introduce the We Will plan's two principles and five themes that have rounded pillar discussions and created the foundation for all of the policy, objective, and goal setting. From there, the document will introduce each of the pillars.
- Each pillar will be introduced with context and their driving issues, including some of the key themes across meetings. Roth says the report will also include relevant data and metrics. Then the plan will present each pillar's goals and objectives.
- Lastly, there will be a resources and reference section that will include a glossary, a list of collaborations, and how to access past plans that were referenced.
- The foundation of this plan rests on the guiding questions that were asked and agreed upon in earlier meetings. Those questions were made into declarative statements which are now the pillar's current goals. Those goals are further described in the objectives that pillar members assisted in developing. The goals and objectives have been edited for clarity while retaining the intent because these are what the vast majority of Chicagoans will read and comment on starting in June 2022.
- Using the results of public input in June, the framework plan will be amended along with the goals and objectives. The actionable part of the Framework Plan will be presented to the Chicago Planning Commission for adoption with an estimated date of January 2023.
- In addition to the framework plan, there will be a separate document that specifically focuses on the policies that have been developed by the pillar team, which team members will revisit today.

- There will be a web version that will be fully accessible and mobile responsive to the public, presenting the policies ideas in the context of the individual pillars. It will provide opportunities for engagement and feedback which will inform future implementation.
- All of the in depth notes on implementation, strategy, program ideas, themes from previous conversations, and the pillar google documents will be incorporated into a single document and posted on the We Will Chicago website as a PDF. Throughout the summer of 2022, the City is going to kick off a full scale multimedia engagement effort to gather feedback on the goals, objectives, and the policy ideas.

Full Group Policy Refinement

- Roth describes the process for reviewing goals he pillar has drafted: 1-2 goals and their corresponding objectives are refined by the research team. A survey is created by the city and sent to all departments within the city to review these goals and surface phrasing, gaps in information, and redundancy with existing policies. For this meeting, over 100 comments were left by city departments on goals 3, 4 and 5.. Most of the comments were related to word choice or recommended specifying the subject of the policy.
 - Roth states that the comments and revisions retain the intent and spirit of the goals and objectives.
- The Advisory Committee and the city recommended that two goals and their associated objectives from the Health and Safety pillar were better suited for the Environment, Climate and Energy pillar. These goals were incorporated into existing goals and objectives.
- Goal 3: “Foster public and private partnerships to reduce waste and encourage the reuse of materials, locally produced goods, services, and energy.”
 - Pillar members voted to further define objective 3.3 A – “Support and encourage innovations in the private sector to promote waste reduction by reducing financial burdens for all scales of business.”
 - Pillar members agreed to clarify the language for this objective. They propose to refine the objective to “Support and encourage innovations to promote waste reduction, reclamation and reuse at all scales of business.”
- Pillar members also voted to further refine policy B under objective 3.2. Objective 3.2 reads, “Establish contract requirements for the removal of materials from supply and waste chains. Policy B reads, “Remove barriers to use of greywater and address regulatory issues including raising awareness of its benefits.”
 - Some pillar members questioned how greywater (wastewater) relates to establishing contract requirements.
- Tomás de'Medici elaborates, “When I worked in greywater hauling there were two major things that I saw. One: the dumping was vastly unregulated and you can just assume... If it’s a Black, Brown, or Asian – [any] under-resourced, undercapitalised environment in the city – that water is not being properly pulled out and it is not being properly dumped... [Whereas, in places like] Lincoln park, it’s done correctly.”

- Participants then discuss Objective 3.5 E: “Incentivize residents, organizations and businesses to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions to adapt to climate change.”
 - Team members discuss the meaning of “adapt” and question whether that term should be changed in this policy.
- Team members discuss goal 4: “Maintain and expand green space, natural resources, and conservation efforts for the benefit of all Chicagoans.”
- Participants voted to refine objective 4.1 A: “Expand sustainable education by Conservation Corps with increasing funding to ensure citywide environmental projects that protect water, air, land and save energy.”
 - Some team members say it’s over-specific to call out the Conservation Corps.
- Members discuss objective 4.2 F: “Create assessments for enhancement of value on developments to offset the negative effects of removing the market value of open space.”
 - Participants clarified that open spaces are profitable because they increase property value. There’s a negative impact when public open spaces are removed. The intention behind this policy is to implement more open spaces in communities that need it.
- Participants also discuss objective 4.5 A: “Require creation of conservation easements around existing/new industrial zones, utility, transportation corridors to preserve and protect adjacent land uses.”
 - Members discuss further defining industrial zones. One team member suggests specifying industrial zones as “anything hazardous to human health.” Members also discussed omitting “conservation easements.” Conservation easements are specific legal tools often used by private land-owners, so it may not be fitting for a city context.
- Lastly, pillar members discuss goal 5: “Mitigate, then eliminate, sources of carbon emissions in alignment with national and global climate goals.”
 - Members discuss objective 5.1: “Address the ongoing impact of climate change in our neighborhoods.” One team member suggests the City invest in converting all existing buildings to all electric appliances, with a focus on historically underrepresented neighborhoods.
- **Pillar members review upcoming steps during the Q+A/Closeout**

RESOURCES

FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY

[The Conservation Corps program offers a hands-on experience to residents across Cook County's different communities – including those with barriers to employment.](#)

NEXT STEPS

- The next pillar Meeting (#13) will take place on June 7th. Meeting #14 is more of a celebration to acknowledge the work that's been accomplished thus far. This meeting will take place at the end of June and may be held in person.
- In Meeting #13, pillar members will get a better idea of the progress the other pillars have made.
- Through the next week from this meeting into the beginning of May, team members will work to further refine today's objectives.