

This meeting summary was produced by City Bureau Documenters, in accordance with our editorial independence policy, with financial support from the city of Chicago. If you believe anything in these notes is inaccurate, please email City Bureau at documenters@citybureau.org with "Correction Request" in the subject line.

Environment, Climate + Energy Meeting #13

June 7, 2022, 06:00PM | 2 hours

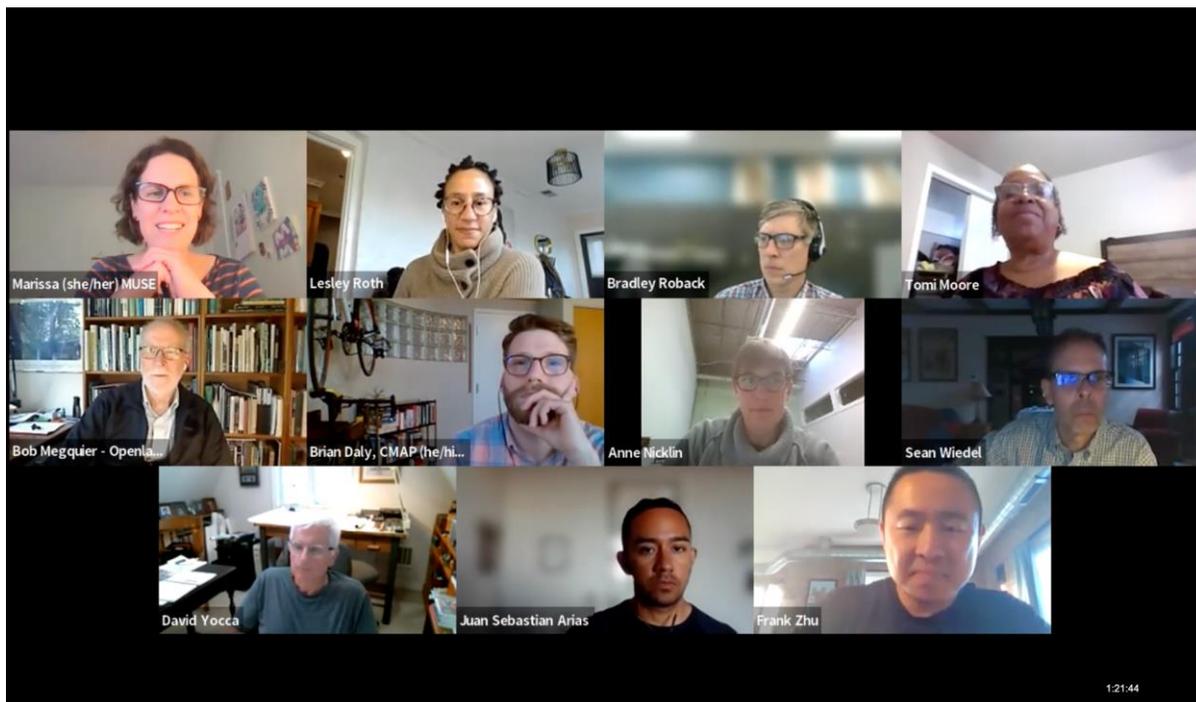
Documented by: Susan Carlotta Ellis

ATTENDEES

Marissa Strassel
Tomás de'Medici
Lesley Roth
Bradley Roback
Tomi Moore
Matt Freer

Bob Megquier
Brian Daly
Anne Nicklin
Grant Ullrich
Arlinda Bajrami
Naomi Davis

Sean Wiedel
David Yocca
Juan Sebastian Arias
Frank Zhu
Kyra Woods



MEETING GOAL

To recap this pillar's work, highlight public engagement efforts, provide an overview of how the group's vision may be implemented, and share how participants can stay involved

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

Pillar facilitators presented an overview of the drafting process and next steps for implementation. The implementation draft plan includes over 600 policies or goals, and over 100 of these were generated by the Environment, Climate + Energy Pillar. Many definitions stood out to be refined, notably, "equity."

2

Over the summer, the We Will Chicago engagement team will interact with Chicagoans across the city to reflect on these goals and data. WWC will collect and interpolate these ideas into the Chicago Framework Plan policies. WWC wants all Chicagoans to understand why the policies were created.

3

The final plan will be submitted to the Chicago Plan Commission in January 2023 for a vote on adoption. Members of City Council are receiving updates on WWC but no City Council vote is needed to approve or amend these policies.

CONVERSATION HIGHLIGHTS

"I cannot imagine that the mega developments which use billions [of] TIF funds ported from working class neighborhoods is ever matched by that level of investment in Black/Brown neighborhoods [posted in the Zoom chat]"

Naomi Davis | Blacks In Green, Founder & CEO

"The guiding principles that were established at the beginning of this process of equity and resiliency actually weave their way through all of the pillars and policies."

Lesley Roth | Lamar Johnson Collective, Principal

"I think it would be great to get some folks who might be actual practitioners, with dirt under their fingernails, if you will. So for example if we can maybe find some union leaders who are doing environmental work or electricians, et cetera, et cetera."

Matt Freer | Chicago Park District, Assistant Director of Landscape

NOTES

- Marissa Strassel reported that the pillar spent over 24 hours on Zoom and crafted 5 overarching goals, defined 25 objectives and refined 108 policies.
- In response to a question from Naomi Davis, Strassel said that the plan is still a draft and they will be accepting additional input over the summer.
- Next, Lesley Roth presented on the draft framework plan, which includes hundreds of policies developed for the eight pillars. Each pillar will have its own section, including goals, objectives and data/metrics.

Policy Overview

- In the middle of the process, an eighth pillar, civic and community engagement, was created and relevant policies generated by other pillars were moved to that one.
- Lesley Roth presented on policies the pillar came up with and how they overlap with other pillars' policies.
- Policy topic area: Community engagement
 - Environment, Climate + Energy policies:
 - 1.1.C: Increase community engagement and trust building efforts
 - 2.1.A: Require ward level leadership to be accountable for incorporating equitable environmental and sustainable decision-making
 - Civic & Community Engagement:
 - Objective 5.3: Integrate health, racial equity, and climate impact tools and analysis into policymaking and planning
 - Policy 5.3.A: Apply health, racial equity, and climate impact tools, when appropriate, in the development and introduction of ordinances and/or as a means of ongoing reform to existing programs and policies
 - Public Health + Safety
 - Objective 3.3: Partner City agencies with community organizations to better meet people's unmet health needs.
 - Policy 3.3.B: Develop partnership to host a virtual city-wide communication and collaboration platform for community-based organizations to collaborate on social service provision, exchange knowledge and resources, identify gaps, problem-solve, and coordinate client services
- Policy topic area: Urban agriculture
 - Environment, Climate + Energy policies:
 - 4.5: Encourage zoning ordinance changes to accommodate additional urban agriculture opportunities

- Housing + Neighborhoods:
 - Objective 4.1: Increase access to healthy food and health care in Black, Latino, Native American, Asian and immigrant community areas.
 - Policy 4.1.A: Support community gardens and the urban agriculture system by identifying City- and Cook County-owned sites and providing resources to establish and maintain gardens over the long term.
- Public Health + Safety:
 - Objective 3.4: Ensure access to sufficient healthy, nutritious, and affordable foods.
 - Policy 3.4.C: Support entrepreneurship in the food system, including urban agriculture, getting food to groceries and farmers markets, starting restaurants, and packaged food production, with a focus on Black, Latino, and working-class areas with high rates of poverty
- Policy topic area: Transportation
 - Environment, Climate + Energy policies:
 - 4.5.A: Require the creation of conservation easements or green buffers around existing and new industrial zoned areas, utility infrastructure, and transportation corridors to preserve and protect the economic integrity of adjacent neighborhoods and residential land uses.
 - 4.7.D: Improve waterway infrastructure including connections to the city's transportation system.
 - Transportation + Infrastructure:
 - Objective 1.1: Ensure transportation and infrastructure systems are equitably distributed, universally accessible, and affordable.
 - Policy 1.1.A: Reduce household transportation costs through infrastructure investments and land use decisions that reduce the need for auto ownership.
 - Public Health + Safety:
 - Objective 5.4: Make physical activity opportunities accessible, easy, and equitable
 - Policy 5.4.C: Support active transportation options and implementation of complete streets by developing active collaboration among the Chicago Department of Public Health, Chicago Department of Transportation, communities most in-need of active transportation opportunities, and public health and transportation advocates.

Equity Analysis Update

- Juan Sebastian Arias presented. In refining the policies, the WWC team considered:
 - Desired outcome

- Whether community has been engaged in the conversation
- Data
- Who will benefit from the policy? Who will it burden?
- How will the policy be implemented?
- What does accountability and ongoing engagement look like?
- Are there any environmental or health implications? How will these be addressed?
- Pillar members are invited to reach out if they are interested in being involved in the deep dive equity analysis of the WWC plan.

What's Next for We Will Chicago?

- Framework plan will be released in late June
- Broad public engagement will occur from July through November
 - We Will Chicago ambassadors will pop up at cultural events around the city, conduct surveys and conversations, and give out swag
 - Focus groups and Meeting-in-a-Box gatherings will also provide input
 - The city, in partnership with the Metropolitan Planning Council and Chicago Council on Global Affairs, will host panel discussions with local and global experts
- Input will be incorporated from November to December
- The plan will be presented to the Chicago Plan Commission for adoption in January 2023
- Depending on the policy, different forms of resolutions, ordinances, partnerships and sub-plans may be utilized.

Discussion: Who would you like to see more deeply engaged for the next phase?

- Youth: "They are becoming more active to their surroundings." – Tomás de'Medici
- Union leaders, organized labor, electricians
- "The overworked and under-connected." – Anne Nicklin
- Local environmental and wilderness groups like Greencorps Chicago – Matt Freer

Discussion: What does accountability and transparency look like as we move into next phases of public engagement and implementation?

- "A racial analysis of where public resources go. Who benefits?" – Naomi Davis
- "How does the money get spent?" – Tomás de'Medici
- Transcription and multilingual formats – Anne Nicklin

- “Materials have not yet been translated into other languages but can be requested.” Lesley Roth
- Measurements/rubrics used to see what different communities are saying, like checks and balances – Tomi Moore
- TIF districts were mentioned and how developers may or may not be responding to We Will Chicago policies
- A greater effort to ensure ADA accessibility and inclusion of people with disabilities
- Improving air quality and decreasing carbon emissions
- Mention of transportation around waterways in relation to conservation easements or “green buffers”

RESOURCES**WE WILL CHICAGO CALENDAR**

[Upcoming public engagement programming](#)

RACIAL EQUITY TOOLKIT: AN OPPORTUNITY TO OPERATIONALIZE EQUITY

[A guide from the Local and Regional Government Alliance on Racial Equity that the city of Chicago has used to assess the racial equity implications of policies, programs and budgets](#)

WE WILL CHICAGO ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE + ENERGY PILLAR

[Description of this pillar](#)

GREENCORPS CHICAGO

[Green job training and workforce development organization mentioned by Matt Freer.](#)

NEXT STEPS

- Members of pillar planning teams will have a celebratory gathering on July 14, 2022, 6:00-8:00 p.m
- Participants are invited to continue to provide input on the draft plan and to host or invite organizations to host a Pop-Up Survey at communities/neighborhood events across the city this summer.
- All City of Chicago residents will be encouraged to provide feedback on the WWC Draft Plan.