

Environment, Climate and Energy, Meeting #3

August 31, 2021, 06:00PM | 2 hours

Documented by: Ebony Ellis

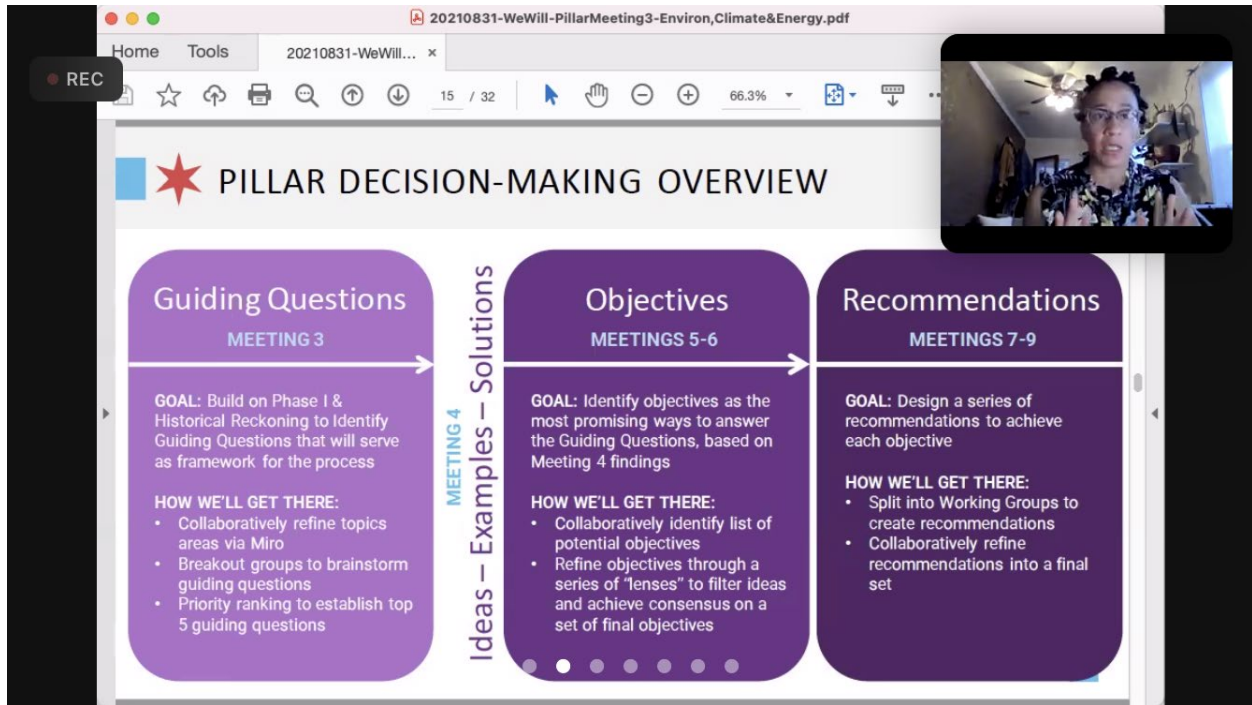
MEETING MATERIALS

[Agenda](#)

[Presentation](#)

ATTENDEES

- Marissa Strassel
- Angela Tovar
- Kaycee Mendoza
- Grant Ullrich
- Kuldip Kumar
- Melissa Tate
- Pearl Ramsey
- Robert Weinstock
- Matt Freer
- Lesley Roth
- Anne Nicklin
- Bradley Roback
- Iyana Simba
- Matthew Zemanick
- Michele Davies
- Pericles Georgopoulos
- Shannon Madden
- Rian Daly
- Christopher Sauve
- Frank Zhu
- Kimeco Roberson
- Megan Cunningham
- Naomi Davis
- Robert Megquier
- Tomi Moore
- Mike Tomas



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PILLAR DECISION-MAKING OVERVIEW

Guiding Questions MEETING 3	MEETING 4 Ideas - Examples - Solutions	Objectives MEETINGS 5-6	Recommendations MEETINGS 7-9
<p>GOAL: Build on Phase I & Historical Reckoning to Identify Guiding Questions that will serve as framework for the process</p> <p>HOW WE'LL GET THERE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaboratively refine topics areas via Miro• Breakout groups to brainstorm guiding questions• Priority ranking to establish top 5 guiding questions		<p>GOAL: Identify objectives as the most promising ways to answer the Guiding Questions, based on Meeting 4 findings</p> <p>HOW WE'LL GET THERE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaboratively identify list of potential objectives• Refine objectives through a series of "lenses" to filter ideas and achieve consensus on a set of final objectives	<p>GOAL: Design a series of recommendations to achieve each objective</p> <p>HOW WE'LL GET THERE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Split into Working Groups to create recommendations• Collaboratively refine recommendations into a final set

MEETING GOAL

To create guiding questions in small working groups. During fall of 2021, a goal is to look at refining recommendations.

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 | The City of Chicago does not have too many policies on urban agriculture. This makes it especially difficult for Black and Brown growers to obtain resources.
- 2 | Naomi Davis of Blacks in Green had questions on policy implementation and the transparency between this group and people who work with the city.
- 3 | There were a lot of people who thought more discussions are needed around these subject matters

CONVERSATION HIGHLIGHTS

"I'm aware of the environment because I'm living in it. I don't have to necessarily research it because I am living it. My greatest impact is on the ground."

Pearl "Black Pearl" Ramsey | Come-Unity Joy Garden, Artistic Director and Head Gardener

"I second Naomi. In addition, rather than just a share-out, report back to the city, it would be great to have some forum for two-way dialogue with the stakeholders - like City Council - who ultimately need to implement the work."

Shannon Madden | We Will Chicago, Volunteer

"We need to remediate so much of the land that has already been polluted. I think there are over 10,000 open lots that still need to be assessed."

Frank Zhu | Guidehouse, State and Local Government Senior Consultant

NOTES

Kickoff and Introductions

- Marissa Strassel goes over tech troubleshooting and Zoom etiquette
- Environment, Climate and Energy is one of the seven pillars of [We Will Chicago](#).
- [Marissa Strassel](#) is the host. About [35](#) people are involved. This is the third pillar meeting so far. The meeting started at 6pm. Goes over tech troubleshooting and zoom etiquette

Overview

- “One of our goals today is to create together in small working groups our guiding questions.”
Marissa Strassel
- [Naomi Davis](#) at Blacks in Breen “will our process involve any engagement with city council or alderman who are engaged with we will?”
- Marissa does not know if the group will interact with City Council.
- “I’m advocating for this isn’t just some afterthought they’re gonna have to swallow and they’re gonna...I just think legislator education is needed today.” Naomi Davis
- [Lesley Roth](#), member of Chicago Department of Planning and Development’s Committee on Design: “all depts are actually on board with this process and will be presented to several times throughout this whole process.” “On top of that there are staff members at DPD are planning regions in the city that are staff members. There are city council meetings and other meetings at different parts of this process.” “Our particular pillar “there are ways that the work coming out of our process will be shared.”
- Naomi asks if this can be provided in the chat. “What’s the document gonna be and when are we going to share it?” Marissa confirms that the group will go over this and how info in these meetings are being communicated.
- “My job is to support the work of the artists and the organizing team.” – [Kimeco Roberson](#), board member of [honeypot performance](#)
- “Mine started with organizing. I use my platforms in terms of performing arts.” [Pearl Ramsey](#)
 - “I’m aware of the environment because I’m living in it. I don’t have to necessarily research it because I am living it.” “My greatest impact is on the ground...Our aim is to social the We Will initiative.”
- Kimeco Roberson goes into history about Honeypot performance and how that work can connect to We Will Chicago. “The process is to emphasize strategic thinking.”
- Back of the yards, Auburn Gresham and Chatham are the focus areas though Kimeco acknowledges that it will take time to gain trust.

- Pearl: brings up the gardens on the south side that have human waste in it. “The only dirt that the city makes available.” She funds her own garden out of her own pocket.
- “Bringing in professionals that know how to address these traumas these conversations can get contentious.” –Kimeco Roberson
- [Iyana Simba](#), clean water policy director for Illinois Environmental Council, had a question for Pearl. “Does the soil have an effect on the plants?”
 - Marrison encourages pearl to address this question in another conversation
- Lesley will start a presentation about process “to structure the engagement and create feedback loops.” Lesley explains the elements of engagement. She mentioned 50 community events that are actively being funded. “Lastly there are documents that will be created.” Race Health and Equity Impact assessment, more will be discussed about this in the next meeting. “During the fall we will look at refining recommendations.”
- Participants recommends green solutions in our communities
- Lesley Roth talks about what to think about when creating guiding questions. “What are the questions we need to be asking ourselves as a research team to finally create a policy objective?”
- The priority topic area of breakout group 1 is “walkable wards”
 - “How can we ensure the quality of accessible green spaces to meet community needs?”
 - Kimeco: “so many folks on the south side are not familiar with climate change.”
 - “How can we co-design with communities on a regular basis?”
 - [Anthony Tindall](#), Policy and Sustainability Manager of the Forest Preserves of Cook County: “How can we increase resources for the natural world?”
- [Angela Tovar](#), Chief Sustainability Officer for City of Chicago, says people can add questions themselves if they want to. Questions include:
 - “How can we ensure investments and resources are available to meet community needs?”
 - “How can we support and identify organizations to ensure resources are provided?”
 - Naomi: “I feel that we haven’t even scratched the surface. I just think these considerations warrant far more discussion that is being provided.”
- Marissa acknowledges her comment. She asks if anyone has any suggestions
 - Lesley Roth: “This will not be the last time we talk about these [?]”
 - Robert Megquier says that the group should find a way to hear each other’s voices instead of fighting through technology. Michele Davis: “what is achievable or what is aspirational?” a question that people in her group were thinking about. Marissa responds that this is a good question.

RESOURCES

A link to the Englewood HIA,

https://www.chicago.gov/content/dam/city/depts/cdph/CDPH/Englewood_Line_Trail_HIA.pdf

The racial equity impact assessment,

https://www.chicago.gov/content/dam/city/depts/doh/qap/qap_2021/draft_reia_qap.pdf

Someone shares the sustainable square mile handbook,

<https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/sustainable-square-mile-handbook.pdf>

NEXT STEPS

- Participants should go over the questions more in-depth and have more conversations about them