



COMMUNITY SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

December 9, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Mr. Pryor called the December 9, 2025 regular meeting of the Community Services Advisory Commission to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 5555 Perimeter Drive.

ROLL CALL

Committee Members Present: Robert VanVliet, Rex Pryor, Hong Qiu, Ann Bohman, Jessica Tobias

Committee Members Absent: Vicki Guinther, Cathy Axcell, Carol Clinton

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Pryor inquired if there were any corrections to the June 10, 2025 CSAC meeting minutes. [No corrections were requested.]

Mr. VanVliet moved, Ms. Qui seconded approval of the June 10, 2025 meeting minutes.

Vote: Ms. Tobias, yes; Ms. Qiu, yes; Ms. Bohman, yes; Mr. VanVliet, yes; Mr. Pryor, yes.
[Motion carried 5-0.]

Mr. Pryor inquired if there were any corrections to the September 9, 2025 Joint Advisory Committee meeting minutes. [No corrections were requested.]

Mr. VanVliet moved, Ms. Qiu seconded approval of the September 9, 2025 Joint Advisory Committee meeting minutes.

Vote: Ms. Qiu, yes; Ms. Bohman, yes; Ms. Tobias, yes; Mr. VanVliet, yes; Mr. Pryor, yes.
[Motion carried 5-0.]

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments offered.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was proposed for discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

- Dublin Sustainability Plan**

Mr. Pryor invited Emily Goliver to present an update on the Dublin Sustainability Plan.

Ms. Goliver reminded committee members that the City Council has established a goal of being the most sustainable, connected, and resilient global city of choice. She noted that the last time CSAC discussed the Sustainability Plan, the City had recently adopted the Strategic Framework, which established lofty environmental sustainability goals.

Ms. Goliver explained that instead of continuing with the 2018-2021 staff-driven sustainability framework, the City engaged consultant Askr Robinson to identify industry best practices. The consultant examined various Dublin plans including the Dublin Corporate Area Plan, West Innovation District Plan, Envision Dublin Community Plan, Regional Sustainability Agenda for MORPC, the City of Dublin's DEI Framework, and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. She clarified that this review occurred in 2023, noting that some plans like the Regional Sustainability Agenda have since been updated.

The project timeline began May 1, 2023, with stakeholder interviews. Askr Robinson visited Dublin and toured the Rumpke material recovery facility. A community survey was run from July 25 to August 25, 2023, followed by a community workshop in September. Focus groups were conducted with City Council members, businesses, and Dublin City School students. The senior leadership team then reviewed goals and recommendations to develop actionable items. The updated Sustainability Plan was presented to City Council in June 2024, and Council requested an executive summary. After further review and refinement, Council approved the updated plan on October 6 via Resolution 50-25.

Ms. Goliver shared survey findings from 165 respondents. Nearly all respondents expressed concerns about reliable power, utility costs, and air pollution. The top four sustainability concerns were air pollution, biodiversity and habitat quality, drinking water quality, and reliable power. Respondents prioritized conserving natural areas and waste reduction. Ninety-eight percent of the respondents indicated that they recycled; 93 percent were improving home energy efficiency; and 92 percent valued high-quality landscaping for habitat quality. Sustainable services influenced quality of life decisions for 91 percent of respondents, with 89 percent considering sustainability when choosing housing and dining locations.

The greenhouse gas inventory conducted by Askr Robinson examined 2023 data, before the City's current 100 percent renewable energy contract. The inventory covered Scope 1 emissions from direct local actions, Scope 2 indirect emissions from electricity, and Scope 3 upstream emissions from water treatment and other indirect sources. City operations showed 3,654 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions, with the recreation center as the largest facility user due to pool heating requirements. Fleet emissions totaled 912 metric tons. At the community level, transportation generated 227,000 metric tons, representing the highest source, followed by commercial buildings including multifamily housing. Comparisons with Columbus and Carmel, Indiana showed Dublin had higher vehicle miles traveled per capita and significantly higher non-residential energy use, likely due to aging office buildings.

The Sustainability Plan organizes goals into four themes: model sustainable leadership, design sustainable communities, support the natural environment, and achieve zero waste. Each theme contains objectives with strategies and action items categorized by timeframe and cost estimates. The action plan distinguishes between direct and indirect impacts on greenhouse gas emissions.

Committee member VanVliet inquired whether "Dublin" referred to Dublin government employees and departments or the 50,000 people living within the borders. Ms. Goliver clarified it addresses both - the sustainability plan is for the community, including city government, and even speaks to partnership with schools.

Ms. Qiu inquired about the carbon neutrality timeline.

Ms. Goliver clarified that carbon neutrality by 2035 applies specifically to City operations. They are achieved through renewable energy contracts, electric vehicle fleet expansion, and waste reduction efforts toward circular economy goals.

Ms. Qiu questioned how electricity-powered vehicles could be considered renewable if the electricity source was not renewable.

Ms. Goliver explained that electric vehicles inherently reduce carbon through eliminated gas production and harvesting. The City has updated its Code regarding solar energy and is considering energy aggregation programs to help residents access renewable energy at negotiated rates.

Mr. Pryor asked about strategy development depth.

Ms. Goliver responded that each strategy contains detailed paragraphs and action items, with some strategies spanning multiple timeframes based on component actions. The goal is to complete all strategies, tracking progress through the ClearPoint project management system.

The committee discussion turned to native plants. Mr. Pryor referenced a previous presentation by a local botanist and asked about implementation.

Ms. Goliver highlighted extensive native plantings in parks, the 2024 Earth Month prairie garden project at Coffman Community Center and plans to amend the City Code concerning non-grass lawns. Current six-inch grass height Code requirements prevent native yard conversions. Future initiatives are intended to include opportunity to reclaim native plants from development sites and promote native species through the City's "Beautify Your Neighborhood" grant program.

In regard to short-term strategy priorities, Mr. Pryor suggested native plant development projects and creation of monarch butterfly habitats along their migration paths.

Ms. Goliver mentioned the existing certified backyard habitat program and the Mayor's monarch pledge.

Mr. VanVliet asked about sustainability integration with the Metro Place and West Innovation District developments.

Ms. Goliver noted a planner on the Eco Dublin team ensures sustainability considerations in the City's development projects.

Mr. Ament confirmed sustainable design is significantly discussed in City staff zoning conversations and development design guidelines.

Ms. Qiu suggested prioritizing the low-hanging fruit of education and awareness, noting the gap between survey respondents' 98 percent recycling rate and lower citywide rates. She noted the opportunity to emphasize responsible consumption education and simple behavioral changes.

Ms. Tobias requested examples of sustainable building development achievable in one to three years.

Ms. Goliver outlined the comprehensive code audit examining development practices, parking minimums that might prevent recycling infrastructure, water reclamation encouragement, rain barrel installations, and energy efficiency standards review.

Ms. Qiu proposed helping residents understand and improve energy efficiency in older buildings.

Ms. Goliver described Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing for commercial buildings, economic development incentives encouraging sustainability, and potential partnerships for appliance swap programs.

Mr. VanVliet emphasized education importance, particularly partnering with schools for recycling programs. He shared an example of a teacher champion at Watterson School achieving zero waste through targeted education. He advocated connecting with school districts for sustainability education and recycling infrastructure within one to three years.

Mr. Pryor suggested prioritizing reduction of single-occupancy vehicle commuting, noting most of the related actions are scheduled for three to seven years despite transportation being the highest emission source.

Ms. Goliver revealed the e-bike expansion listed as seven-plus years had actually been completed through Department of Energy grants. She explained LinkUS implementation timing remained outside City control despite advocacy efforts. The electric vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Comprehensive Plan and Signature Trail had both been recently adopted by City Council.

Ms. Qiu suggested lawn mower swap programs be considered as a priority, given every household's usage.

Ms. Goliver acknowledged this recommendation.

Mr. Pryor asked about relationships with food pantries and Mid-Ohio Food Collective.

Ms. Goliver and Mr. Ament confirmed growing relationships and new programs within the City.

Ms. Tobias recommended prioritizing the City Code audit, which Ms. Goliver confirmed is already underway.

Ms. Bohman asked about public access to the Sustainability Report.

Ms. Goliver confirmed its online availability and welcomed sharing opportunities.

Committee discussion continued regarding outreach strategies.

Ms. Qiu suggested emphasizing coalitions with schools, commercial entities, and civic organizations. Mr. Pryor praised the mobility concierge services offered at Bridge Park. Mr. Ament noted the Bridge Park Farmers Market booths, and Mr. Pryor noted the Irish Festival seed packet distribution.

Mr. Pryor observed the absence of citizen attendance at CSAC meetings despite the valuable Sustainability discussions.

Ms. Goliver described the Tell Dublin platform engagement with three recent sustainability submissions and suggested future promotion of CSAC meetings for public input.

Regarding green stormwater infrastructure, Ms. Qiu requested education on rain gardens and rain barrels.

Ms. Goliver explained green roofs for commercial buildings and rain barrel water reuse benefits.

Mr. VanVliet shared his positive rain barrel workshop experience at Wild Birds Unlimited, advocating for more accessible workshops and discounts.

Ms. Bohman noted confusion about leaf placement in her subdivision, indicating the existence of communication gaps.

For composting expansion priorities, Ms. Tobias asked about complaints.

Ms. Goliver reported the primary complaints have been concerning the distance of the compost container locations from northeast Dublin residents. The current location provides twelve 95-gallon containers located across three parking spaces.

Mr. VanVliet asked about non-city property options and noted frequent overflow issues. He suggested providing some containers that will accommodate shorter residents and further expanding their styrofoam capacity, particularly for northwest Dublin.

Ms. Goliver reported that 11,160 pounds of styrofoam was collected through November, with daily emptying still not preventing overflow.

Ms. Tobias suggested partnering with businesses like Whole Foods in regard to compost efforts.

Mr. VanVliet mentioned Wendy's Test Kitchen's existing composting program.

Ms. Bohman inquired about the area hospitals' composting practices.

Mr. Ament invited the suggestion of specific location priorities beyond northwest and east Dublin.

Mr. Pryor asked about the collection of user data.

Ms. Goliver explained that the registration process requests but does not require contact information, which limits the City's ability to track compost container users.

Mr. Pryor suggested identifying heavy-use neighborhoods for potential collection services rather than adding additional drop-off locations.

Mr. VanVliet asked about the costs of organic material collection services.

Ms. Goliver confirmed that there would be hauling fees minus revenue generation. She noted that there are ongoing consortium discussions about organic material hauling using collective bargaining power.

Ms. Qiu suggested adding initiatives to the GoDublin app.

Mr. VanVliet mentioned hearing at a recent community meeting that the Ballantrae golf course has no recycling containers.

Ms. Goliver explained the lease agreement with Golf Club of Dublin is prescriptive about what they can require but they can discuss it. There is also an opportunity to expand recycling at sports complexes, such as SportsOhio. She noted the existence of new trash and recycling containers at the Dublin Community Recreation Center.

Mr. Ament shared that he is a staff liaison to Kemper Sports, which operates the Golf Club of Dublin. They have monthly committee meetings, which include Ballantrae residents, and this topic will likely be addressed in December's meeting.

Ms. Goliver thanked the committee for their valuable feedback and offered to forward follow-up materials including her recent podcast appearance to the committee members. She expressed her appreciation for the committee's quick grasp of complex topics and insightful questions.

- **2026 CSAC Meeting Dates**

Mr. Ament presented the proposed 2026 CSAC meeting schedule, noting the fortunate consistency of second Tuesday availability throughout the year based on the adopted Council calendar.

Ms. Qiu moved, Mr. VanVliet seconded approval of the proposed 2026 CSAC meeting dates.
Vote: Ms. Tobias, yes; Mr. VanVliet, yes; Ms. Qiu, yes; Mr. Pryor, yes; Ms. Bohman, yes.
[Motion carried 5-0.]

- **ROUNDTABLE**

Committee members exchanged holiday wishes.

- **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.



CSAC Chair



Judith R. Beal

Assistant Clerk of Council