

City of Ames City Council and Iowa State University Student Government Joint Meeting Minutes

October 28th, 2021

Taken by Trevor Poundstone

Student Government and Ames City Council Joint Meeting

Wednesday, October 28th, 2021

Campanile Room, Memorial Union, Iowa State University

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ATTENDANCE:

Last Name	First Name	Represents	Roll
Crabb	Eliana	UROC	P
Rizvic	Emily	UROC	P
Fillipi	Victoria	UROC	P
Weathers	Dawson	UROC	P
Clayburn	Kit	UROC	P
Paulson	Sonja	UROC	P
Hayes	Daniel	UROC	P
Ruehle	Max	UROC	P
Waagmeester	Jay	UROC	P
Staudt	Olivia	UROC	P
Lent	Ann	CPC	P
McCreedy	Cody	IFC	P
Simmons	Molly	Freddy Court	P
Seth	Jennifer	SUV	P
Ahlrichs	Jaden	IRHA	P
Mahoney	Eddie	IRHA	P
Larson	Rebecca	IRHA	P
Patel	Khushi	IRHA	P
Goff	Bailey	Vet-Med	P
Addagarla	Sanjana	Business	P
Blythe	Sam	Business	P
Zuber	Joe	Engineering	P
Cooper	Ethan	Engineering	P
Advait	M.	Engineering	P
DeVore	Devin	CALS	P
Brecht	Hope	CALS	P
Thornton	Emi	Design	P
Rios Martinez	Natalia	LAS	P
Finaldi	Alexandra	LAS	P
Carter	John	GPSS	P
Skaggs	Britney	GPSS	P
Sewe	Stacy	Human Sciences	P
Strickland	Ryan	Human Sciences	P

CITY COUNCIL ATTENDANCE:

Last Name	First Name	Represents	Roll
Haila	John	City	P

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Betcher	Gloria	Ward 1	P
Gartin	Tim	Ward 2	P
Martin	David	Ward 3	A
Junck	Rachel	Ward 4	P
Corrieri	Amber	At-Large	P
Beatty-Hansen	Brownwyn	At-Large	P

Key: P = Present A = Absent

6:00:02 PM- CALL TO ORDER

6:00:06 PM- HAILA:

6:01:05 PM- DECKER:

6:02:00 PM- ROLL CALL FOR STUDENT GOVERNMENT

6:02:38 PM- ROLL CALL FOR AMES CITY COUNCIL

6:03:11 PM- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

6:03:41 PM- ADOPTING THE AGENDA

6:03:43 PM- ADAIT: I move to adopt tonight's agenda. Seconded. No objection. **ADOPTED.**

6:04:00 PM- AMES CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

6:04:02 PM- HAILA: We are excited tonight to have the opportunity to do some updates and hear from you. First, we will be talking about the Ames Climate Action plan. I'd like to introduce Deb who, as well as other City and University Staff, have been working on this. I asked Deb to give a quick update on this.

6:04:55 PM- SCHILINDROTH: We are excited to give you an update on the CAP. This is a goal of the City Councils, how we are doing that is we are contracting with a consultant, SSG, located in Canada, and they are working with our city project team, and we have been working in the structure put forth by the council. This looks like the council as the steering committee as well as a supplemental input committee that is made up of 27 community members from different parts of Ames and from different backgrounds. We need to do two things with this plan. The first is to set target emissions reduction. The second step is the plan itself and action steps. We kicked it off in May with meeting with the project as well as the first steering committee meeting. Then was the first SI committee meeting in October, as well as many other community input projects. We have a website that you can go to read about the activities the city has been involved with in this area as well as a separate website for the Climate Action Plan. We also have an email, sustainability@cityofames.org, for input. Updates and events will be put on the website. We had about 38 people come to our first Town Hall on Monday. The consultant gave updates, talked about the business-as-usual scenario. This shows us what it would look like if we continued as is. That will be shared at the next community input meeting as well as the next steering committee. We are excited to be involved and it is important to get your input. We are welcomed to have you as a partner at the table. I am happy to take any questions or comments.

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6:09:30 PM- STUDENT GOVERNMENT MEMBER: What is the project timeline look like? What does outreach for input look like?

6:09:42 PM- SCHILINDROTH: The project itself, started in May and we anticipate it will be adopted in September of 2022. Like I said earlier, we are starting now with our business-as-usual scenario right now. The consultant put some modeling together for that. The steering committee will be given a presentation in November on the four different options and then right before the holidays in December, they will decide that target. The next steps will be to address the actions steps we need to take. Visit the website www.cityofames.org/sustainability, where you can reach anyone mentioned. We are also looking at doing a series of public surveys. Our first one should be coming out in mid to late November. We hope with the student involvement we will get lots of input and be able to make the decision. It's a community plan.

6:12:03 PM- WEATHERS: I want to thank everyone for coming. I was wondering if current efforts will be included in the CAP?

6:12:46 PM- SCHILINDROTH: Yes, they are all being included and being considered by the consultants. We also want to see our plans expand to help reduce our carbon footprint and hope more people join in.

6:13:56 PM- BEATTY-HANSEN: We are also doing a waste to energy audit this year. That will give us some good guidance on how to make our resource recovery plant more efficient and how to make food waste and garbage waste being made more efficient. My guess is that we would see more energy being put towards food waste diversion.

6:14:35 PM- HAYES: I know that there is a lot of food waste that goes into the composting program, but I know other cities have other options. A big part of making more composting accessible is curbside composting. Has the city been looking at that?

6:15:18 PM- SCHILINDROTH: Those are the ideas that we need. At this point in time, it's been mentioned about a curbside composting program. We want to wrap that into the climate action plan. Some things that have been out there for a while, we want to see an expansion. How that gets wrapped in is what we want to work on with the community and consultant.

6:16:00 PM- RIZVIC: I wanted to ask, will there be an equity advisors' team or another group that will make sure that problems that vulnerable communities are having won't be exasperated?

6:16:26 PM- SCHILINDROTH: One of council's goals was to ensure that we are reaching out to marginalized communities. Whatever it is we are doing, it will impact everyone. We want to make sure we have their voices at the table. One way we are doing this is the Community Input Committee. We have representatives from different groups who can reach out to get that input and get that sense of perception from those communities. It is very important to get that. We are working on questions as well to help guide them in these processes.

6:17:42 PM- CLAYBURN: Where I live, they don't do a recycling and trash, and another thing I see is that people leave perfectly fine furniture that is left. Is there anything that the city does or would do to help with this?

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6:18:22 PM- SCHILINDROTH: Ames doesn't haven't curbside recycling, however, anything in your trash is recycled and sorted. The recycling happens at our plants. That gets it already to burn. We do have separate glass recycling. We have big yellow bins located around the community that you can take you glass to. Those programs are in place, so please use those. The furniture is a unique situation. We do have Rummage Rampage at the end of August. Our hope is that instead of putting usable furniture on the curb, it is donated to rummage rampage. There is also a couple of thrift stores that take items as well. Rummage Rampage is the one event that is partnered between the University and the City to repurpose all sorts of items that might have been thrown away.

6:20:53 PM- HAILA: We are going to have to move on, so thank you. I also wanted to clarify that Rummage Rampage is at the end of July, not August. Maybe we could talk about at the end how we can get the word out. We don't want sofas and mattresses and dressers. It ends up going to the landfill and we don't want that. We can talk about how to get that information to landlords and tenants. Thank you, Deb.

6:21:40 PM- 801 DAY DISCUSSION

6:21:45 PM- HAILA: I wanted to thank Student Government for having this put on the agenda, as it is something we are concerned about. I will have our Chief of Police Jeff Huff and the University Chief of Police Michael Newton. We are going to have them talk about this and then we would love to hear your ideas. We are getting a growing number of complaints on this topic, and we want to handle it before it gets out of control. Chief and Chief, take it away.

6:22:28 PM- NEWTON: Hello, I am Michael Newton, and I am Associate VP of PS and C of P. I wanted to say a few things about 801 day. We started to see in the past couple of years, a lot of out-of-town folks coming in because they have heard it's the apart place to come. For the past two years, half of those we encounter have zero ties with the community. We can't enforce our way out of this, and we need together to help solve this issue as a community.

6:23:23 PM- HUFF: Definitely echo that. We were seeing mostly out of town people. IN the past, it has started to end around 2-3 in the afternoon. This last year it lasted to about 12 at night. One of the strategies we have talked about is getting more skin in the game with our landlords and see if they can help in this process to help shutdown or reduce the large parties that were happening. You could see parties of 400-500 people shutting down blocks, which we don't tolerate. We can't shut down roads, but what can we do to help discourage people from coming to Ames. We really want your ideas on this. I am interested to hear what you have to say.

6:24:43 PM- CRABB: Thank you for coming. Could we increase fines for this day?

6:25:11 PM- HAILA: You identified one thing Council has authority over. One thing you need to understand is that we don't want to penalize anyone moving in that day. Another thing we have talked about is engaging with the landlords in near campus neighborhoods. We don't want to have huge penalties, but we need to send a strong message. We need to work together. We can't enforce our way out of it. We want people to know we are serious about this and that its not health.

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6:26:21 PM- HUFF: We are pretty sure what happened violated leases. We believe that is one thing. We just need to get them more active in enforcing some of their rules so we can cut down on the large parties. What makes us both nervous is shutting down large parties because they just keep growing. It's a balancing act.

6:27:16 PM- NORTON: Also, one thing we need to educate the students on who are renting properties in the area, because they are allowing people they don't know to come to their parties and that's a problem.

6:27:34 PM- CRABB: I do want to comment on that. I live on Welch Ave, and last year during COVID, there were large parties, and I know some of my friends called law enforcement, do you communicate with the landlords?

6:27:56 PM- HUFF: The short answer is yes. One of our community resource officers sends out calls for service on a list of property owners to let them know what is happening. They also get a letter. We can also cite the owner after a couple of events. Normally after the first or second, we get in contact to avoid that.

6:28:40 PM- CRABB: I think that there is a lot we can do by reaching out to our constituents, getting the word out that it is unsafe, thank you so much.

6:28:56 PM- LENT: Super quick, I know a lot of us don't want the last Saturday before school to get out of hand, but I was wondering how did VIESHA get out of hand, so we don't follow that same history.

6:29:21 PM- NORTON: That is where we are headed. The large parties we are seeing, the moving from party to party. When we disrupt a 1000-person party, that's when riots start. Last year was bad. We need to have more conversation to make sure it doesn't escalate. I know a lot of you are on my committee, so we can invite Chief Huff and talk about this more.

6:30:00 PM- BIKING INFRASTRUCTURE DISCUSSION

6:30:02 PM- HAILA: Just to close the 801 day, I wonder if this would warrant another meeting for more dialogue. We don't want property damage or injury to occur. I am going to ask Gartin Beatty-Hansen to give an update on this.

6:30:39 PM- BEATTY-HANSEN: I can talk fist and then let Tim finish it up. We recently had a biking infrastructure workshop. From this, we want to work on a bicycling and pedestrian masterplan. We will work on the bike ped master plan, which will be a good way to help close gaps and increase safety. We also have our complete streets plan. That comes into effect when we are rebuilding a street to see if we can improve some of these areas. That is another plan to be aware of. The other piece is our 5-year CIP. It shows how will spend our money on capital improvements in the next five years, and we have a lot of exciting things in that one.

6:32:06 PM- GARTIN: Great foundation. I would only add that we were so excited to see the largest turnout for public input, so we had a wonderful turnout. When we think about bike trails, we are thinking about them as a vital part of the community's transportation system. Some people don't have cars. We want to make it easy and safe for those people. We want a comprehensive and protective bike plan. If this is something you have an interest in, we would love to hear from you, so please reach out to us on that. Thanks.

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6:33:31 PM- CARTER: Has there been any discussion between biking infrastructure and climate action because it seems they could be connected?

6:33:58 PM- BEATTY-HANSEN: It is true. I think that as we make more progress on the CAP, they will be tied together.

6:34:25 PM- ADVAIT: As an avid biker myself, I was wondering what the philosophy for the streets program was?

6:34:50 PM- BEATTY-HANSEN: It depends on the street and the complete streets document helps guide us. There are several different types of roads. When we redid Welch Ave, we used that plan to look at what type of street it was and to see if we could add any pedestrian/bike infrastructure.

6:35:41 PM- ADVAIT: I have gotten at least two emails about the E-Scooter situation is like?

6:35:55 PM- BEATTY-HANSEN: We looked at the topic and decided not to pursue it. It didn't pass. Could be revisited in the future. We do have a study we are working on for all sorts of e-transportation, e-mobility, to be able to address them on public spaces.

6:36:52 PM- RIZVIC: Has there been any talk of transitioning streets that are used for vehicles to fully pedestrian streets?

6:37:30 PM- BEATTY-HANSEN: We haven't considered that much. I think that will be a hard sell for some parts of the community. Welch Ave was one where that idea has been bounced around but couldn't. So no, is the short answer.

6:38:02 PM- MAHONEY: Is there any areas of town that are on the forefront of this plan? I know Duff Ave is one area that is not very safe for biking at all.

6:38:30 PM- GARTIN: Any other questions? No, okay. If you can figure it out, we have a big reward. South Duff is not safe. When that was designed, we weren't thinking about bike safety. This is a good lesson in planning, there were prior city councils who this wasn't a priority. Its impossible to add anything over there because of how it was design. We would have to use eminent domain to do it. There are plusses, the South Grand Ave ribbon cutting is on Friday. We are trying to make more north south travel options. The new bike trail over there is really amazing as well, not that I have been on it. Sorry about South Duff. Lincoln way is also another pain that we would love to see safer. As we work on roads, we apply the complete streets program to see what we do to improve them.

6:40:55 PM- MENTAL HEALTH

6:40:57 PM- HAILA: Let's talk about mental health. This is a personal passion of mine. This has been a major issue. Its all throughout the community and campus. We have a mental health advocate on staff who helps deal with mental health issues and situations that arise. Back in April, Chief Huff and her and I were talking about how the issues in the Fall would rise, and they did. What we did was convene a mental health forum in May. We want to remove the stigma, so we need to talk about it more and in open. We had a speaker and had 9 resources come and talk, and we announced at that time that we will mental health first aide training. The council committed 5000 to the cause. We held one in June, July and one in August. We had about 30 at the first and second and over 60 to the third one. We have over 120 people who are trained with tools to know if someone is in crisis, questions to ask, how to respond

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and how to point people to resources. My wife and I attended, and everyone had a story. Then we had the mental health expo in September, Kevin Hines was a speaker for that. We also had a Mental Health Open House. We are having people say how are we going to continue this? I think we will see more mental health training become available. The whole idea is to remove the stigma, get people equipped and deal with it ahead of the curve. We are not going to let up, but it is alarming. We have all sorts of people being affected by this and it's not going away. We need to be aware of people around us. With that, we want this to be a resident situation. We are not going to let up and we will see more and more of that. If you have any questions or comments, we are all ears.

6:46:23 PM- CORRIERI: It's really difficult to talk about this and not talk about workforce. My real job is in this industry, and we have reached real crisis point. We have programs that are closing because there are not enough staff to work for them and waiting lists that are growing longer. A lot of agencies, including mine, employ students. We can offer flexible schedules and training. I think that when we talk about how we are going to address these issues, my plea to students would be that if anyone has a passion for this, please get involved to help with this problem.

6:48:26 PM- LENT: The discussion around mental health doesn't always have to be focused on the breaking point. There is a whole scale of issues, and when we get to that level and aren't looking for others, there are problems.

6:49:05 PM- RIOS MARTINEZ: I wanted to bring up a few issues that students have here. One is that students only have so many appointments they can have with ISU counselors. After that they must be placed somewhere else. Another issue, students get therapy here, but when they go home, there isn't a continuation. One suggestion was licensing providers in Iowa to serve outside of Iowa to continue that support.

6:50:11 PM- DECKER: We only have ten minutes remaining, so we are going to combine student engagement in Ames and open discussion.

6:50:15 PM- STUDENT ENGAGEMENT IN THE AMES COMMUNITY AND OPEN DISCUSSION

6:50:26 PM- HAILA: Councilwomen Betcher and Junk, if you just want to talk about engagement.

6:50:40 PM- BETCHER: The last time we met, I announced the city would be working with City and Community planning students to work with underrepresented communities to get them more involved. Over the course of this year, myself and the City Manager have been working with these students and put on the first Play Ames: Imagine you City fest. We will be getting a report on that on November 9th. We are looking to find more ways to creatively engage with people to get their ideas. Stay tuned, we are going to keep working on that.

6:52:04 PM- JUNK: Gloria talked about what we are doing to improve engagement, but after this, I want to hear how we can do better. I want to talk about some ways information can be found. The city website is great. If you have a problem, the Ames on the go app is a great way to report those issues. We also have a multitude of city social medias on all platforms. Iowa State Dailey and Ames Tribune both breakdown the city council information, some council members send out a newsletter and I

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personally try and post the most important things that happened at the meeting on my social media. I would love to hear any ideas on ways we can continue to reach out to students.

6:53:45 PM- WEATHERS: There is a lot of good thoughts. I motion to extend debate by ten minutes. Seconded. No objection. UC. Seconded. No objection. **EXTENDED.**

6:54:14 PM- HAYES: Hi. I just recently talked to Trevor about my ideas, but I wanted to bring them up. It seems the school could provide a subscription on the Ames Tribune to stay involved. I had an idea for a mentorship program for community members and students that could match students and community members with similar interest or ideas can meet and have some mentorship. I'd like to see that. The last thing was if the City of Ames puts on events, it would be cool if the city had internship opportunities to plan those events. That is something students look for a lot. It would be interesting to see. Or even volunteering. It would help get people connected.

6:56:13 PM- CRABB: Something specific, I used to give tours and we talked to every student coming into Iowa State. A lot of questions I got were about the City of Ames. I think talking to STARS to talk about the city and what we have to offer to students so they can pass that information.

6:57:07 PM- HAILA: Several Senators have come and talked to me over the past few years on how we can get more festivals or other things that can integrate different cultures in the community. Another thing we talked about was that people don't know what's going on in the community. One idea we had was having CyRide give a tour of Ames as well as sharing information for those who are new to Ames. It would be a one-day thing. There is so much Ames has to offer. We have 38 parks and all sorts of resources. We are better when students are apart of our community. I got that on my list. Maybe we can try to make that work.

6:58:49 PM- CARTER: One of the issues I hear are concerns about the gap between leases that a lot of student's experience. What sorts of discussions have been had or what can be done to help mitigate a lot of the issues with gaps in leases?

6:59:29 PM- HAILA: Well, this is the fourth year in a row this has been brought up. We really can't get in there and delegate by ordinance because it is private property and a deal between a landlord and the leaser. We understand it is an issue. There was a task force that working on this. We are sympathetic to that, and we get it. We just can't get into that really. If someone else has an idea, we would love to hear it. WE get it and it is a challenge.

7:00:54 PM- RIZVIC: Hi, I was one of the volunteers for the Play Ames Festival. I was at the Lockwood Café. I noticed that a lot of residents in West Ames feel they aren't apart of the community because events are so far away. Another suggestion, we have this biking plan going forward, I heard at the Iowa APA conference, but a city had a thing where you could bike with city officials on the project route, and they could ask questions. I was wondering if we could do something like that at all.

7:02:11 PM- BETCHER: We do have a Mayor and Councils bike ride every year. But its not project focused. I like that idea to have the conversation about things to improve while we ride around the city. It is a good idea for getting out on the spot.

7:03:00 PM- MAHONEY: I know, at least to me, it was a bit of a surprise to hear that most of the issues were from out-of-town individuals. I don't think people know about this issue. I go and didn't know

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about this. I think maybe raising that point with the community so that people hosting these can be aware and maybe help the problem.

7:04:10 PM- RIOS MARTINEZ: Two things, with the gap between leases, one thing that is critical, what are we doing with our stuff? Looking at storage maybe. Another thing, when you get you utilities in Ames you get brochures and things and all that gets lost when you sign up for the electronic version, so maybe including that on the electronic version as well.

7:05:05 PM- SKAGGS: Two things, one, I like the ride around Ames idea. When I moved here, I didn't know where anything was. Point number two, for the mental health training, is that something that students could do?

7:05:40 PM- HAILA: Yes.

7:05:50 PM- STRICKLAND: Would you say the issue for 801 day is public image, safety or people coming to town and getting out of control? Is it an environmental or cultural thing that needs fixed?

7:06:01 PM- HAILA: I think that they all are issues. We don't want VIESHA to happen again. Its property damage, destruction of life and parking issues. We don't want anyone to get hurt. It's a complex issue and there are lots of pieces that go into it. We want people to enjoy and celebrate the start of school. Its getting out of hand, and that's why we don't want to go down that path again. I wrote down that we need to get a task force or something and get students and administration involved to get this nut cracked before next year.

7:08:06 PM- BETCHER: I wanted to follow up on a couple of points. The Ames Convention and Visitors Bureau is working on an App that can work with the apps you are using now, MyState. This is contributing to the amount of information that is available to new students. I am hoping that will be done soon. When we speak about student engagement, 801 day is one of those days students needs to be fully engaged. It's a quality-of-life issues. I would love to see Iowa State students take the lead on this issue. We have seen this done at other schools in the past. I would love to see more done to do that and engage more students.

7:10:01 PM- DECKER: We will need to extend debate if we want to keep discussing.

7:10:04 PM- ZASTROW: I do not believe we have time. We have a group here for public input and other groups here for funding bills tonight. I respectfully ask we do not extend debate further.

7:10:18 PM- WEATHERS: I going to motion to extend debate by five more minutes. Seconded. No objection. UC. Seconded. No objection. **EXTENDED.**

7:10:58 PM- GARTIN: I just wanted to take a second here and thank you for all these ideas. We talk about student engagement; one ways students are making a difference is by volunteering. Iowa State students make up most of these programs. I wanted to thank you and you all are doing tremendous work in the community.

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7:11:45 PM- CLOSING COMMENTS

7:11:47 PM- CAMPBELL: Good evening, everyone. I wanted to say thank you for coming tonight and participating and we appreciate your time and energy. With for those who aren't typically here, thank you for allowing us to learn from you. We appreciate the conversation. I think we have lots of tangible ideas to move forward with. We look forward to continuing to have a collaborative relationship with the city and participating in each other's events.

7:12:38 PM- POUNDSTONE: I just wanted to say a few quick things. Thank you everyone for coming. It was very productive. I will send out information about the meeting after. Thanks everyone.

7:12:55 PM- HAILA: I want to echo what Councilmen Gartin said. We thank you for choosing Iowa State. Thank you for being a part of the community and all you do. As you are aware, there is 31,000 of you and about 37,000 others. You are about half of our community, and I want you to be engaged. I am a proud Iowa State grad, and I am very happy to be here. We are here to listen and serve like you. We want to hear from you. Trevor is doing a great job, sometimes I wish he would talk more, but I get him to talk, right? But he is a great conduit and pipeline. Our emails are very easy to access as well. Thank you for your time and the leadership for inviting us. We really value this time. Maybe we can meet more going forward. I think we can make Ames better together. So, thank you very much. I will take a motion for the city council to adjourn.

7:14:45 PM- JUNK: I move that we adjourn. Seconded. **ADJOURNED.**

7:14:47 PM- DECKER: Is there a motion for Student Government to adjourn?

7:14:50 PM- WEATHERS: I motion we adjourn. Seconded. No objection. **ADJOURNED.**

7:14:52 PM- ADJOURNMENT

John A. Haila, Mayor

Trevor Poundstone, Student Government, Scribe