Environmental Stewardship Committee Meeting Notes

Hillsboro Hops Ballpark Tour | October 1, 2026

Attendees

Members Present

Amy Meaut	Christian Robertson-Lofthouse	Mia Hocking
Annika Welch	Cynthia Westby	Michelle Knoke
Ashley Walsh	Councilor Elizabeth Case	Natalia Ojeda Leon
Audrey O'Brien	Jeff Pazdalski	Pallavi Pande
Carla Chen	Kenzie Baker	Tina Bailey
Catherine Ngaingne	Mac Martin	Tyler Geel
Catherine Tran	Mary Rudolph	

Absent

Juan Pedro Moreno Olmeda	Scott McEwen	Vinod Singh
Laura Trunk	Shresha Karmacharya	Wendy Veliz

Guests

- Debby Garman

Staff

- Robin Straughan, City of Hillsboro
- Dacia Bakkum, City of Hillsboro
- Joy Miciano, Zan Associates
- Tom Holmes, Zan Associates
- Hannah Faires, Zan Associates

Council Updates

- On July 27, 2026, the Hillsboro City council enacted a 120-day moratorium on new data center and battery energy storage systems (BESS) developments to review land use regulations and assess community impacts.
- On September 9, Sky Harbour Hangers withdrew its application for development of new private jet hangers at Hillsboro International Airport. The applicant stated it needed additional time to address comments raised by the community and Hillsboro City Council at an appeal hearing on August 18, 2026, and it intends to resubmit.
- Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), an invasive beetle that attacks and kills ash trees, has been confirmed at Jackson Bottom Wetlands.

Hillsboro Hops Ballpark Presentation and Tour

The Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC) met at the Hillsboro Hops Ballpark for a presentation and tour. The group initially gathered in an upstairs meeting space for a presentation by **Matt Kolasinski, Vice President of Corporate Partnerships for the Hillsboro Hops**, followed by a tour of the ballpark. ESC members asked questions throughout both the presentation and tour.

ESC Member Group Photo

ESC Members Tour the Hillsboro Hops Ballpark

Presentation

The new ballpark represents a $154 million investment, with 72% of the project privately funded. The facility is expected to generate approximately 400 full-time jobs and host an estimated 200 events annually, drawing up to 550,000 visitors each year. On September 25, the band Chicago performed the first concert at the new ballpark. The facility also features an upstairs event space with seating for up to 400 people, which is available to rent for private events.

Matt also provided an overview of sustainability considerations incorporated into the ballpark and its operations, including:

- **Building systems:** LED lighting, zonal HVAC, water conservation, and smart landscaping, including remote controlled auto shutoff to reduce energy use.
- **Playing surface:** The ballpark uses a sustainable synthetic turf playing surface.
- **Food and beverage:** Efforts include locally sourced food and beverages, donation of surplus food, Energy Star equipment, a mix of electric and gas equipment, and environmentally friendly packaging. Surplus food is donated to local shelters.
- **Transportation:** The Hops encourage carpooling and bicycling. Bike racks and electric vehicle charging are available on site.

Questions and Discussion

- **Parking:** The ballpark has approximately 1,700 parking spaces, with another 615 spaces available next door. Following events, the parking lot can generally be cleared in approximately 45 minutes.
- **Transit access:** The closest transit service is on Evergreen. A Hops shuttle from the Orenco MAX station operated prior to the COVID-19 pandemic but was discontinued.

- **Concerts and Live Nation:** The Hops are working with Live Nation to bring concerts to the ballpark, and the partnership has worked well. There are currently holds for three concerts next year, although the Hops are waiting for Live Nation to assign performers.
- **Former ballpark:** The former ballpark is owned by the City of Hillsboro and continues to be used by the community. It was described as an important community resource for amateur baseball and professional women's softball (it is home to the Portland Cascade).
- **Surplus food donation:** A question was asked about how surplus food is donated. Matt did not have the details available and will follow up.
- **Playing surface:** The synthetic turf system used at the ballpark is unique within Minor League Baseball and is also used at the NCAA level. It has a natural grass feel and no PFAS chemicals.
- **Field drainage:** A substantial drainage system is located underneath the playing surface.
- **Event coordination:** Events within the ballpark are managed by the Hillsboro Hops organization, while events elsewhere in the surrounding complex are managed by the City of Hillsboro.
- **Permitting:** The ballpark events present new permitting circumstances, and both the Hops and City are learning through the process.
- **Composting:** Food scrap composting from prep is available at the ballpark kitchen.
- **Children's area and sun exposure:** A question was raised about heat and sun exposure in the children's area. Due to the location and configuration of the space, blocking the sun is not currently feasible.
- **Meridian name:** The "Meridian" name refers to Hillsboro's location between the Oregon Coast and Mount Hood and is intended to evoke the idea of a central meeting place.

ESC Announcements

Following the tour, the group returned to the upstairs meeting space for general ESC announcements unrelated to the stadium tour.

- **Choose to Reuse campaign:** Community members can bring their own reusable containers to participating businesses. ESC members were encouraged to provide cards to businesses where they would like to see reusable-container options offered.

- **Waste prevention/green building:** An update was shared related to a recent U.S. Green Building Council conference in Washington, D.C., and its fellowship program. Hillsboro School District received a fellowship this year and will be developing an indoor air quality management plan.
- **Week Without Driving:** The national Week Without Driving campaign is happening now.
- **Get There Challenge:** Oregon's Get There Challenge begins soon and runs for two weeks. Participants can visit **GetThereOregon.org** to participate and earn prizes. Remote work counts toward the challenge.
- **Food packaging:** Oregon DEQ has a food packaging plan that is currently open for public comment.
- **Hillsboro 150th anniversary:** This year marks Hillsboro's 150th anniversary. Anniversary activities will culminate with an event on Saturday, October 17, at the downtown farmers market.

Next Meeting

The next ESC meeting is anticipated for early December. The committee is also working on its 2027 meeting schedule.