

Climate Action Task Force Minutes

Tuesday, February 7, 2022 6:30 p.m.
Videoconference

Task Force Members: Chair Elizabeth Bagley, Vice Chair Catherine Riley, Kent Barkhau, Elizabeth Borneman, Molly Grear, Darby Osborne, Caitlin Way, Caitlin Woolsey

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bagley called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Task Force members present: Elizabeth Bagley (videoconference), Catherine Riley (videoconference), Molly Grear (videoconference), Kent Barkhau (videoconference), Darby Osborne (videoconference), Elizabeth Borneman (videoconference)

Absent: Caitlin Woolsey (unexcused), Caitlin Way (unexcused)

Staff: Deputy Clerk, Jess Earnshaw

Others: None

III. CORRESPONDENCE /AGENDA CHANGES

None.

IV. PERSONS TO BE HEARD *(not to exceed 3 minutes on topics off the agenda)*

None.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. December 7, 2021

Riley moved to approve the December 7, 2021, minutes. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

REPORTS

Chair: Bagley spoke about discussions that she had with Rob Jordan that included a calibration with the City Electric Department a public informational session and include presentations with information about possible future funding opportunities.

Task Force Members: Riley gave an update on the municipal climate meeting that she had attended. She said that they went over the priority action sheet and had offered it as a resource for other communities to use. She spoke about the Juneau Commission on sustainability on what they had been working on such EV adoption and charging on energy efficiency. Barkhau spoke to the new climate group that had been formed called Transition Sitka and that they would show a film on February 6th.

City Staff: Earnshaw encouraged all Task Force members to review the board training resource links that were emailed to the Climate Action Task Force members.

Other(s): None

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

B. **Working Groups/ Updates**

- a. **Electric Vehicle/ City Infrastructure**
Riley said had been looking at the electric vehicle infrastructure. Where to put it? And how do we get it? She noted that working to electrify the City's fleet and use that was the first step. She spoke to the electrification schedule and the charging infrastructure. She said she would be attending a webinar on February 15th discussing federal sources of funding. Barkhau spoke to the electrification of the municipal fleet and electrifying transportation which needed to be addressed first. Bagley felt that the CATF should celebrate the success of the priorities list and the fact that it was read by the Assembly without any changes. She spoke to policy levers, code changes, and policies in other parts of the country.
- b. **Sustainable Tourism**
Riley thanked Task Force Member Osborne for her willingness to draft a resolution to establish the CATF commission. Osborne noted that she would come up with the basic language and framework for the resolution. Riley spoke to the tourism plan and said those results were presented to the Planning Commission. She thanked all members who participated in submitting a survey. She spoke dock electrification and electrification of the diesel buses.
- c. **Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories**
Gear spoke to the City's emissions, inventory for the Electric Department, and non-city emissions. She told about the project of a series of measurable what-if scenarios, and reductions /greenhouse emissions. Borneman said she had been researching wastewater and solid waste.
- d. **Municipal Solid Waste**
Borneman said she had been researching the solid waste document. She noted that there were organizations that were doing incredible work, and it's just trying to figure out what works best for Sitka.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

C. Discussion/Direction: Decarbonization Resolution

Riley explained the difference between an ordinance and a resolution. She said a resolution would help to be able to apply for grants. She explained how it would relate to city operations, facilities, and transportation. Barkhau felt the resolution should state or encourage decarbonization the ought the rest of the community. Riley noted that net-zero would allow the flexibility to pursue emissions reductions in a variety of ways. Including all the infrastructure and transportation alternatives that were needed. Bagley felt that net-zero could be problematic as it drives to a specific point whereas decarbonization was nebulous.

VIII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD *(not to exceed 3 minutes on topics on or off the agenda)*

Larry Edwards cautioned the CATF on using the term net-zero the question being what would be netting and remaining fossil fuel use against.

Carol Voisin shared her concerns about public participation. Joel Hanson spoke to the public information session with Kord Christianson.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting was scheduled for March 1, 2022 at 6:30 p.m., Harrigan Centennial Hall/Videoconference

Osborne moved to adjourn the meeting. Seeing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Attest:
Jess Earnshaw, Staff Liaison