

Climate Action Task Force Minutes

Tuesday, March 1, 2022 6:30 p.m.

Videoconference

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

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 Gear (videoconference), Kent Barkhau (videoconference), Darby Osborne (videoconference), Elizabeth Borneman (videoconference)

Absent: Caitlin Woolsey (unexcused)

Staff: Deputy Clerk, Jess Earnshaw

Others: None.

III. CORRESPONDENCE /AGENDA CHANGES

Riley moved to add an Etip update from Rob Jordan, Microgrid Coordinator for the Renewable Energy Alaska Project under unfinished business. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

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

None.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 7, 2021

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

REPORTS

Chair: Bagley told about a meeting that was had with Assembly members Mosher and Himschoot about future Climate Action Task Force discussion items. She spoke on the Sustainability Coordinator was still in the budget and said liaisons would notify the Climate Action Task Force if letters of support were needed.

Task Force Members: Barkhau announced that the Alaskan Municipal Climate Network would be hosting a meeting on Friday with a member of the Geophysical Union and would be talking about the Greenhouse Gas Inventory.

City Staff: None.

Other(s): Assembly member Mosher spoke about the Sustainability Coordinator and felt that there was support for this position to stay in the budget.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

B. Working Groups/ Updates

a. Etip Update

Rob Jordan, Microgrid Coordinator for the Renewable Energy Alaska Project announced that Electric Department had allowed Kord Christianson to attend public events as an employee and to engage community members on topics of the work that had been done. Jordan gave an Etip update that included the completion of the grid optimization model that would be tested at the end of March, and training for the electric staff in April. He noted that they were looking at wave technology. Reported that the Department of Transportation had released guidelines on national electric vehicles.

b. Electric Vehicle/ City Infrastructure

Riley provided an update on the decarbonization resolution almost completed, waiting for some greenhouse gas emissions inventory numbers. She gave an update on the contents that included the five following items: 1) clean energy infrastructure in new construction and major renovations of all City owned buildings, 2) inventory of City owned buildings that use fossil fuels, and evaluation of the feasibility of retrofitting them by 2030, developing a plan to retrofit city owned parking lots and buildings, 3) EV charging stations and prioritize purchasing zero-emission or low emission vehicles, 4) informing the and educating other local entities from school districts, major institutions, businesses with large transportation and also federally owned infrastructure on this plan to decarbonize and encourage them to adopt similar policies, and 5) completed impact assessment on requirements on new commercial and residential developments to have clean energy for heat light and power.

Riley moved to recommend that the Municipal Administrator in conjunction with the City and Borough of Sitka Assembly Members consider applying to the Rural Energy Pilot Program Grant from the Department of Agriculture Rural Development Agency to conduction community energy planning required for the decarbonization of the City operations. Motion passed unanimously.

c. Sustainable Tourism

Osborne reviewed the draft sustainability commission ordinance that she had been working on. She explained what could be in the ordinance such as the quorum size, term, meeting dates, positions, goals, coordination with local entities, and the purpose.

d. Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories

Grear spoke about 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.

f. **Municipal Solid Waste**

Borneman said she had been researching the solid waste. She had been trying to get more information on specific kinds of solid waste, and what was being produced in our community.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

C. Discussion on Future Climate Action Task Force Meetings

Bagley told of the quorum size for the CATF meetings. Deputy Clerk, Jess Earnshaw explained about the costs related to noticing of meetings, quorum size, summer months meetings, and the Climate Action Resolution. CATF felt that moving to quorum size down to seven members would be the best option.

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

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting was scheduled for April 4, 2022, at 6:30 p.m., Harrigan Centennial Hall/Videoconference

Grear moved to adjourn the meeting. Seeing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Attest:
Jess Earnshaw, Staff Liaison