

Climate Action Task Force Minutes

Tuesday, April 5, 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 6:31 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: None.

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)*

Rob Jordan with Renewable Energy Alaska Project told of his position as a Microgrid Coordinator which entailed assisting communities to develop renewable energy projects and community development of public policy. He gave a briefing on the electric grid project that was being done in Sitka.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. March 1, 2022

Riley moved to approve the March 7, 2021, minutes. The motion passed 6-0 by voice vote.

REPORTS

Chair: Bagley told of the resignations from Caitlin Way, Caitlin Woolsey and quorum concerns.

Task Force Members: Riley informed the Commission about the USDA Grant on what it was designed for. She noted that it was meant for developing commercially viable alternative energy sources. Riley told of discussions about the decarbonization resolution with the Municipal Administrator and Assembly Liaisons. Barkhau gave an update on the Etipp meeting with City and ALFA.

City Staff: None.

Other(s): Assembly member Himschoot said that the Sustainability Coordinator position was still in the budget.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

B. Working Groups Updates

a. Electric Vehicle/ City Infrastructure

Bagley told of the research that Task Force Member Riley had done on the decarbonization resolution. She noted examples came from the City of Tacoma, Washington where they had worked on. She informed the Commission that the Municipal Administrator had requested support in drafting the Sustainability Coordinator job description. Bagley spoke to the Sustainability Commission draft ordinance work that had been done by Task Force Members Osborne and Riley. Riley said that she had been working with the Electric Department to review the resolution. Barkhau stated that a decarbonization resolution that includes only municipal activities was different than one that includes the community. He noted that municipal activities were approximately four percent of energy in the community of Sitka.

Assembly Liaison Himschoot explained that the scope of the Task Force was to work on the City.

b. Sustainable Tourism

Osborne stated that she was still reviewing comments to the resolution and had hoped to have it completed soon.

c. Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories

Gear reported progress that progress had been made on the Greenhouse Gas inventory. She said she had received data from the City on fuel usage, and felt that it was a good estimate.

d. Municipal Solid Waste

Borneman reported on the compost meeting with Pacific High. She told of future developments that they would be doing such as a composter and community garden that they would be sharing with the Blatchley.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

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

Kathleen Kreiss wondered if fishing fleet and aviation emissions would be included in the community emissions. Carol Voison wondered about the process of changing the Task Force to a commission. Leah Mason spoke to the public policy, outreach, and Sustainability Coordinator. Larry Edwards spoke to include questions and answers as an item on the agenda.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting was scheduled for April 4, 2022, at 7:40 p.m., Harrigan Centennial Hall.

Grear moved to adjourn the meeting. Seeing no objection, the meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Attest:
Jess Earnshaw, Staff Liaison