

Climate Action Task Force Minutes

Tuesday, June 7, 2022 6:30 p.m.
Harrigan Centennial Hall/Videoconference

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

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, Catherine Riley, Kent Barkhau, Darby Osborne

Absent: Molly Grear, Elizabeth Borneman

Staff: Administrative Coordinator, Holley Dennison

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

None.

REPORTS

Chair: Chair Bagley told of a community project leadership course.

Task Force Members: Member Riley informed the Commission of outreach on decarbonization work in Sitka. She will be gone for 5 weeks. Member Barkhau noted a new CBS Strategic Plan.

City Staff: Jess Earnshaw is out of town this week.

Other(s): None.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Working Group Updates

a. Electric Vehicle/ City Infrastructure

Chair Bagley told of an infrastructure bill in support of electric vehicle charging facilities. Member Riley spoke of the Alaska Energy Authority information session on funding. She told of the Tribe's efforts for eventual transition to electric buses.

b. Sustainable Tourism

Liaison Mosher reported on the Green Corridor, spoke of Assembly concerns, and possibility for a Sustainability Coordinator to assist. Member Barkhau elaborated on Green Corridor participants.

- c. Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories
Member Riley reported progress on the Greenhouse Gas inventory and updates to the 2021 Municipal emissions data.
- d. Municipal Solid Waste
Member Riley reported on a Wrangell wastewater stream survey and community compost programs in Wrangell and Juneau.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- B. Strategic Plan Presentation by Melissa Henshaw, Public & Government Relations Director.
 - a. Henshaw provided a summary of the Strategic Plan, outreach efforts, and timeline overview. She answered questions regarding the Strategic Plan details and a vision for Sitka's future was discussed amongst the group.
- C. On-bill Financing for energy efficiency upgrades and fuel switching projects Presentation by Matthew Jackson, Southeast Alaska Conservation Council
 - a. Jackson presented information on On-Bill Financing programs available, grant opportunities, incentives, and benefits to CBS. A discussion was had about specifics on the different programs, concerns on rising costs, contractor fees, installing and maintenance. Bagley reminded of costs to CBS and staff time.
- D. Transition Sitka
 - a. Kay Kreiss reported on locations to install EV fast charging stations. She noted Sitka may pursue an exemption to install less than 4 chargers. She told of EPA funding for a Clean School Program and options for SSD to apply and utilize old buses. Details on converting buses were discussed.
- E. Decision/Direction: Next steps on Commission Ordinance
Member Riley moved to approve the motion to approve an ordinance to make the task force a sustainability commission. The motion passed 4-0 by voice vote.
- F. Planning for the implementation of the Decarbonization Resolution
 - a. Chair Bagley expressed thanks to the task force and Assembly for the resolution work. Member Riley advised to compile next steps to support this resolution and collaborate with CBS staff.

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

Larry Edwards spoke to the Strategic Plan survey and desired a town hall meeting. Carol Voisin congratulated the group on the decarbonization resolution and voiced concern of the cities capacity to generate electricity.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting pending for July 5, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., Harrigan Centennial Hall.
Member Barkhau moved to adjourn the meeting. Seeing no objection, the meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Attest:
Holley Dennison, Staff Liaison