

Climate Action Task Force

Minutes

Tuesday, September 21, 2021 6:30 p.m.
Videoconference

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bagley called the meeting to order at approximately 6:32 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Task Force members present: Elizabeth Bagley (videoconference), Catherine Riley (videoconference), Kathleen Kreiss (videoconference), Kent Barkhau (video conference), and Caitlin Way (video conference), and Darby Osborne (video conference)

Absent: Molly Gear (excused), and Caitlin Woolsey (excused)

Staff: Deputy Clerk, Jess Earnshaw

Others: Joel Hanson and Larry Edwards

III. CORRESPONDENCE /AGENDA CHANGES

None.

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

Joel Hanson told about the upcoming one-year anniversary of the establishment of the Climate Action Task Force.

Larry Edwards requested to be on the next Climate Action Task Force agenda to do a ten-minute presentation on renewable energy option in Sitka.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None.

VI. REPORTS

Chair: Bagley reported that she and Co-chair Riley would be having a meeting with John Leach, City administrator tomorrow about the upcoming Assembly work session.

Task Force Members: Riley reported on the Alaska Municipal Climate meetings that she and other Climate Task Force members had been attending. Kreiss told about a grant opportunity for National Academy of Science Community of Practice grant, called the gulf research program for equity training and that the grant proposal would be awarded in November. She felt this maybe something that the City and Borough Sitka may want to take advantage of and that may bring opportunities for Sitka.

City Staff: Earnshaw reported that due to the Municipal Elections on October 5th, that the next Climate Action Task Force meeting would be on Thursday, October 7th at noon via zoom.

Other(s): None.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. ETIPP Updates

a. City

Grear noted that they are getting started on the statement of work and it would be approximately five to six weeks before they would know what the timeline would look like.

b. ALFA

Barkhau reported that ALFA had signed a program of work, and goals had been refined. They are looking at hybrid conversion demonstration, expand on deck gear and electrifying.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

B. Working Groups

a. Federal policies to support/endorse and grant opportunities

Riley reported on the infrastructure bill and budget reconciliation negotiations. Would report later when she had more of an update on these bills. Told about electrification resolution that was put forward by the Juneau Assembly that was passed in 2014 that directed the Climate Action Task Force to work on electrification installation of charging infrastructure throughout the town. Osborne and Riley would like to explore to see what that would look like if the City and Borough of Sitka's Assembly passed a directive like this for the Climate Action Task Force to pursue.

b. Climate action approaches in Sitka

Way gave updates on the health summit would be on Thursday, September 23rd, and that FDA Strategic planning, and school board district strategic planning was also going on.

c. City relations

Bagley explained about the process that the City Administrator would like for future city requests. Kreiss would like to see the Electric department to look at the document that she wrote to see if it would be beneficial to them.

C. Assembly work session planning

The Climate Action Task Force worked on their visions for what sustainable Sitka would be. Spoke on the importance of having an Assembly Liaison.

D. City Requests

Kreiss would like to request that the Electric Department review the EV charging document.

IX. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (*not to exceed 3 minutes on topics on or off the agenda*)
Joel Hanson suggested that the Climate Action Force to try an exercise, what their vision would be in ten to fifteen years on what Sitka would look without the public having any access to gasoline or diesel

X. ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting was scheduled for October 7, 2021 at 12:00 p.m., Videoconference

M – Riley moved to adjourn the meeting. Seeing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Attest:
Jess Earnshaw, Staff Liaison