

Climate Action Task Force Minutes

Tuesday, October 19, 2021 6:30 p.m.

Videoconference

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bagley called the meeting to order at approximately 6:38 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Molly Grear (excused), Caitlin Woolsey (excused), and Caitlin Way (excused)

Staff: Deputy Clerk, Jess Earnshaw

Others: Assembly Member Himschoot and Larry Edwards

III. CORRESPONDENCE /AGENDA CHANGES

None.

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

Eric Jordan said that several community members are organizing a local climate group. He relayed that some of the discussions which included on taking action on community meetings, vision, and mission statement.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Barkhau move to approve the minutes of September 7, 2021. Motion passes by a unanimous voice vote.

VI. REPORTS

Chair: Bagley thanked Caitlin Way for doing a great job on Health Summit. She spoke about the two initiatives that were approved at the health summit. One was to set up a homeless shelter, and the other was to revitalize recreational activities which was known as community schools. And third project was community composting.

Thanked

Task Force Members: Riley reported on the next Planning Commission meeting that would be discussing options on downtown traffic next year that would possibly have an impact parking on passenger accessibility and some other options may have better climate implications. She also noted that the Climate Action Task Force may want to support specific plans or plan recommendations. Barkhau relayed that the Community of Practice has renamed itself to the Alaskan Municipal Climate Network. He said that they have formed a working group within the network which includes emissions in the inventory; he felt that revisiting the emissions reduction should be a future agenda item.

City Staff: None.

Other(s): None.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

B. ETIPP Updates

a. City

Chair Bagley relayed that Gear informed her that she has a graduate student here in Sitka working with her. She will be working with Molly Gear on renewable energy.

b. ALFA

Barkhau said that ALFA did meet with BAE Systems which was a company that put together the first fuel cell powered ferry in San Francisco, California.

C. Working Groups

a. Federal policies to support/endorse and grant opportunities

Riley gave a briefing on the reconciliation package negotiations that was still at a federal level. Will report a later time as the bills progress. Barkhau spoke about a carbon fee and rebate program.

b. Climate action approaches in Sitka

Barkhau reported on the presentation that was done by Zahn. He said a draft report was on composting. Spoke about a solid waste composting program for the community. He thought this would be more of a long-term goal to start working on. Borneman said she was working on a report on projected climate impacts that would give city employees or other interested community members what Sitka would look like at 2015 or what will it look like at 2075, and how these impacts would impact city infrastructure such as buildings, roads, or the airport. The report would be accessible information for all.

c. City relations

Chair Bagley reported that member Gear will be starting to research and document on Greenhouse Gas Emissions inventory.

D. Assembly work session planning

Chair Bagley reviewed outline for the work session with Assembly.

E. City Requests

Request to have an opinion on whether the City can add the requirement to sales taxes reporting for quantities of fuel. Ask City Administrator, John Leach about the EV infrastructure plan, potential sustainability staffer on the upcoming work session, and can the Climate Action Task Force help advise on the RFP.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

F. Presentation-Renewable Energy Option for Sitka

Larry Edwards gave a presentation on renewable energy option for Sitka.

He spoke on can district heating and heat storage help Sitka's energy situation, if SEARHC builds a new hospital? He briefed the commission on a seawater sourced heat pump district heating system, what heat exchangers look like for BTES boreholes, and about a seawater-source heat pump combined with borehole heat storage.

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

X. ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting was scheduled for November 2, 2021, at 6:30 p.m., Videoconference

M – Riley moved to adjourn the meeting. Seeing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Attest:
Jess Earnshaw, Staff Liaison