

Climate Action Task Force Minutes

Tuesday, December 7, 2021 6:30 p.m.
Videoconference

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

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

Absent: Caitlin Woolsey (excused)

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, Microgrid Coordinator for the Renewable Energy Alaska Project gave an Etipp update on distributed energy technologies, talked about a survey that was being done to look at all the potential uses of renewable energy, and spoke to funding source options.

Joel Hanson spoke to the Sustainability Commission Resolution. He encouraged the Climate Action Task Force to draft their own Sustainability Commission Ordinance, to model Juneau's resolution and to have it approved by the Assembly.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None.

REPORTS

Chair: Bagley gave an update on the public records request. She reported on her meeting with Riley, Municipal Administrator Leach and Assembly Liaison Mosher on next steps for the Climate Action Task Force. She informed the Task Force that a Sustainability Coordinator position was included in the draft City budget. Bagley explained of the process of moving agenda items forward.

Task Force Members: Riley told the commission that they would be responsible to help recruit a great candidate for the position if it were included in the budget. Barkhau told about a discussion he had with Royal Caribbean about their sustainability report. He told about the goal of reducing emissions and net zero by 2050.

City Staff: Mosher told the commission that the Sustainability Coordinator position was in the draft budget. He noted the position would benefit and help the City long-term.

Other(s): None

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. ETIPP Updates

a. City

Riley thanked Rob Jordan for the information that was provided to the Task Force and for his work. Barkhau suggested to bring discussions to the community about the different Etipp priorities. Rob Jordan told about an outreach communications plan. He stated that the City and Borough of Sitka had a top-notch Utility Department.

b. ALFA

None.

B. Working Groups

a. Climate impacts in Sitka

Borneman gave an update on the climate impacts document. She requested the Task Force provide any input on the document. The Task Force thought to keep the document to keep it clear, concise, and short.

Riley moved to continue working on the document with the aim of completing it as per the Climate Action Task Force review by January 29th.

The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

b. GHG emissions inventory

Gear reported on a meeting she had with the City on potential ways to retrieve more of their data such as fuel usage. She attended a meeting with Barkhau and community members from Juneau and discussed how to do a greenhouse gas inventory.

C. Policies/grant opportunities

Riley stated that the priorities that were listed connect with some funding opportunities. She said she was looking at equity components of federal grants. Spoke to guidance centering equity in grant reports and demographic data that would be needed to make grant applications successful. Darby said she received an email from Michael Horn, Alaska Municipal Climate Network regarding a grant opportunity.

D. City Requests

None.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

E. 2022 Climate Action Task Force Priorities Sheet

Joel Hanson spoke to the 2022 Priorities Sheet. He felt that outreach and education needed to be included as a priority and needed to be a specific direction in establishing a resolution or ordinance.

Chair Bagley thanked Riley for her work. Riley reviewed the 2022 Climate Action Task Force Priorities Sheet with the Climate Action Force.

Grear moved to include education, outreach, and mention of the risk assessment to the cover letter. Motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Riley moved to adopt the 2022 Climate Action Task Force Priorities List with a determination of the expected timeline under the priority areas and the addition of a cover letter that mentions the components to include education, outreach, and mention of the risk assessment. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

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

Rob Jordan spoke to building codes recommendations. He told about types of impacts such direct versus/ indirect cost. Joel Hanson expressed his concerns of food prices were increasing. He would like the Task Force to consider food security as a high priority.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting was scheduled for January 4, 2021 at 8:30p.m., Harrigan Centennial Hall/Videoconference

M – Riley moved to adjourn the meeting. Seeing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Attest:
Jess Earnshaw, Staff Liaison