

# Climate Action Task Force Minutes

Tuesday, March 16, 2021 7:00 p.m.  
Harrigan Centennial Hall/Videoconference

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

## I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bagley called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

## II. ROLL CALL

Task Force members present: Elizabeth Bagley, Kent Barkhau, Elizabeth Borneman, Molly Gear (videoconference), Kathleen Kreiss (videoconference), Catherine Riley, Caitlin Way, Caitlin Woolsey (videoconference)

Absent: Darby Osborne (excused)

Staff: Deputy Clerk Melissa Henshaw

Others: Joel Hanson, Larry Edwards, Thor Christianson, Kevin Knox, Kevin Mosher

## 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.

## VI. REPORTS

Chair: Bagley reminded the climate solutions 101 video series that was emailed out as a resource.

Task Force Member: Riley reported the Planning Commission had been tasked with a tourism master plan and more details would be discussed at the next meeting. Kreiss reported the HNHS would be meeting tomorrow with the goal that may overlap with the Climate Action Task Force. She would attend the meeting.

City Staff: Henshaw relayed that she has taken a different position within the city, and that there would be a new staff liaison when a new Deputy Clerk was hired which she would train. She reminded that absences needed to be excused which could be done by notifying either the Chair or the staff liaison prior to the meeting. She told of the Chair's ability to allow for public comment at any item on the agenda.

Other(s): None.

## VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Subcommittee focus areas

Bagley asked the subcommittees to share their findings for first quarter. Grear shared she was representing city infrastructure and greenhouse gas baseline committee. The subcommittee came up with guiding values which Grear relayed that a baseline was needed along with what had been implemented from the 2010 Climate Action Plan. Opportunities would be identified from there. Another focus would be aligning with other boards and commissions and the possibility of having a permanent sustainability or climate commission.

Kreiss gave history of the 2008 greenhouse gas emissions inventory and details. She said that for consistency, the same framework may be needed to be made if city wanted to renew the membership at a cost of \$600. She mentioned the ETIPP proposal at no cost for assistance and felt it could be easy to support a lot of directions that city staff had indicated for direction and listed those examples. She felt funding sources should be looked at.

Bagley noted the opportunity to partner with the city. She thought to ask for specific updates that were needed from the 2010 Climate Action Plan. Riley thought that some of the transfer of knowledge could be done / tapped by task force members. Bagley would come up with a table that could be circulated to share knowledge and contact information.

Way reported on the community engagement subcommittee that she and Woolsey were a part of. They would be meeting weekly and would complete outreach. She shared guiding values and noted the industries to be looked at were fishing, tourism, healthcare, business sectors, and others. She went over information that needed to be collected and from whom. Woolsey went over goals and what input was needed from the remaining members of the task force. Kreiss wondered how a survey would be administered and thought that a meeting could be advertised to collect and assist with public outreach. Riley relayed the planning department conducted a survey about the sale of the former Sitka Community Hospital building as a google forms survey and noted the need for a wide distribution. Woolsey also wondered how to outreach other commissions. Bagley thought possibly to have city led committee outreach separate from other community.

Riley with Barkhau told of their aim of the policy opportunities subcommittee to recommend policy changes and ideas on three levels: municipal, state, and federal. They thought to use the comprehensive plan layout with one or two top policies under the headings of the plan. Barkhau wondered how to approach ideas about greenhouse gas emissions. He stated to recommend policy for assembly approval. He would like to look at ways to generate revenue to further the goals and policies such as grant seeking. Riley thought tourism could be a good focus for a first quarterly report. Kreiss stated it was critical to recommend to the assembly what the target should be. She thought to support for a net zero goal by 2050 and be a part of the international goal. Bagley felt that focusing on a local level was critical. She noted goals for the first quarter of an information gathering stage and alignment. Then second quarter focus on targets and more advocacy. Kreiss felt that

answers were needed in a timely manner from city staff from Table C3. Bagley stated the table would be created in Google Docs then to ask staff for clarification, progress, or an update. Barkhau thought it would be beneficial for the task force to become familiar with the Comprehensive Plan.

Borneman stated her and Osborne were the grants and opportunities subcommittee. She told of goals to research grants, loans, and other financing opportunities including partnership with other entities. First quarter would be a broad look at direct opportunities/grants and looking at the opportunity to amplify scholarship, loans, training. Riley thought there was an overlap between policy and funding and how to work together to connect them. Riley would send Henshaw the Andrew Gallagher guide. Kreiss also noted a two-page handout from the Citizens Climate Lobby prepared that she would send to Henshaw.

#### **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **B. City requests**

Bagley with the inventory subcommittee would draft a table based on the 2010 Climate Action Plan. She would share and ask for input from other members that included contact information. It would then be shared with city staff for more clarification. She felt once the task force had a better understanding of where that was at, then the task force could ask city departments to present. She thought updates could take place three ways 1) email, 2) presentation and conversation, 3) tour of facility.

Commissioners thought to have the Electric Department present in April and possible special report to the assembly in May.

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

Joel Hanson commented on greenhouse gas line baseline subcommittee noting the 2008 original baseline inventory. He wondered if fuel suppliers were approached with a letter to local managers of the fuel suppliers if it could be productive to see if they would supply information. He thought to figure out how much fossil fuels are consumed in the community.

Larry Edwards stated the Southeast Alaska Regional Advisory Committee three-day meeting started today noting it consisted of federally appointed members from rural communities and gave details from the meeting.

#### **X. ADJOURNMENT**

Agenda items discussed: Outreach with other boards/commissions. Subcommittees.

Next meeting was scheduled for April 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., Harrigan Centennial Hall/Videoconference

**M – Barkhau / S – Riley moved to adjourn the meeting. Seeing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.**

Attest:  
Melissa Henshaw, Staff Liaison