

# Climate Action Task Force Minutes

Tuesday, April 20, 2021 7:00 p.m.  
Harrigan Centennial Hall/Videoconference

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**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 7:00 p.m.

## II. ROLL CALL

Task Force members present: Elizabeth Bagley, Catherine Riley, Kent Barkhau, Elizabeth Borneman (arrived at 7:06 p.m.), Molly Gear, Kathleen Kreiss (videoconference), Darby Osborne, Caitlin Way, Caitlin Woolsey

Absent: None

Staff: Deputy Clerk Jess Earnshaw, Public and Government Relations Director Melissa Henshaw (video conference)

Others: Joel Hanson, Larry Edwards (videoconference)

## 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

A. April 6, 2021

**M – Gear / S – Riley moved to approve the April 6, 2021 minutes. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.**

## VI. REPORTS

Chair: None

Task Force Members: Gear reported that Sitka was one out of eleven communities that was chosen to be under the ETIPP program. Barkhau spoke about the Alaska Longline Fishermen’s Association fishing fleet that was reliant on diesel fuel imports. He also said with ETIPP they would investigate the possibility of an electrified fishing fleet to reduce diesel reliance. Riley gave an update on the joint work session between the City and Planning Commission. She discussed the scope of the Master Plan with the main focus being congestion; passenger dispersal; electric buses; and traffic movement on Lincoln Street. Osborne announced that Earth Day would be on Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 5 p.m. there would be four to five speeches on climate change. She also said Youth for Sustainable Futures would meet with Senator Murkowski or staff members on Earth Day with questions on energy capacity and infrastructure.

City Staff: Jess Earnshaw requested Task Force members to email her their summer travel schedules.

Other(s): None.

## **VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **B. Preparing for creating the presentation**

#### **Process for creating the presentation**

Bagley said she would prepare a shared Google slide presentation; she would create it and would send it to Jess Earnshaw, Deputy Clerk to send to the task force. Riley questioned the ground protocol for entering information into shared slide show. Bagley suggested that she and Riley would set rules of engagement for this presentation and agreed to those rules. Barkhau suggested that time was right for the Assembly to support carbon pricing and House Resolution 2307. Riley felt that there could be a section of the presentation to have recommendations to support climate action at a federal level but would like to see it more broadly; possibly have the Assembly resubmit letters of support. Barkhau stated that it was going to take more than just one policy. Bagley said she was going to add a slide to the presentation called emerging opportunities to support climate action at a federal level.

#### **Working Groups**

##### **City Requests**

Gear said she and Riley sent out questions to the City to fill the gaps in the 2021 Climate Action implementation spreadsheet. Mr. Leach responded that it may not be possible to answer all of the questions on the timeline requested. Riley said if we do not get all the answers to the questions, we may request that the Assembly commit to more staff time so they can answer the questions.

##### **Comparable Initiatives (Juneau-Anchorage)**

Way said she and Woolsey met with Jim Powell from the Juneau Sustainability Commission and they talked about public outreach. Powell invited the Task Force to attend one of their commission meetings. He spoke about how they acquired funding for their electric bus. He suggested that we engage in frequent conversations with Assembly members and focus on one main goal and do it well. Woolsey restated Powell's advice to identify current issues that are important in our community, and to find a way to align climate change concerns with community concerns.

##### **Co-crafted policy**

Riley spoke about the co-crafted policy and asked if the City had any suggestions about how the city could reduce carbon emissions, or ideas about possible grants or programs that the task force could follow up on. Kreiss said that the community cohort talked about the CPACE program that Anchorage launched April 1st. She said that the Legislature has established a program that allows commercial enterprises to get energy audits. The program would allow for commercial funding from the bank with the city

paying the low-cost loan for energy efficiency. She thought to focus on a similar CPACE program as a policy initiative for the City of Sitka.

### **Grant opportunities**

Riley said that the task force could recommend grants /opportunities to the city and that recommendations should be focused on a few opportunities. Barkhau and Kreiss found out about the ETIPP proposal and they drafted a letter; the electric department said that they were already working on it. Riley said that the Juneau Commission of Sustainability was a working commission that writes the grants that funds the projects that they focus on. Henshaw said there was a grant that the Parks and Recreation committee recommended, and they got two assembly sponsors, but people on the Parks and Recreation committee ended up writing most of the grant. Then they gave it to the Administrator, and the Assembly gave him approval to apply. Woolsey questioned who does the grant reporting? Henshaw responded and said that the finance department has a grant accountant who does the reporting.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **C. Long-climate action planning in Sitka**

Riley said there was a lack of long-range vision in the 2010 plan, as the City and Borough of Sitka Resolution 2009-37 directed the Task Force to set a 25% reduction target from 2003 levels which entails reducing greenhouse gas emissions from municipal operations by 933.25 tons annually to achieve a 25% reduction by 2020. The plan does not look past 2020. Borneman said these are meant to be living documents, adjusted throughout time. Barkhau stated the mayor and Kevin Mosher did ask for a report. He asked what that report should look like; what were the targets; and how do we get commitment? He suggested a work session with the assembly to propose a plan; and for them to provide some direction on what that plan could encompass. Kreiss said she was unsure that a document would be impactful. She asked if it runs to 2030, should the city be aiming for a 50% reduction; what was that a reduction from, and how would it monitor community emissions versus municipal emissions? She stated the need to focus on community wide emissions and how they would be monitored? She agreed that it was important to have a target, but she feels that 2050 was too far away. Bagley said a lot had been learned in this information gathering quarter; but noted the need of the Assembly's guidance going forward. She said that recommendations would be made during the presentation, but direction was needed from the Assembly in order to be aligned with the city. We were now planning for the next quarter and beyond, to be well aligned, and a longer-term was needed.

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

Joel Hanson said that it was important to have a target. He said that the Task Force had identified one of the chapters as emerging opportunities for policies at the federal level. It may be important for the Task Force to support a target and work towards it as well to start with. Previous Climate Action Plan lasted two years from time of signing of resolution to time of the report. He said it was important in the meantime to get as many targets and plans in place as possible. He stated he would like to see this group become a Sustainability Commission.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

Agenda items discussed: Keep all old business items and revisit the city presentation to see progress made. Add climate targets as a discussion item under new business. ETIPP updates from Kent and Molly should be a standing agenda item.

Next meeting was scheduled for May 4, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., Harrigan Centennial Hall/Videoconference

**M – Osborne / S – Barkhau moved to adjourn the meeting. Seeing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.**

Attest:  
Jess Earnshaw, Staff Liaison