
Health Needs and Human Services Commission Minutes

Tuesday, March 30, 2021 12:00 p.m.
Teleconference

Commission Members:

Charlie Woodcock, Cecilia Dumouchel, Doug Osborne, Loyd Platson
Stephanie Hawney, Tristan Guevin, Lakota Harden
Crystal Duncan (Assembly Liaison)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Woodcock called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Charlie Woodcock (teleconference), Cecilia Dumouchel (teleconference), Doug Osborne (teleconference), Loyd Platson (teleconference), Stephanie Hawney (teleconference)

Assembly Liaison: Crystal Duncan (teleconference)

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

III. CORRESPONDENCE / AGENDA CHANGES

IV. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Joel Hanson gave his input on the Commission's 2021 goals and would like the Commission to add food security as a high priority. He stated doing this would help the Planning Commission's work and could also help advance some of the possibilities improving Sitka's food security. He also recognized the work of the Sitka Conservation Society.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

VI. REPORTS

Chair-Woodcock introduced himself as the Director of Youth Advocates of Sitka

Commissioners-All commissioners introduced themselves. The Commission thanked Melissa Henshaw for her hard work for the past years. Also thanked outgoing Commissioner Platson for his time and efforts on the commission.

Assembly Liaison- Duncan introduced herself to the Commission.

City Staff-Henshaw thanked Platson for his service and appreciated all his hard work on the Commission. She also explained about the transition of her new job as the Director of Public and Government Relations Director and introduced Jess Earnshaw as the new Deputy Clerk.

Other- None.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. 2021 Goals

Osborne spoke about the goals: main SMART goal was the People of the Global Majority in Sitka 2021 Health report which would include current data, historical context, information of health disparities, community input and recommendations for the

Assembly.

Osborne stated if the bike ordinance were introduced to the Assembly, he would like to see the Commission support it. He would like to see the electric department have special agriculture rates for large scale greenhouses. He spoke about the food security goal which included community greenhouse and community garden. Dumouchel asked who was going to produce the report. Would the Commission do this or hire outside to produce reports. Osborne suggested that this report would be outsourced and back to the Commission for review and a vote before providing to the Assembly. Harden suggested that it would be beneficial for agencies to come together and poll their expertise when looking at these goals. Guevin favored the goal and said that Sitka had not done a comprehensive health review since 2014. He believed this would help with future decisions. Platson agreed that the health report should be a top goal. Woodcock stated that the health report is on the top of his list.

M-Platson/S-Hawney moved to accept the People of the Global Majority in Sitka 2021 Health report as one of the Health Needs and Human Services goals.

The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Dumouchel spoke about her three goals which included: Better Biking Outcomes and Conditions Ordinances, a plan for a public use composting option, and a policy for recommendation for comprehensive alcohol education in youth. She was in favor of the goal and would support adding community garden to the composting option to benefit food security. Platson stated that composting/community garden and food security goal has moved up to number two on his list. Woodcock agreed and believed this would benefit the city.

M-Osborne/S-Platson moved to adopt as a 2021 goal to research, assess, and provide written recommendations to the Assembly around large-scale composting, community gardens, and food security issues, on an ongoing basis and provide a written report with recommendations by December 31, 2021.

The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Guevin asked if there was any discussion with the Tree and Landscape Committee regarding a community garden. Platson inquired about the possibility of merging the community composting goal with a community shredder so paper could be composted along with food items. Dumouchel stated that given the fact that health care goal was such a large challenge she questioned the logic of introducing another goal. Osborne felt that there were two good goals. He mentioned that the health summit was coming up in September and these other goals could go there. Harden was working with Youth Advocates on young women's support and eventually lead into young men's support. She would report about the progress. Osborne said that he had a discussion with Municipal Attorney Brian Hanson about the bike ordinance that had two sponsors. Platson recommended having the two goals that were already voted on. He felt the Commission had a lot of work with the two goals. Hawney felt that the two goals would be good to go forward with. Osborne suggested to move forward with the two goals.

Joel Hanson thanked the Commission and pointed out that they lended themselves to the potential growing aspect of community garden and although not done this year the direction was for 2022 a community garden.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

M-Osborne/S-Guevin moved to adjourn the meeting. Seeing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Attest:
Jess Earnshaw, Deputy Clerk