



CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

Meeting Minutes - Final Sustainability Commission

Officers: Chair Katie Riley, Vice Chair Aurora Taylor, Secretary Erik de Jong

Members: Elizabeth Bagley, Lilli Garza

Staff Liaison: Bri Gabel, Sustainability Coordinator

Assembly Liaison: Kevin Mosher

Monday, March 4, 2024

6:00 P.M.

Harrigan Centennial Hall

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Acting Chair Taylor called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 P.M.

Present: Aurora Taylor (Acting Chair), Erik de Jong, Elizabeth Bagley, Lilli Garza, Katie Riley (telephonic)

Absent: Kevin Mosher (Assembly Liaison)

Staff: Bri Gabel (Sustainability Coordinator)

Public: Barb Bingham, Larry Edwards, Joel Hanson, Annemarie LePalme, Krystina Scheller

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

Bagley proposed addressing unfinished business after new business.

Seeing no objections, the agenda was changed.

III. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

Approve the February 5, 2024 minutes.

Bagley moved to approve the February 5, 2024 minutes.

Motion PASSED 5-0 by roll call vote.

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

Joel Hanson updated the Commission on the work on the Community Garden initiative by Transition Sitka and the Sitka Local Foods Network.

V. REPORTS

Staff: Gabel announced Commissioners Zermoglio and Voisin resigned and summarized the process for filling their seats. She attended the Climate Planning for Fishing Communities Workshop hosted by the Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association and was able to connect with local commercial fishermen and brought attention to the Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy (SCRES) and how they can be involved. She summarized her attendance at the Electrification Expo.

Chair: Taylor announced that the 2024 Microgrants for Food Security Program through the Alaska Department of Natural Resources was currently open and could support a variety of initiatives.

Commissioners: Riley reminded those in attendance of the federal tax rebates available through the Inflation Reduction Act.

Bagley brought attention to new resources available through Project Drawdown, including a new seminar.

Tourism Task Force: Barb Bingham summarized the progress status of the directives for the Tourism Task Force and their work schedule for the next two months.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**A. Updates and Next Steps for Working Groups**

The Public Engagement and Public Energy Education were combined, and Commissioners indicated their interest in supporting the SCRES technical team in early energy scenario development so they could adhere to their anticipated 3-month work plan. Gabel would follow up with the working groups to arrange meetings with the technical team on their respective topics during the first half of March.

Annemarie LePalme spoke to areas of interest hoped to see included in energy education.

VII. NEW BUSINESS**B. Approve the 2024-2025 Goals and Work Plan**

Commissioners edited the wording of the draft 2024-2025 Work Plan and goals to better reflect the progress towards each goal and anticipated next steps for the upcoming year. Gabel explained that the Chair and Vice Chair would present the 2024-2025 Work Plan to the Assembly for approval during March.

Hanson spoke in support of more emphasis being put on municipal solid waste in the upcoming year.

Riley moved to approve the 2024-2025 Sustainability Commission goals as written below:

- 1. Continue development of the Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy (SCRES)**
- 2. Collaborate with City staff on strategic management of municipal solid waste**
- 3. Support the electrification of the municipal fleet**

Motion PASSED 5-0 by roll call vote.

C. Review Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy (SCRES) Community Scoping Survey Results

Gabel summarized the initial results of the SCRES community scoping survey and how it would be integrated into the technical team's work plan. She asked Commissioners if there were comparisons or visualizations they would like to see from the responses. Taylor requested comparisons between homeowners and renters. A full report would be presented at the next meeting.

Bagley suggested the Commission reflect on the challenges and successes of running the survey and how it could inform future surveys and/or engagements. Gabel summarized the collection methods and how successful or unsuccessful they were.

D. Review SCRES 3-Month Work Plan

Gabel reviewed the technical team's anticipated 3-month work plan and how the work groups would be utilized to keep the technical team on track to ideally have Sitka's energy history education module ready for review in May. She gave an overview of the concept map tool the team was using to incorporate Commission direction into development of the modules.

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

None.

IX. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA

The next meeting was scheduled for April 1, 2024 at 6:00 P.M., Harrigan Centennial Hall.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Acting Chair Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting.

Seeing no objection, the meeting ADJOURNED at 7:53 P.M.

Minutes By: Erik de Jong, Secretary