



CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

Meeting Minutes - Final Sustainability Commission

Officers: Chair Katie Riley, Acting Vice Chair Elizabeth Bagley, Secretary Carol Voisin

Members: Aurora Taylor, Fernanda Zermoglio, Lilli Garza, Erik de Jong

Staff Liaison: Bri Gabel, Sustainability Coordinator

Assembly Liaison: Kevin Mosher

Monday, February 5, 2024

6:00 P.M.

Harrigan Centennial Hall

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Staff Liaison Gabel called the meeting to order at approximately 6:06 P.M.

Present: Lilli Garza (telephonic, left at 6:17 P.M.), Erik de Jong, Katie Riley (telephonic), Aurora Taylor, Carol Voisin, Fernanda Zermoglio, Kevin Mosher (Assembly Liaison)

Absent: Elizabeth Bagley (excused)

Staff: Bri Gabel (Sustainability Coordinator)

Public: Larry Edwards

II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

CHAIR

Zermoglio moved to nominate Riley as Chair; Riley accepted the nomination.

Riley was ELECTED as Chair 6-0 by roll call vote.

VICE CHAIR

Zermoglio moved to nominate Taylor as Vice Chair; Taylor accepted the nomination.

Taylor was ELECTED as Vice Chair 6-0 by roll call vote.

SECRETARY

Voisin moved to nominate de Jong as Secretary; de Jong accepted the nomination.

De Jong was ELECTED as Secretary 6-0 by roll call vote.

III. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

Voisin MOVED to address unfinished business after new business.

Motion PASSED 5-0 by roll call vote.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

Approve the December 5, 2023 minutes.

Riley moved to approve the December 5, 2023 minutes with proposed amendments.

Motion PASSED 6-0 by voice vote.

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

None.

VI. REPORTS

Staff: Gabel reported that she would be virtually attending the Alaska Forum on the Environment and had been working extensively with the Sitka Community Renewable Energy (SCRES) technical team to develop a workflow now that they had moved from scoping into execution.

Commissioners: Voisin invited those in attendance to the Electrification Expo on February 17th.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Updates and Next Steps for Working Groups

Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy (SCRES) Working Groups

Public Energy Education: Voisin and Taylor reported on their meeting with the technical team and the development of outcomes for the education portion of the SCRES.

Public Engagement Planning: No report from members. Gabel informed the Commission that she had asked the technical team to create a short-term engagement plan for the ongoing survey that could be used as a structure for future engagement planning.

GHG Emissions Inventory: No report from members. Gabel reported that she had provided the technical team some data they could use to familiarize themselves with Sitka and that she would reach out to the working group members as soon as the technical team asked for their input.

Municipal Solid Waste: Zermoglio and Riley reported on their meeting with Ron Vinson, Public Works Director, Mike Stenberg, Maintenance and Operations Superintendent, and Gabel and outlined the approach the group would take to start addressing solid waste collaboratively.

Municipal Fleet Electrification: Riley reported that there were some potential challenges with future changes to the fire code and that she was open to collaborating with other Commissioners on this goal.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

B. Review and Amend the Bylaws

Zermoglio asked Gabel to inquire if there was flexibility on the limit of annual teleconference occurrences as outlined in Article III Section B of the Sustainability Commission Bylaws which cited Sitka General Code 2.60.050(f), due to the number of Commissioners that traveled for work regularly.

C. Update Regular Meeting Time

Zermoglio MOVED to amend the Sustainability Commission Bylaws, Article 4 “Meetings”, Section A “Regular Meetings”, to reschedule the regular meeting from 6:00 PM on the first Tuesday of the month to 6:00 PM on the first Monday of the month.

Motion PASSED 5-0 by roll call vote.

D. Review 2023-2024 Work Plan

Gabel summarized the Commission’s 2023-2024 Work Plan and that the goals approved by the Assembly last year would take multiple years to complete. She explained that the Commission would need to confirm that these goals would remain the same for 2024-2025. She outlined areas of the report she would update and create to reflect the accomplishments of the past year.

Commissioners suggested that Gabel coordinate with the working groups to update sections about their respective goals to reflect their updates and anticipated changes based on the work of the last year.

Gabel noted that a revised 2024-2025 Work Plan would be on the March agenda for Commission approval.

E. Review Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy Outcomes

Gabel explained that the outcomes of the SCRES would help the technical team develop their work plan and early education modules and ensure alignment with what the Commission wanted to see out of the early SCRES work. The Commission reviewed and suggested additions to the outcomes listed in the meeting packet.

Larry Edwards commented on the role of snow pack on Sitka's annual electricity generation capacity.

F. Review Clean Energy-to-Communities Outcomes

Gabel explained how the Clean Energy-to-Community (C2C) and SCRES projects supported one another, and outlined how the outcomes addressed different needs to achieve a sustainable energy future. Commissioners asked clarifying questions and made recommendations to increase clarity.

IX. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

None.

X. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA

The next meeting was scheduled for March 4, 2024 at 6:00 P.M., in Harrigan Centennial Hall.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Voisin moved to adjourn the meeting.

Seeing no objection, the meeting ADJOURNED at approximately 8:13 P.M.

Minutes By: Bri Gabel, Staff Liaison