



CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

Meeting Minutes - Final Sustainability Commission

Officers: Chair Katie Riley, Vice Chair Angie Bowers, Secretary Carol Voisin

Members: Elizabeth Bagley, Kent Barkhau, Aurora Taylor, Fernanda Zermoglio

Staff Liaison: Bri Gabel, Sustainability Coordinator

Assembly Liaison: Kevin Mosher

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

6:00 P.M.

Harrigan Centennial Hall

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

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

Present: Katie Riley (Chair), Elizabeth Bagley (left at 6:55 P.M.), Kent Barkhau, Angie Bowers, Aurora Taylor, Carol Voisin, Fernanda Zermoglio (arrived at 6:35 P.M.), Kevin Mosher (Assembly Liaison)

Absent: None

Staff: Bri Gabel (Sustainability Coordinator), Amy Ainslie (Planning Director), Jessica Earnshaw (Deputy Clerk)

Public: Larry Edwards, Eric Jordan, Leah Mason, Lisa Sadleir-Hart, Callie Simmons, Richard Wein

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

Voisin moved to delay New Business Item A until after Item C so Bagley would be present for Commissioner feedback.

Motion FAILED 2-4 by voice vote.

III. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

Approve the January 9, 2023 minutes.

Bagley moved to approve the January 9, 2023 minutes.

Motion PASSED 6-0 by voice vote.

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

Leah Mason asked how the public will be involved in the process for the projects going forward. She saw the Commission as a group that can bring people together at the same time around important issue and would like to see the Commission look long term not just short term.

V. REPORTS

Staff: Gabel reported that the survey was at 35 responses and asked that all the Commissioners send out the survey to other organizations and friends. She added that resource distribution from Commissioners would be consolidated into one email sent on Friday afternoons.

Chair: Riley reported that she sent a letter to Commissioners explaining her response to Voisin's request for an additional agenda item that was denied. She stated that Commissioners did a good job on their proposals. She also thanked Bagley and Gabel for distributing the Rand report on tourism.

Commissioners: Bowers reported that there would be a presentation by Bren Smith, founder of GreenWave, on March 9th and to watch for flyers with more information.

Voisin reported that on March 18th there will be an electrification expo.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approve Proposed Amendments for Commission Bylaws Article V: Setting the Agenda

Voisin explained her concern was that the democratic process should have no gatekeepers and that the Commission should determine the agenda items. Bagley stated that the Chair has the 3,000-foot view and should determine the agenda with the staff.

Bowers moved to approve the proposed amendments to the Commission Bylaws Article V: Setting the Agenda as outlined in the packet.

Motion PASSED 6-1 by voice vote.

B. Provide Commissioner Feedback on Project Proposal Worksheet Submissions

Eric Jordan stated that he thought the Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Project (ETIPP) community energy plan was the best proposal. He noted that the updated the greenhouse gas emissions should include the entire area including boats and aircraft in Sitka. He stressed the importance of needing to know all the emissions in Sitka.

Lisa Sadleir-Hart stated that she looked for proposals that reduced the use of energy. She supported the community energy plan, weatherization and conservation proposal, and the rightsizing of tourism. She expressed that the rubric needed to be fleshed out and suggested that the Commission needed a work session to review the proposals before March meeting.

Mason supported the ETIPP community energy plan, conservation and weatherization plan, and saw a relation between them with community engagement.

Commissioners proceeded to write their comments on each proposal through a modified SWOT analysis process. Gabel noted that there are three sources of feedback for the proposals: the public survey, Commissioner feedback, and staff evaluation.

C. Introduce and Explain the Project Proposal Staff Feedback Rubric

Mason expressed her support for rubrics and asked about the City staff's understanding of sustainability. She added that the presentation of each proposal was important and that each needed to recognize social factors in their proposals.

Jordan restated that the greenhouse gas emissions inventory needed to be Sitka-wide.

Sadleir-Hart stated that more detail defining the rubric was needed. She also felt that Commissioners could benefit from using the rubric.

Gabel explained the intent of the proposal staff feedback rubric was to help the Commission balance the equation for sustainable change when they formalize their priorities, not to rank projects on feasibility and quality. She provided Commissioners with definitions of terms and drew attention to the intensity metric, as it was paramount to determine what the Commission can take on for the next year and what City staff had capacity to do.

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

Mason stated that Commissioners need to consider the impact that each of these proposals will make on the community and the City staff.

Larry Edwards asked how the proposals would be presented to the staff and then the Assembly. He asked whether the public survey, though limited, would be included in the Assembly presentation. Gabel explained that the Chair and Vice Chair would present the prioritized projects to the Assembly in March and that the results of the public survey would be included in the 2023-2024 Work Plan.

IX. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at 6:00 P.M., Harrigan Centennial Hall.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Riley moved to adjourn the meeting.

Seeing no objection, the meeting ADJOURNED at 8:30 P.M.

Minutes By: Carol Voisin, Secretary