



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, August 1, 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), Angie Bowers, Aurora Taylor, Carol Voisin, Fernanda Zermoglio, Kevin Mosher (Assembly Liaison).

Absent: Elizabeth Bagley (Excused), Kent Barkhau (Excused)

Staff: Bri Gabel (Sustainability Coordinator)

Public: Barb Bingham, Larry Edwards, Gavin Holder

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

No agenda changes.

III. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

Approve the June 6, 2023 minutes.

Taylor moved to approve the June 6, 2023 minutes.

Motion PASSED 5-0 by voice vote.

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

None.

V. REPORTS

Chair: Riley expressed excitement that the city had purchased its first electric vehicle, a janitorial van.

Staff: Gabel announced that the City's application for the Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Project (ETIPP) to create a community renewable energy strategy was successful. She noted that she had no updates beyond a congratulations as initial meetings were still upcoming but would have much more information in September.

Commissioners: Zermoglio reported that the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) had funding set aside for ocean plastic pollution for national work, something that had often been internationally based and would send a notice of funding opportunity when it was published.

Assembly: Mosher reported that he sent the Alaska Heat Smart recommendation information to the Municipal Clerk for distribution to the rest of the Assembly.

Tourism Task Force: Barb Bingham outlined what the Tourism Task Force had done in its work sessions and reviewed the directives, priorities, and working groups. She noted the Task Force would start having regular meetings in the Fall after tourist season ended.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Updates and Next Steps for Working Groups

Public Engagement: Taylor reported that the working group had not met in July but met with Gabel individually. They determined that much of the working groups tasks would be determined by what other working groups needed to accomplish their work. It was suggested to revisit the ETIPP FAQ they had previously drafted to get it approved for circulation now that the ETIPP work was secured.

Solid Waste: Zermoglio reported that Gabel had been in contact with the working group to help with improving recycling rates at the recycling center on Sawmill Creek Road, as city staff had noticed more improperly sorted items recently. The working group determined it was a good idea to help with signage and education to increase recycling rates in the short term. Suggestions for signage was made as well as other outreach and partnerships that could be formed to educate youth. Zermoglio inquired about what funding was available for signage. Gabel explained that she would work with the city to find money to support what the Commission would create.

EV Fleet Electrification: Gabel reported that the new Head Mechanic was working on a more accurate fleet composition as the current one was lacking substantial data. She asked commissioners for metrics that would be useful to pull that might help form the fleet transition plan. Suggestions included odometer readings, uses, and fuel types for emission profiles. Taylor suggested that trailers be included as towing capacity is important. Gabel added that she was working with the Harbors Department to gather data on a truck that was due to be replaced and that if the commission had any methodology recommendations that they share them with her.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

VIII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Bingham commented that she tried to recycle as best as possible but it was difficult to know what was and was not accepted at the recycling center.

IX. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA

The next meeting was scheduled September 5, 2023 at 6:00 P.M., in Harrigan Centennial Hall.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Riley moved to adjourn the meeting.

Seeing no objection, the meeting ADJOURNED at 7:10 P.M.

Minutes By: Bri Gabel, Staff Liaison