



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, September 5, 2023

6:00 P.M.

Harrigan Centennial Hall

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Riley called the meeting to order at approximately 6:02 P.M.

Present: Katie Riley (Chair), Elizabeth Bagley, Kent Barkhau, Angie Bowers (arrived at 6:06 P.M.), Aurora Taylor (telephonic, left at 7:43 P.M.), Carol Voisin, Fernanda Zermoglio (telephonic, left at 8:40 P.M.), Thor Christianson (Alternate Assembly Liaison, left at 7:57 P.M.).

Staff: Bri Gabel (Sustainability Coordinator)

Public: Bruce Belley, Barb Bingham, Kord Christianson, Jayden Cooper, Tukaan Dan, Joel Hanson, Leah Mason, Lisa Sadlier-Hart, Mell Sommer, Gavin Toche

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

Riley proposed to move unfinished business after new business.
Seeing no objections, the agenda was changed.

III. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

Approve the August 1, 2023 minutes.

Taylor moved to approve the August 1, 2023 minutes.

Motion PASSED 6-0 by roll call vote.

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

Joel Hanson spoke to concerns that new electric generation might lead to increased consumption rather than decreasing it.

Lisa Sadlier-Hart gave an update on the progress for the community food assessment that is moving right along with young people involved encouraged those in attendance to take the survey.

V. REPORTS

Chair: Riley congratulated the Sitka Tribe of Alaska on contributing \$150,000 towards helping Tribal Citizens install heat pumps.

Staff: Gabel attended a beach clean-up hosted by the Ocean Conservancy and the Sitka Sound Science Center where they removed 1,500 lbs of marine debris on Kruzof Island. She completed a report for CBS comparing the Ford 150 with the F150 Lightning to help inform decision makers for upcoming vehicle replacements to the city fleet.

Commissioners: Zermoglio announced a “Waste 4 Change” program that was a holistic waste management program in Indonesia and suggested that Sitka could learn from them as they have similar solid waste issues.

Leilani Chow, Energy Coordinator at Sust’ainable Molokai on Their Process for Developing the Molokai Community Energy Resilience Action Plan: Chow presented on the overall approach Sust’ainable Molokai took to creating a Community Energy Resilience Action Plan between 2021-2022. Commissioners asked questions pertaining to community engagement, energy education campaign, specific challenges, and any suggestions for the commission as they began the ETIPP project.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Updates and Next Steps for Working Groups

Public Engagement: Did not have a report.

Solid Waste: Bagley reported that she met with Bowers to discuss what questions they would like to see for the city, specifically around what an ideal Sitka might look like in terms of waste? They suggested it would be a good topic for a joint work session between the Sustainability Commission and the Assembly. They also discussed how waste management may play a role in the Community Renewable Energy Strategy.

EV Fleet Electrification: Did not have a report.

Riley recommended to reorganize working groups to align with the needs of the ongoing Energy Transition Initiative Partnership Project (ETIPP) work as the annual work plan indicated that the goals would be worked on sequentially. Topics included those that became apparent during the initial scoping exercise.

Commissioners volunteered for the following informal working groups:

Public Engagement Planning – Bowers, Riley
Energy Education – Bagley, Voisin
Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory – Barkhau, Zermoglio

Taylor was absent.

Gabel indicated that she would coordinate with each of the informal working groups to find a time to meet with applicable ETIPP experts to begin initial discussions to help further scoping in between regular meetings.

Leah Mason expressed interest in helping the commission tie municipal solid waste to energy.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

B. Initial Community Renewable Energy Strategy Questions For Project Scoping

Gabel outlined the structure of the various partners within the ETIPP network. Technical team representatives from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), and Renewable Energy Alaska Project (REAP) virtually introduced themselves to the commission. Gabel described the commission as an intermediary between the technical team and

the community and would be critical in connecting the two. She continued to provide an approximate timeline of the ETIPP project.

Gabel led commissioners through a discussion exercise to start asking questions based on aspects of CRES and CERAP that apply to Sitka and gaps that need to be addressed. The RACI matrix was introduced: Responsible, Accountable, Consulted, Informed as a tool to discern tasks.

Zermoglio proposed an alternative approach gap between the ETIPP technical report and what the ongoing ETIPP grant proposed to do and should include the vision and aspirations of the community. Gabel noted that this was the goal.

Under public comment, Zermoglio suggested that different philosophical views be considered alongside the economic costs for renewable energy in Sitka and emphasized the Tribe's involvement.

Sadler-Hart asked that with the big players demanding more electrification what can the utility payer be expected to pay for expanding their service? She expressed gratitude for the many questions and cautioned that the answers to them not be rushed and noted that it takes time to develop trust with the community.

Bruce Belley asked how the public will be informed of what is going on and what progress is being made moving forward. He emphasized that citizens need to know the costs for any changes or additions to energy sources and to their electric rates citing the cost of the Blue Lake Expansion Project. He raised issues with the findings of the initial ETIPP report.

Mason wanted to know how the community would be involved. She suggested that before any action is taken that there should be a vision and values process that engages the public.

VIII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

None.

IX. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA

The next meeting was scheduled for October 16, 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 8:44 P.M.

Minutes By: Carol Voisin, Secretary