



CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

Meeting Minutes - Final Sustainability Commission

Commission Members: Elizabeth Bagley, Kent Barkhau, Angie Bowers,
Katie Riley, Aurora Taylor, Carol Voisin, Fernanda Zermoglio

Staff Liaison: Bri Gabel, Sustainability Coordinator

Assembly Liaison: Kevin Mosher

Monday, November 14, 2022

6:00 PM

Harrigan Centennial Hall

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Staff Liaison Bri Gabel called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 P.M. and noted that the Chair would do this in future meetings once elected.

Present: Elizabeth Bagley, Kent Barkhau, Angie Bowers, Katie Riley, Carol Voisin, Fernanda Zermoglio, Kevin Mosher (Assembly Liaison), Rebecca Himschoot (Alternate Assembly Liaison)

Absent: Aurora Taylor (excused)

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

Public: Larry Edwards, Joel Hanson

II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chair

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

Barkhau moved to nominate Voisin as Chair; Voisin accepted the nomination.

Commissioners deliberated the qualifications of each nominee. Bagley spoke to Riley's understanding of parliamentary procedure, experience on other commissions, and connections within the community. Barkhau spoke to Voisin's experience in parliamentary procedure, and prior service on the city council of Ashland, OR.

Election of the Chair was TIED by the following vote:

Riley 3 - Bagley, Bowers, Riley

Voisin 3 - Barkhau, Voisin, Zermoglio

Commissioners returned to deliberation. Riley and Voisin expressed their individual approaches to serving as the Chair.

Riley was ELECTED as Chair 4-2 by the following vote:

Riley 4 - Bagley, Bowers, Riley, Zermoglio

Voisin 2 - Barkhau, Voisin

Vice Chair

Bagley moved to nominate Bowers as Vice Chair; Bowers accepted the nomination. Bowers was ELECTED as Vice Chair 6-0 by voice vote.

Secretary

Riley moved to nominate Voisin as Secretary; Voisin accepted the nomination after she received clarification of the duties from Amy Ainslie. Voisin was ELECTED as Secretary 6-0 by voice vote.

III. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

No agenda changes.

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

Joel Hanson spoke to the state of sustainability, expressed concern for the future, and emphasized the need for urgency in addressing the climate crisis.

V. REPORTS

Staff: Gabel expressed her excitement and that she looked forward to working with the Commission.

Chair: Riley reported Southeast Alaska was selected for the USDA's Rural Partnership Network and that it will provide technical assistance to the region.

Commission Members: Bagley reported Project Drawdown is hosting a free webinar on climate action on December 8th.

Zermoglio reported her employer assisted on the recently published President's Emergency Plan for Adaptation and Resilience (PREPARE).

Voisin reported Transition Sitka has an expo on March 18th where the community can explore personal options for sustainability.

VI. NEW BUSINESS**A Term Assignments**

Gabel explained that as a new commission, the length of first term for initial Commissioners must be picked to stagger the expirations, as mandated in Ordinance 2022-16S. Commissioners volunteered to take 1 year, 2 year, or 3 year slots.

1 year – Bagley, Barkhau, Bowers

2 year – Riley, Zermoglio

3 year – Taylor, Voisin

Barkhau moved to support the above term appointments. Motion PASSED 6-0 by voice vote.

B Set Recurring Monthly Meeting Time

Bowers moved to set the regular meeting time at 6:30 PM on the second Monday of the month. Motion PASSED 6-0 by voice vote.

C Introduction of Suggested Bylaws

Gabel introduced the suggested bylaws to the Commission and explained that they were comprised of sections of establishing Ordinance (Ord 2022-16S) and Sitka General Code. She noted that sections that did not have Code citations could be altered. She drew attention to Appendix A which outlined the annual work cycle that was meant to help the Commission work align with City work.

Larry Edwards suggested the addition of "Reflections, if any on public comments" to Title IV, Article E as section ix. Chair Riley explained that there were ample opportunities to reflect on public comment in the existing structure and items of interest that stem from public comment or dialogue can be added to future agendas. Ainslie explained that a motion to suspend the rules can be made to allow for dialogue with a member of the public.

Commissioners discussed the bylaws and requested further clarification in certain areas be added:

Title II. Article A: The Sustainability Coordinator is the point of contact through which Commissioners will communicate requests for information and involvement from City employees.

Title IV. Article C: Special meetings may be called by the Chair or by request to the Chair.

Title IV. Article D: Informal working groups must be limited to three people to remain in compliance with the Alaska Open Meetings Act.

Zermoglio moved to adopt the bylaws of the Sustainability Commission with the above amendments.

Motion PASSED 6-0 by voice vote.

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

Hanson suggested that the Commission consider the prioritization of a community garden, cited that Sitka was the only large community in Southeast Alaska without a community garden, and noted that it supported the directive to enhance food security.

Mosher spoke in support of Hanson's suggestion and emphasized the vulnerability of Sitka's food supply, particularly during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Barkhau suggested a Special Meeting be called to address the Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Project (ETIPP) Assembly debrief on for December 13th. Gabel agreed to coordinate with ETIPP representatives and the Electrical Department to work out a time in January instead of preemptively calling a special meeting before staff commitments could be made.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting was scheduled for Monday, December 12th at 6:30 P.M., at Harrigan Centennial Hall.

Chair Riley moved to adjourn the meeting.

Hearing no objection, the meeting ADJOURNED at approximately 7:50 P.M.

Minutes By: Bri Gabel, Staff Liaison