



# CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

## Meeting Minutes - Final Sustainability Commission

**Officers:** Chair Katie Riley, Vice Chair Aurora Taylor, Secretary Erik de Jong

**Members:** Elizabeth Bagley, Gerry Hope

**Staff Liaison:** Bri Gabel, Sustainability Coordinator

**Assembly Liaison:** Thor Christianson

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Monday, December 2, 2024

6:00 P.M.

Harrigan Centennial Hall

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### I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

**Chair Riley called the meeting to order at approximately 6:08 P.M.**

**Present:** Katie Riley (Chair), Elizabeth Bagley, Gerry Hope (telephonic), Erik de Jong (telephonic), Aurora Taylor

**Absent:** Thor Christianson (Assembly Liaison)

**Staff:** Bri Gabel (Sustainability Coordinator)

**Public:** Callie Simmons

### II. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

No changes.

### III. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

Approve the November 4, 2024 minutes.

**Taylor moved to approve the November 4, 2024 minutes.**

**Motion PASSED 5-0 by roll call vote.**

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

None.

### V. SPECIAL REPORTS

Callie Simmons presented the 2024 Sitka Community Food Assessment and highlighted food security challenges and opportunities, trends, and changes from the 2015 assessment.

### VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### A. Discussion on Sustainability Commission 2025-2026 Goals

Commissioners reflected on the joint work session with the City Assembly in November and discussed potential focus areas for the upcoming annual work plan based on comments made by Assemblymembers. Topics such as continuing with municipal solid waste and how food security might be integrated with attention to sales tax on groceries and the overlap between food waste and municipal solid waste. Gabel updated the Commission on the Southeast Alaska Solid Waste Authority's (SEASWA) project for a regional municipal solid waste strategy and explained how the Commission might engage with that project.

De Jong expressed concerns over the heating method of the Gary Paxton Industrial Park (GPIP) boat haul out project heating pad that was on an upcoming Assembly meeting and asked how the Commission might make a recommendation for the heating source. Gabel indicated she would follow up with more information. The Commission continued to discuss ways to integrate sustainability into City projects both in early stages and throughout development.

Gabel proposed that a work session be held in January prior to the regular meeting for the Commission to continue to develop goals; Commissioners agreed.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

### B. Discussion/Direction/Decision on Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Final Draft

Gabel introduced the draft of the Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) Inventory and requested feedback on the document's clarity, accessibility, and accuracy. Commissioners made suggestions on areas that needed additional verification such as the marine sector, household heating ratios, and the integration of cruise ship emissions into the report. Requests were made for additional and/or removal of visualizations, inclusions of customary place names, and additional suggestions to holistically communicate the GHG emissions document effectively to the public.

Commissioners requested more time with the draft and to revisit the draft in January after additional time for review. Gabel requested Commissioners have any additional comments to her by the public comment deadline. The discussion concluded with an emphasis to solicit additional public comment from community members.

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

None.

## IX. REPORTS *(Staff, Chair, Assembly, Commissioners)*

**Staff:** None.

**Chair:** None.

**Commissioners:** Taylor reported that the U.S. Geological Survey landslide grant was open until, noted Southeast Alaska's landslide risk, and encouraged those in attendance to spread the word.

Hope provided an update on electric vehicle and alternative fuel work with Tribal Pacific Northwest International that looked at EVs in Norway and the Yukon.

## X. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, January 6, 2025 at Harrigan Centennial Hall.

## XI. ADJOURNMENT

**Chair Riley moved to adjourn the meeting.**

**Seeing no objection, the meeting ADJOURNED the meeting at approximately 7:37 P.M.**

Minutes By: Bri Gabel, Staff Liaison