

CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Special Meeting
Wednesday January 27, 2021

MINUTES

Present: Committee members Michael Cox, David McCaughey, Deborah Rudnick, Gary Lagerloef, Jens Boemer, Tim Meyers, Lara Hansen, Julie Matthews, Derik Broekhoff

Council Liaison: Joe Deets, Kirsten Hytopoulos

City staff: Ron Logghe

Public: Andy Swayne and Kierra Phifer PSE, Philip Favero, Marci Burkel, Diane Landry

Call meeting to Order/Roll Call/Accept of Modify Agenda/Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Jens needs to recuse himself from decisions regarding franchise agreement goals due to his employer working with PSE

Tim is expecting a child in May and will be leaving the committee. We expressed our appreciation and will send him a certificate of appreciation that was shared with the committee

Approve December 18th minutes

David moved to approve the minutes; Lara seconded

Public Comment

Diane Landry, Bainbridge Zero Waste chair, joined us to talk about waste and CAP goals. Slides included as attachment. Diane is proposing that the city work with Bainbridge Disposal to educate consumers about putting food waste in yard waste bins. Discussed putting this in the COBI connects as our next issue and starting the discussion about a potential flyer. Julie, Deb and Mike will work offline with Diane to move this forward.

Philip Favaro asked what the public can do to support CAP implementation? Lara indicated a list of priority actions and calendar, and that community members can particularly help as a voice to bring up these goals in city council meetings or with council members, holding us accountable that they do happen; and also, many items that we can do as individual citizens to contribute to the solution. Julie pointed to the section at the back of the CAP with individual actions. Councilmember Deets encouraged him to reach out with any questions.

CCAC/UAC Subgroup Report on PSE Franchise Agreement

Deb asked about whether undergrounding needs to be or should be a priority, just not fully understanding the pros and cons from the document. Jens mentioned the importance of not detracting from the priority of the looping of transmission, while undergrounding distribution lines may be a more common approach. Deb indicated that she just wanted to be a little more nuanced about the approach to a plan for undergrounding, mostly because there are both pros and cons, even when strictly talking about reliability (e.g., protection from wildfires a pro/but cons like vegetation intrusion and longer response/repair times).

Lara asked for a faster movement to the target and particularly for additionality in meeting the goals. Concerned that we have no schedule to meet any interim goals that are within the timeframe of the proposed agreement length. Derik and Lara will work on a few sentences to add that will address this point. Lara also wants us to ensure that we have interim goals that are not beyond the period of the franchise agreement.

Mike pointed out that CETA is giving them some interim goals. Derik pointed out that demanding clean as a community a) is a small component of PSEs energy delivery and b) may not be as meaningful if it does not push the entire system to steer towards clean energy. Gary and Deb voiced their agreement that we need something that defines a milestone within the franchise agreement period. Mike proposed our addition of interim goals looking towards a quicker move to carbon-free by 2035, a discussion of the undergrounding language, and language around additionality. Since UAC needs to review our changes, we will have to pull this from Feb agenda and get it back on in March, although we could give an update on status to Council in February.

Waste Water Treatment Plant Overflow

- Request from City Council to work with UAC to addressing several issues related to WWTP overflow (form a subgroup with UAC)
- Email to council by Lara, Council approved we work with UAC, Ellen requested we slow down and she'll loop us in when they get a forthcoming study completed
- Kirsten: council was simple, but Ellen has shared some internal complications
- Joe: Up to the committee
- Joe: Kitsap meeting- failures of WWTP around region (Poulsbo)
- Could we collaborate with other communities?
- Lara will email Ellen- timing and scope of the study, our interest is in being supportive and providing climate science expertise since it has been presented as a climate problem

Climate Action Plan

- Road maps: movement on a few things but most holding until the hire is completed
- GHG Inventory: Christian Berg (started with metrics he could do himself in December) working with maintenance to get data, then will be moving on the community data. Gary is interested in supporting replication of Cascadia study, as well as getting some household level data
- Hire: Ron Logghe reported that this is still targeted for the 2nd quarter (5 of 14 vacancies), hydrogeologist offer went out
- Greenhouse gas inventory
- Composting message
- Download from January 13th and 23rd Community Meetings
 - o Community engagement of small groups suggested to continue the conversations
 - o Speaking roster/calendar suggested of going to groups on Island to speak
 - o Joe hopeful that those who attended forums will outreach to people they know, a ripple effect
 - o Lots of asking "what can I do?", so we should think about refocusing on that question and strategizing around outreach on twitter, COBI connects, other venues. A multimedia short video of some kind? A way to capture peoples' attention
 - o Need to have the CAP document more widely available than embedded on the side of the CCAC page in small font.

February 2nd City Council study Session

- Recommendations on Police/Court Building
- Recommendations on PSE Franchise Agreement- document removed but Mike will give an update to Council
- 2020 Progress Report and 2021 Workplan – Mike will remove reference to parks discussion because we have not done that one yet, and get to Ron

Other

- DOE Connected Community Grant – David is working on a concept for submission in mid-February to get to the shortlist. Jens offered a preliminary title to the group about “Recognize opportunities” (acronym for resilient communities... etc.). Jens would like to see how he might engage COBI, community groups, other stakeholders but still very conceptual. Mike suggested they would need a written document for buy-in, and Jens can share this within the next week to get some feedback
- FEMA BRICK funding- hazard mitigation: pre-disaster mitigation funds: grants to decrease community vulnerability to hazards. Looks to be a very large allocation from the Biden administration so this could be a good opportunity, must be pursued by the city
- Race Equity Advisory Committee – Mike and potentially Lara
- Communicating on Climate change through COBI newsletter
- Great climate wins at the state and federal level
- The city is moving forward with Blair King as the new City Manager, and Joe mentioned he could come to a future CCAC meeting

Adjournment

7:37 pm

Materials

D Landry presentation slides included as a pdf attachment.

*Approved by Co-Chair
February 17, 2021*