

Minutes – APPROVED 02/05/20
Juneau Commission on Sustainability
Annual retreat
Saturday, January 18, 2020
Assembly Chambers
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER: @ 9:38 by Chair Duff Mitchell. Commissioners present: Gretchen Keiser, Christine Woll, John Smith, Jim Powell, Anjuli Grantham, Lisa Daugherty and Steve Behnke. Assembly liaison present: Wade Bryson. CBJ liaison: Tim Felstead.

II. AGENDA CHANGES:

Duff says that Wade Bryson will be present for part of the meeting to talk about dock electrification (in regards to Assembly priorities) and about solid waste management and plastics.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: No member of general public spoke to JCOS.

IV. Information items

1. Officers

Duff explains that usually they select officers at the retreat, and then actually take motions to elect them at the next regular meeting. He mentions that he does not intend to be chair moving forward.

Steve nominates Gretchen as Chair. Gretchen says travels a lot, and would want a vice chair who can help out. There is discussion about potential vice chairs; Steve suggests Anjuli, and she agrees.

Christine says she is happy to stay on as secretary.

2. Wade Bryson

Wade discusses why dock electrification was not listed as an assembly priority this year. He says he feels very strongly that it will be a recommendation coming out of the visitor industry task force. The reason that it is not a priority is that they assembly feels like it is already moving forward.

Wade says that there are six topics he has been thinking about revolving around trash. He says that the life of the landfill is 20 years, and that we can actually predict that. 30% of what is filling it up is construction debris, so perhaps that is something that can be dealt with. Recycleworks is a component, and the city is obviously subsidizing the shipment of materials out of Juneau. The city covers a small amount with cost recovery, with cardboard and metals.

The city is repurposing glass. Every percentage of recycling increase adds more time to the lifetime. The new recycling building has made it more difficult to recycle. The high school recycle spots have been removed because people were dumping their trash there.

Wade continues that composting is a huge part of the solution. Commercial businesses are far more responsible for filling up the landfill. He would like to make it easier to compost wet waste. As a hypothetical, he suggests that perhaps the city could compost cardboard instead of shipping it?

Steve mentions that all of these things have impacts on emissions reductions.

As far as single-use plastics go, he suggests that a voluntary compliance program with the business community is what he thinks is a good idea. As far as long-term solutions to the landfill, it is clear that the city can't move the dump and the likelihood of permitting another location is very slim. As soon as the city starts shipping out the trash, the costs are quadrupled. At some point there has to be a way to consume the trash.

He concludes by saying that the assembly is poised for significant impacts in the green, sustainable direction. He wants to make sure we pay for it in a way that makes sense financially. Some examples he has been thinking about include a shredder that saves a few more years, and involving students in voluntary compliance programs – such as students designing their own shopping bags..

He says that he doesn't have the resources to put together the whole package, but if this group can help him come up with the package, he feels like he can get it through the assembly.

John brings up doing outreach, getting on the radio and clearing up public perceptions about recycling.

Lisa mentions that the city's 2008 waste management plan is passe, and that lots of cities are being more aggressive about goals. Whitehorse diversion rate is at 43%; Juneau is at 9% diversion.

Duff suggests the development of a strategy (with some goals), as opposed to a plan.

Jim mentions that there are several drivers for strategy development. We've got the right assembly. We need to understand what the cost is if we don't do it.

There is discussion about public works, and how to work with them. The Public works position may focus on waste.

3. Electric bus

Duff notes that the first bus electric bus is coming this summer, and that there will be another new NoLo grant coming up.

4. Priorities for upcoming years

Steve reviews the assembly priorities for the group.

Duff reviews the subcommittees we had last year to focus on priorities: Outreach, Sustainability Indicators, Energy and Climate; something that was related to food or solid waste was added mid-year.

The group discusses the priorities and subcommittee makeup. They decide on:

Priorities:

Sustainability indicators / climate adaptation:

Priorities: Predictions report, comp plan integration, climate adaptation

Chair: Jim:

Others on committee: Ed King (review the report); Duff

Outreach:

Chair: Christine

Priorities: Sustainability awards, success stories, sustainability sessions

Others on committee: Gretchen, Lisa, Jim

Waste:

Chair: Lisa

Others: Anjuli, Ed, Duff,

Priorities: Highlight issue and framework recommendations

Energy:

Chair: Steve

Others: Gretchen, Anjuli, Duff

Priorities: EV Plan, CBJ Energy Management, JRES incremental steps, dock electrification

The group discusses potential options for other meeting times.

The group thanks Duff for all his hard work as chair over the last few years.

V. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting Adjourned 12:38

Submitted,

Christine Woll, Secretary for Meeting