

Minutes

Juneau Commission on Sustainability
Wednesday, June 10, 2020
Downtown Library, Large Conference Room
12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

- I. CALL TO ORDER: @ 12:10 by Chair Gretchen Keiser.** Commissioners present: Gretchen Keiser, Jim Powell, Lisa Daugherty, Steve Behnke, Anjuli Grantham, and Duff Mitchell. CBJ liaisons present: Tim Felstead and Beth McKibben. Assembly liaison: Alicia Hughes-Skandijs. Planning Commission: Eric Peterson

I. AGENDA CHANGES

- a. Notes

Gretchen suggests removing approval of minutes from the agenda because the minutes sent out are incomplete.

- b. Action taken: Steve makes a motion to approve the agenda with removal of approving of minutes. Anjuli seconds the motion, and it is approved.

- II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** No member of general public spoke to JCOS.

II. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. General Update/Restart since last mtg (3/4/20) - *Committee chairs*

- a. Notes

SOLID WASTE: Lisa Daugherty spoke about updates on the Solid Waste committee. She recently had a meeting with Lori Sowa and Stuart Ashton with CBJ, to ask them how JCOS could help or what they could do. They said that they need the assembly and mayor to make goals first. Lori's main concern is to get into compliance for waste water and trying to pinpoint where the sources are coming from and what they can do to reduce/address those. Lisa reminded us that we could come back to plastic bag as a solid waste input, but that we can't do that right now because of COVID-19. She said that composting is also something the group could work on but she is worried about conflict of interest. There is a Break Free From Plastic Pollution federal bill that we could ask the assembly to declare their support for.

Gretchen says that the committee needs to get together to move things forward. She mentions that Beth said that there is a chance there will be no work session because of CBJ capacity.

Jim says he wants to help on the solid waste issue. He mentions that when we did the renewable energy strategy, we started with data, and then developed strategies from this. He asked if we have information and data about solid waste?

Tim says that as far as he knows, they have not done any new data development since that was done originally in 2008 solid waste plan. He thinks it would be Lori to take the lead if an effort to get more data was to move forward and that maybe a contractor could do that type of study.

Lisa said she hasn't talked to Lori about this issue, but she knows that they've done a solid waste residential study in Wrangell. She also said that if we wait for the data, then we may never actually do anything.

Anjuli mentions that landfill doesn't have a whole lot of control over what comes in. Steve says there must be some requirements about businesses reporting this information. Jim reiterates that he thinks data and studies could be helpful.

Gretchen suggests that we at least understand what reporting and requirements are out there, and then we can go from there.

ENERGY: Steve reports out on the energy committee. He says that the annual report that Gretchen put together is a good reflection of what the current status is. He says he doesn't really know that status of what is happening at CBJ right now. He says there are a lot of questions and issues that are still unresolved. For example, how much is CBJ spending on energy and how much energy is being used. He assumes that in times of tightened expenditures that it makes sense to have energy savings still be a priority. He also doesn't know what the status of dock electrification is. He reports that CBJ did fund a 2nd year of Alaska Heat Smart.

Gretchen suggests touching base with Jeff Rogers to find out more from CBJ. She says that there is also a new CBJ Engineering & Public Works Director named Katie Koester and that maybe we could reach out to her to see what she needs or to help nudge her.

Steve suggests that we send Katie the report to get her up to speed.

OUTREACH: Christine, the Outreach committee chair, provides an update. She says that the website and Facebook page are working very well, and that stories are periodically being updated. She reminds new members to check out and share the Facebook group Sustainable Juneau. She says that the group had a variety of ideas for sustainability sessions before COVID-19. Those included getting an update from the ADEC about the air quality monitoring they did in Juneau; refreshing the public on the Juneau Renewable Energy Strategy and the Juneau Climate Action Plan; and some sort of public education about waste and recycling. She says that it may make sense to think about how to do them virtually.

Beth says that we could talk about how to do virtual sustainability sessions but that it might have to wait a few months until there is more staff capacity.

Gretchen likes the idea of doing something simple as a "test" to see what the public appetite is.

Jim suggests that focusing sustainability sessions on food security could be good, because it is a hot topic and related to COVID-19.

SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS: Jim provides an update on sustainability awards. There is a new draft that he thinks is ready to move forward. Gretchen reminds everyone that the process would be to take it to the HRC Committee next.

- b. Action taken: Christine makes a motion to hold off on discussing and approving the draft sustainability awards, but instead discussing further at the next work

session, and taking action on it at the next regular JCOS meeting in July. Steve seconds the motion and it is approved.

2. Climate Impacts Report

a. Notes

Jim provides update on UAS report. He says it should be ready by December or January.

3. Covid-19 Stimulus Funding & FY21 Budget re Sustainability Projects/Goals

a. Notes

Anjuli reviewed the CBJ budget, and she noted that shore side power was removed. Also, wastewater real-time monitoring was eliminated from the budget. She wonders whether CARES act funding could be used for sustainability issues.

Gretchen notes that an EV charging initiative is still in the budget.

Alicia confirms that their reading of the budget is correct. She mentions that as far as the ability for CARES funding to be used to move forward sustainability goals, they are looking to see what any guidance is as it changes. But right now, it is fairly specific and the timeline is as well.

4. Proposed Northern SE Intertie Project Status

a. Notes

Duff mentions that the proposed Northern SE Intertie project is moving forward, and there is a large request to Congress for dock electrification. Anjuli asked if there is anyway JCOS can help move the proposal forward. Duff suggests that this is just an information item for now.

5. JCOS Annual Report

a. Notes

Gretchen says she wrote a draft and has received some comments, and so she would like more feedback. Christine asks when we would need JCOS to approve the report by. Tim says that we could approve at the July meeting, with deadlines being pushed back because of COVID-19.

b. Action requested

Commissioners are to send any comments to Gretchen no later than June 15th.

6. JCOS Membership & 6/2020 terms

a. Notes

Gretchen notes that the seats filled by Christine, Ed, and Jim are all due to expire June 30, 2020.

III. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Duff mentions that Ben Haight has been given the go ahead to complete the CBJ dock electrification study.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting Adjourned 1:21

Submitted,
Christine Woll, Secretary for Meeting