

**MINUTES**  
**Juneau Commission on Sustainability (JCOS)**  
**Wednesday, February 2, 2022, 12:00 p.m. (Noon)**  
**Zoom**

- I. Call to Order.** Vice Chair Grantham called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.  
*Commissioners Present:* Chair Gretchen Keiser; Members Steve Behnke, Lisa Daugherty, Anjuli Grantham, Danielle Meeker, Duff Mitchell, Colin Peacock, James Powell, David Teal  
*Commissioners Absent:* None

A quorum was present.

*Staff & Others Present:* Staff Liaison Beth McKibben, Planning Commission Liaison Paul Voelckers; Assembly Liaison Carole Triem

*Members of the Public Present:* Nicole Velasco

- II. Agenda Changes.** Ms. Grantham suggested that discussion of Alaska Heat Smart's receipt of HUD grants be added to VI. Information Items. Ms. Daugherty asked about the status of changing the name of the Solid Waste Committee. Item added to V. Action/Discussion Items. Mr. Mitchell requested to provide update on dock electrification study in conjunction with update on RAISE grant in V. Action/Discussion Items.

**III. Approval of Minutes.**

a. January 5, 2021

Ms. Grantham noted one panel was missing from schedule of JCOS-AARP Sustainability Series. Mr. Peacock will moderate panel on April 20th panel on food and waste.

**MOTION** Mr. Behnke moved to approve the January 5, 2021 minutes with the corrections noted; Mr. Mitchell seconded. ***Hearing no objection, the minutes were approved with corrections as noted by unanimous consent.***

**IV. Public Participation.**

Mr. Paul Voelckers introduced himself as the new liaison to the Planning Commission.

**V. Action/Discussion Items**

a. **Election of Officers**

Chair Keiser announces current candidates for officer position: Gretchen Keiser for Chair (continued role), Anjuli Grantham for Vice Chair (continued role), and Danielle Meeker as Secretary.

**MOTION** Mr. Mitchell moved to accept the slate of candidates. Mr. Behnke seconded. ***Hearing no objection, the candidates were elected by unanimous consent.***

**b. Annual Retreat follow up**

Chair Keiser pointed out that the meeting packet includes her notes from JCOS Annual Retreat on 1/15/2022. Chair Keiser asked the rest of the Commission if anything is missing from her notes, and revisited the question of whether “Climate Change and Sustainability Indicators” should be its own committee.

Mr. Powell responded that he is not sure if a committee is needed, but will be asking other commissioners for assistance and input to developing sustainability indicators.

Mr. Teal has developed a spreadsheet table to track progress on JCOS projects. Several committee members discussed different processes for sharing the spreadsheet in accordance with CBJ technology policies while also reducing duplication of effort. Ms. McKibben suggested that she send individual copies of the spreadsheet to each committee chair, who will then be responsible for delegating specific action items and recording progress. Ms. McKibben will then compile all changes and share with JCOS.

Mr. Peacock announced that the tentative name for the committee discussed at the Annual Retreat is “Local Food & Resource Recovery”.

**c. Dock Electrification Study update/follow up**

Mr. Behnke reminded fellow commissioners that JCOS provided comments to the CBJ Docks & Harbors Draft Dock Electrification Study. On January 16th, Chair Keiser attached those comments to a memo to the CBJ Assembly and Docks and Harbors (D&H).

JCOS’ comments included seven (7) recommendations to D&H, City Manager Rorie Watt, and the CBJ Assembly on how to take action and be responsible to RAISE Grant. First item happened yesterday - getting debriefing from DOT about last year’s RAISE Grant. Other key point is that Gretchen just found out that COW is going to be meeting on dock electrification on February 14th. Exact agenda is TBD. Based on JCOS participation in

debriefing, it appears that the CBJ is looking to contract with lobbying firm to work on RAISE Grant application.

Mr. Behnke noted that there are many discussions on how to deal with RAISE Grant. One of the weak points of 2021 application was that it overemphasized Benefit-Cost Analysis. DOT Staffer implied that the emphasis for first round is responding to key topic areas (e.g., safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, economic development). Point system is used to grade applications on their suitability. CBJ application was recommended for additional review. DOT provided recommendations on how to strengthen environmental sustainability component, which is consistent with recommendation to Assembly that they use JCOS assistance. We don't know yet how CBJ intends to proceed, but it makes sense for JCOS to be in the loop. Mr. Behnke noted that there is at least one other grant possibility being explored by Docks & Harbors, and that the CBJ Assembly included dock electrification in its top five priorities.

Several Commissioners discussed RAISE grant application process and role of JCOS.

**MOTION** Chair Keiser moved to empower Energy Committee and Chair to act on behalf of JCOS at upcoming COW meeting to seek clarification on how dock electrification study is going to be revised and/or completed, as well as JCOS role in 2022 RAISE Grant application. ***Mr. Mitchell seconds for purposes of discussion.***

Several Commissioners discussed wording of request from JCOS to CBJ regarding clarification on JCOS role.

**MOTION** Mr. Mitchell moved to support Chair Keiser's previous motion, with exact wording of communication between JCOS and CBJ to be worked out between Chair and Vice Chair. ***Hearing no objection, the motion was approved with unanimous consent.***

**MOTION** Mr. Mitchell moved to send letter of appreciation from JCOS to DOT staff member Mr. Hill, who provided feedback on RAISE grant application. Mr. Mitchell will draft letter and send to Chair and Vice Chair for review and approval. ***Hearing no objection, the motion was approved with unanimous consent.***

## **VI. Information Items**

- a. **Climate Impact Report.** Mr. Powell provided update on status of report, which is currently being formatted and should be finished by the end of February, before going out for review by co-authors and UAS. Report will be shared with JCOS as a

draft or final draft. CBJ provided \$5000 for the study. Report will be shared with City Manager in preferred format. If report is received by Assembly, it will provide extra documentation in support of city's climate and sustainability goals. Mr. Powell noted that Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) has put out a RFP for their climate change adaptation plan, and has selected a contractor.

- b. Sustainability Indicators.** Mr. Powell noted that he assisted with FNSB's identification of three indicators, and pointed out that CBJ will need to have data in order to develop and track indicators. Mr. Powell suggested a potential collaboration with FNSB.
- c. HUD Grant.** Mr. Behnke announced that Alaska HeatSmart is in the process of figuring out how to develop and implement a \$2 million program to help lower-income households address moisture and energy problems and add heat pumps. AK Heat Smart is creating opportunities to collaborate with Tlingit & Haida Regional Housing Authority. Mr. Behnke noted that there is an opening for non-profit and community groups to put together proposals to work with the city to solve community problems. Other groups could use AK Heat Smart's model of working with the city to bring in additional funding.

#### **VII. Commissioner Comments.**

Planning Commission Liaison Paul Voelckers requested additional information on JCOS' mission, duties, and relationship to Assembly. Ms. McKibben directed Mr. Voelckers to the enabling resolution on the JCOS website..

Mr. Mitchell thanked Assembly member Triem for attending RAISE Grant debrief on 2/1/22.

Public member Nicole Velasco introduced herself.

Mr. Powell added to his previous comments by mentioning that the Fairbanks North Star Borough is interested in vehicle electrification and that there may be value in a future meeting with FNSB representatives.

#### **VIII. Next Meetings**

Work session on 02/16/22.

#### **IX. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 1:32pm.

Submitted by Danielle Meeker, Secretary