

FINAL MINUTES
Juneau Commission on Sustainability (JCOS)
Wednesday, May 4, 2022, 12:00 pm (Noon)
Zoom

I. Call to Order Chair Keiser called the meeting to order at 12 pm.

Commissioners Present: Chair Keiser, Steve Behnke, Lisa Daugherty, Anjuli Grantham, Duff Mitchell, David Teal

Commissioners Absent: Colin Peacock, Danielle Meeker, Jim Powell

Staff & Others Present: Staff Liaison Beth McKibben, CBJ Assembly Liaison Carole Triem, Planning Commission Liaison Paul Voelckers, Engineering and Public Works Director Katie Koester, CBJ Architect Jeanne Rynne, CBJ Engineer Associate Lisa Eagan-Lagerquist

Members of the Public Present: Sara Gress, Alec Mesdag

II. Agenda Changes
None

III. Approval of Minutes
A. April 6, 2022

Approved without change by unanimous consent.

IV. Public Participation

Alec Mesdag (Alaska Electric Light & Power, AELP). AELP's recently approved rates for Electric Vehicle (EV) chargers are:

1. Not intended for home chargers — the target is banks of level II chargers on dedicated circuits.
2. Exempt from power resale restrictions.
3. Lower than rates for dedicated demand loads.

V. Action/Discussion Items

A. Update EV Planning, Infrastructure, and Fleet Conversion

Katie Koester (EPW). Issues associated with Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) projects for EV infrastructure include:

1. Where to place chargers. Twin Lakes and various parking lots are under consideration.
2. Incentives Available. Exploring
 - Federal formula funding to states.
 - Community grants.

3. Areas with limited off-street parking. On-street chargers are problematic (ownership issues and interference with snow plowing) — current strategy is to attempt to place chargers in off-street locations within walking distance of homes. Mr. Mitchell suggested consideration of church parking lots.
4. CBJ fleet of EVs.
 - Six replacement buses are covered by grants, but not yet ordered.
 - Charging infrastructure is included in plans for the (underway) construction of the Valley Transfer Center.
 - There is no mandate for fleet conversion to EVs.
 - It is not currently practical to replace many trucks and other large vehicles, but Ms. Koester intends to work with other CBJ departments on a consolidated fleet for the downtown offices and develop a replacement schedule for the 20 or fewer passenger vehicles in the downtown fleet (excluding police vehicles).
 - The first step in fleet replacement is placement of chargers in the Marine View parking garage.

Mr. Mitchell noted that planning resources are available for fleet conversion and offered to provide Ms. Koester with information.

5. VW settlement.
 - \$125,000 of “no strings attached” money is earmarked for Southeast Alaska.
 - There are no current claims on the money, although Alaska Energy Authority has some ideas about planning.
 - Instead, CBJ would like to see the funds used for EV infrastructure (public chargers on public land) and requested a letter of support from JCOS.

MOTION: Mr. Mitchell moved that the topic be added to the agenda for May 18, giving the Energy Committee chair an opportunity to gather background information required to prepare a draft letter. **The motion was approved without objection.**

6. There was some discussion of Lo-No and other grant processes, including the availability of funding for circulator buses and the long delays associated with planning, ordering, and delivery of buses. Mr. Mitchell advocated for the CBJ to apply for grant money in 2022 rather than put it off until more planning occurs. Currently, there is FY23 money earmarked for planning with Ms. Alexandra Pierce as staff lead.

B. Cloth Diaper Initiative

Sara Gress (Bartlett Regional Hospital) reviewed a letter in the packet and provided the following additional information:

1. The Alaska Children’s Trust has had several requests on this topic and is working to address needs.
2. Approximately 1 million disposable diapers go to the Juneau landfill annually.

In response to a question regarding compostable diapers, Ms. Daugherty noted that reusable diapers were a far more feasible alternative.

Mr. Mitchell suggested that Ms. Gress investigate similar efforts in other communities, including whether the issue is one of education or practicality, and return to JCOS with a specific request for JCOS support.

Chair Keiser noted that the Assembly is currently considering a FY23 CIP for zero waste planning to reduce waste entering the landfill. She encouraged Ms. Gress to provide information to Ms. Koester, EPW.

C. Bartlett Regional Hospital—JCOS letter to waive LEED certification requirements.

Jeanne Rynne and Lisa Eagan Lagerquist (Engineering & Public Works) requested that JCOS send a letter to the City Manager citing grounds similar to those affecting Centennial Hall renovations.

MOTION: Mr. Benke moved that the chair send a letter as requested. After discussion of the cost and value of the LEED certification process, **the motion was adopted by unanimous consent.** Ms. Rynne agreed to document the LEED process as it applies to the behavioral health building (particularly demolition and construction waste) and report to JCOS.

D. RAISE grant update

Mr. Benke had nothing to report other than Docks and Harbors is working on a parallel grant.

E. JCOS Workplan.

Chair Keiser noted that the goal tracking sheet is incomplete and asked chairs to update information.

V. Information Items

A. JCOS-AARP Webinar Series

No information

B. JCOS Recommendation on LEED Exemption (Centennial Hall)

No information

VI. Commissioner Comments

- A.** Mr. Mitchell noted that the JCOS-AARP webinars and the meetings on waste management were well attended and appeared to be well received by the public.
- B.** He also noted that the April 30th, EV/litter pick up produced some good pictures and thanked those that attended.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Submitted by David Teal, acting for Danielle Meeker