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Minutes

CBJ Commission on Sustainability

Wednesday, December 5, 2007, 5:00 pm
Downtown Library, Large Conference Room

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Chair Gayle Wood at 5:05 PM

Present: Sandy Boyce (arr. 5:12), Bob Doll, Catherine Fritz (left 6:00), Jonathan Kamler, Sarah Lewis, Dan Miller, Sally Schlichting, Gayle Wood, Rick Wolk

Absent: Carol Anderson

Staff: Maria Gladziszewski, John Hartle (City Attorney)

Public: Dixie Hood

II. AGENDA CHANGES

A. Mr. Doll and Ms. Schlichting added topics to “Items up for Assembly action.”

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of November 15, 2007 meeting unanimously approved with no changes.

B. Minutes of November 17, 2007, retreat with the following change:

1. Change item II.D.4 to speaker Sandy Boyce.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Open Meetings Act information: Mr. Hartle outlined to the COS that all meetings, including committee meetings, that occur between 2 or more COS members falls under the Open Meetings Act. He had the following specific information and answers to COS questions:

1. The CBJ has not set up an electronic meeting system or protocol, yet.
2. Regarding e-mail, COS members must avoid discussion via e-mail that should happen in a public meeting.
3. All electronic communications are public record, even if on a private computer.
4. Informational documents can be shared with the group through the staff coordinator, Ms. Gladziszewski. In general, it is rarely a good idea to “reply all” to e-mails regarding COS information.
5. Meetings require public notification through the City Clerk’s office, please become familiar with the schedule for notification and plan ahead.

B. Items up for Assembly action

1. Fuel Tax Exemption

- a) Mr. Doll summarized the issue before the Assembly: a waiver of sales tax payments on all fuel delivered to homes and businesses by local fuel distributors. The City stands to lose \$400-500,000 in revenue.
- b) The COS is opposed to this program because it is an endorsement of use of fossil fuel without planning for or promoting a reduction in use.
- c) Several COS members agreed that the COS Energy Committee should write a letter of opposition, and offer oral testimony at the Assembly meeting, with recommendations for the future use of City funds to promote a reduction in fuel use. This promotion could come in the form of grants, tax rebates, or energy conservation consulting and services.

2. Solid Waste Program

- a) Mr. Doll summarized the proposed Assembly action regarding a solid waste strategy. An information sheet was distributed to COS members outlining the 12 recommendations for action approved by the Assembly.
- b) Mr. Doll emphasized that each of the 12 items on the list would likely require future action and the COS should make every effort to weigh-in on each of the issues over the next several years.

C. Committee reports

1. Dan Miller volunteered to serve on the Built Environment Committee.
2. Bob Doll volunteered to serve on the Waste Committee.
3. There was discussion about the structure of the committees, and what level of authority non-COS members will have when invited to be on a committee. The issue was not resolved and will require further discussion and action.
4. The City Operations: Ms. Lewis reported on the committee's first meeting. The committee plans to meet with the City Manager to discuss the COS work and CBJ staff involvement on the committee. The next meeting will be January 8, 2008, noon, at the AEL&P conference room.
5. Built Environment: Ms. Lewis reported on the committee's first meeting.
 - a) There was a general request that this committee prepare a position regarding the Main Street parking garage currently in planning. There is concern that amenities that would enhance and promote the use of public transportation and non-motorized vehicles will be cut from the project due to budget constraints.
 - b) Ms. Lewis will add this topic to the next committee meeting agenda with a goal of drafting a list of "minimum requirements and standards" for the project. The Transportation committee will be kept informed of this topic and meeting times.
6. Public Information: Ms. Schlichting reported on the committee's first meeting. A web-based clearinghouse has been proposed.
 - a) Mr. Miller recommended a booth at the Home Show in spring. Ms. Lewis offered that the Built Environment committee was looking at a booth, as well.

D. Information sharing

1. Ms. Schlichting introduced research she did to follow up on Mr. Miller's interest in personal use fishing regulations.
2. Ms. Schlichting spoke regarding difficulty experienced by the demolition contractor for the Subport in finding support for recycling and reuse of the demolition materials. Discussion ensued, with a recognition that in a small market like Juneau's, it is difficult to time projects so that materials can be reclaimed for use by others. Storage of materials for use later is limited.
3. Mr. Boyce introduced information to follow up on his presentation at the retreat. Current research shows that the sea level will rise as much as 4 ½ feet in this region, not the previously predicted 3 feet. This amount will exceed isostatic rebound.
4. Mr. Boyce offered information about nuclear powered marine vessels and there was brief discussion about the possible applications for cruise ships. This was recognized as an alternative, but it remains to be seen if the benefits can offset the mining costs and the waste costs, and if the regulation and maintenance of such vessels would keep them safe.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

A. Comprehensive Plan Sustainability Chapter

1. Ms. Lewis asked that this item be postponed until the next meeting. The version of the Comprehensive Plan sent to COS members did not include the changes made at the November 15 meeting.
2. This was agreed upon and Ms. Lewis offered to work with Ben Lyman to get the changes incorporated. A committee was named to look at the changes: Sarah Lewis, Rich Wolk, Catherine Fritz, and Sandy Boyce.

B. Comprehensive Plan Energy Chapter

1. Referred to the Energy committee.

VII. NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Next regular meeting scheduled for December 19, 2007, 5:00 PM, at the Downtown Library, large conference room.
- B. Meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm.