

Minutes
CBJ Commission on Sustainability
January 9, 2008
Downtown Public Library Conference Room

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Chair Gayle Wood at 5:25 pm.

Present: Gayle Wood, Rick Wolk, Sandy Boyce, Eva Varadi Bornstein, Sally Schlichting, and Jonathan Kamler by phone. Maria Gladziszewski arrived at 5:30 pm and Kamler arrived in person by approximately 5:40 pm.

Absent: Carol Anderson, Bob Doll, Catherine Fritz, Dan Miller, Sarah Lewis.

Public: Jim Powell

II. AGENDA CHANGES

- a. The following items were removed from the agenda:
 - i. CIP moratorium position
 - ii. Transit Plan position
 - iii. Transit Center position
 - iv. Recommendations for recognition

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of December 19, 2007 meeting were approved with a motion by Mr. Wolk, with the following change: Sandy Boyce recalled remaining for the duration of the meeting, not leaving at 6pm as recorded.

IV. PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Committee Reports

- i. Greening City Operations – Sally Schlichting

The committee met on January 8, 2008. New committee members include representatives of the City's purchasing, human resources, and maintenance departments as well as staff from the Bartlett Regional Hospital and the Juneau School District, and a representative of the private sector. The meeting was also attended by Ms. Gladziszewski and City Manager Swope. Joyce Kitka gave a presentation of the School District's recent energy efficiency initiative, and preliminary discussion with the city representatives focused on the paths and potential barriers to instituting energy efficiency and waste reduction in City Operations.

The next meeting is set for February 12 in Rm. 224 of the Municipal Building.

ii. Energy Committee – Rick Wolk

The committee met on January 8, 2008. The committee has completed comments on about two-thirds of Chapter 6 on Energy of the Comprehensive Plan, and expects to complete the work by the next COS meeting on January 23, 2008.

The committee has also drafted a memo addressed to the Assembly commending the members on their recent decision to vote down the proposed fuel tax exemption ordinance.

The committee is developing an additional memo to the Assembly concerning the challenges facing Juneau from the effects of climate change.

iii. Transportation Committee – Sandy Boyce

The committee elected to postpone meeting until after the holidays; however the meeting scheduled January 9, 2008 was cancelled. A future meeting date has yet to be determined.

Rick Wolk has invited Tony Martin of the University for input on transportation issues.

b. Workgroup for Chapter 2 of the Comp Plan

Wood proposed that an ad hoc committee convene Monday January 14 to complete the revisions of Chapter 2 on Sustainability. Boyce, Wood, Kamler Powell and Gladziszewski agreed to participate. Revisions of both chapters will be finalized for the next COS meeting on January 23. Gladziszewski reiterated the need for completing revisions soon on Chapters 2 and 6 of the Plan.

c. Economy and Workforce Sustainability

Commission members with input from Mr. Powell discussed at length whether to establish an additional subcommittee under this title or to seek instead to integrate economic sustainability throughout the objectives of the currently established committees. Difficulty of staffing an additional committee was raised as a concern. Schlichting suggested the Juneau Economic Development Council play a role possibly in a partnership arrangement with the commission. Members were in agreement that economic sustainability is an important issue that needs to be addressed by the commission. Bornstein stated that the entire scope of economic sustainability cannot be addressed through the individual committees. Bornstein suggested establishing an unstaffed committee on Economy and Work Force Sustainability for future consideration. Powell suggested that the commission consider organizing the goals of the individual committees (Transportation, Outreach, Built Environment, Energy, Waste, City Operations) under the three pillars of sustainability: Environmental, Social and Economic. More discussion is needed on this topic; Wood motioned to table the discussion and that the commission may want

to consider a retreat or a special meeting to focus on economic sustainability and how best to approach it as a core objective of the commission.

d. Election of Officers

Wood stated that it was time to begin thinking about more permanent election of officers. Boyce voiced concerns about workload and Wolk suggested as a solution that the commission might consider officers serving on a short-term, rotational basis. For example a member might serve as chair, vice chair, or secretary for three months at a time. Wood expanded on the idea by suggesting that a member might serve as vice chair for three months first, before moving on to a 3-month term as chair and that the rotational assignments be lined up for a year at a time.

e. Other Information Sharing and General Discussion

- i. Gladziszewski discussed a recent meeting with members of the group, Turning the Tides on the possibility of promoting the practice of permaculture in Juneau. According to www.permaculture.com, “Permaculture is the art and science of designing human beings' place in the environment.” Mr. Powell spoke of related efforts underway in Fairbanks to address food insecurity. Gladziszewski indicated that the comp plan mentions the goal of promoting locally grown foods, but that the issue needs greater advocacy.
- ii. Bornstein inquired about the process for setting meeting dates for committees. Gladziszewski discussed the open meetings act, meeting scheduling, the city calendar and requirements for quorums.
- iii. Wolk asked whether the capability is available to teleconference members of the public. Gladziszewski stated that it might be possible in room 224 of the Municipal Building but that it is not typically an available feature for city meetings.
- iv. Wolk stated that the UAS Sustainability Commission would like to work with the COS; Schlichting requested contact information to begin a dialogue and possible committee member participation and partnership with the UAS commission.
- v. Powell stated that he would forward contact information for the Anchorage Office on Sustainability as a resource for the COS.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

a. Committee Structure and Protocol

General discussion on commission membership, meetings, and protocols. Powell addressed commission member concerns over committee membership, stating that the number and percentage of public members on committees should not be an issue with respect to committee quorums and that it is fine to have public members of a committee forward recommendations to the commission since the commission has ultimate authority over objectives and actions recommended by committees. Therefore no special restrictions on the minimum number of Commission members on committees, or the number present to establish a quorum, should be an issue. No action was taken on this item.

b. **Fuel Tax Exemption Position**

Energy Committee Memo to the Assembly on the Fuel Tax Exemption Ordinance. Wolk ask about the protocol for forwarding memos to the Assembly. Gladziszewski stated that either electronic or hard copy is acceptable, and that the memo should be addressed to the Assembly and advised that the memo be reviewed by Assembly member Doll in advance of transmittal. Wolk motioned that the memo be forwarded to Doll before sending it to the Assembly.

c. **Non-monetary sponsorship of the Renewable Energy Alaska Project Presentation**

Discussion concerned the format of the co-sponsorship in the promotional materials for the presentation (scheduled for 5:30pm January 18 at Centennial Hall). Motion offered by Schlichting that the Commission agrees to co-sponsorship of this presentation provided promotional materials appropriately and fairly represented the Commission.

VII. **ADJOURNMENT**

- a. Next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:00pm Wednesday January 23, 2008 at the Downtown Library.
- b. Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.