

Minutes
CBJ Commission on Sustainability
Wednesday, November 5, 2008, 5:00 pm
Downtown Library, Large Conference Room

Present:

Sarah Lewis
Eva Varadi Bornstein
Bob Doll
Rick Wolk
Sandy Boyce
Sally Schlicting
Catherine Fritz
Gayle Wood
Sean Lynch
Dave Hanna

I. CALL TO ORDER at 5:03pm

II. Approval of agenda

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES with revisions

A. Minutes of September 17, 2008

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Steve Behnke

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. Commission meeting schedule discussed regarding cutting to one meeting per month. Dave mentioned resigning from Commission due to time constraints. Discussion of shifting time to 5:15pm.

Location of meeting discussed. Downtown through April and then will move to Valley location with wireless access. (May- Sept.)

First Wednesday of each month.

Changes Approved by motion. (No second meeting in November.)

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Items up for Assembly action

1. Planning Commission vacancies presented by Bob Doll. Four positions will be opening with two or three seats likely need to be filled by the public. Deadline to apply is Nov. 18, 2008.

2. CBJ Assembly retreat occurred on Monday, Nov. 3, 2008. Draft of 2008-2009 Assembly Goals presented, including sustainability issues such as recycling, criticism of Comprehensive Plan (specifically "green" components of plan), re-examination of energy policy that examines life-cycle costs and other "green" construction features, examine removal of sales tax from food and /or heating oil.(11/19/08 Finance Committee meeting), Areawide Transportation Plan, transit

development plan, assessment of CBJ energy conservation measures, sustainability requirement for capital projects.

Discussion of rationale behind food and heating oil taxes as they relate to Sustainability Commission (SC) and the possibility of SC presenting views to CBJ Assembly as well as other areas listed above.

Possibility of tapping unused energy emergency funds (from sales tax reserve) that went unspent during last spring's avalanche recovery efforts for individuals and businesses instead of removing tax on heating oil in an effort to create an alternate, revenue-neutral plan.

Discussion about what SC gets to CBJ before 11/19/08 on the heating oil tax issue.

Motion passed that Commission communicate to the CBJ Committee of The Whole its previous position on heating oil tax and ask that sustainability issues related to sales tax on food be also considered. (Such as setting aside a percentage of sales tax from food for sustainability.)

Food fell out of Commission's energy focus so it was decided to not include in communication to the Committee of the Whole.

Discussion of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation letter regarding PM 2.5 from wood burning stoves and Valley (and downtown) non-attainment areas. Letter to go to Energy Committee. Energy Committee Chair stated that Committee has more work than resources to address the work. Sean to review instead of Committee.

B. Focus Areas

1. Energy/GHG

- a) Legislative bill re: tax incentives for energy efficiency measures in buildings discussed. This included property tax exemption for energy efficient upgrades draft bill that came from Representative Andrea Doll's office.

Also discussed revolving loan fund for sustainability improvements in Juneau.

- b) Electric cars draft proposal discussed for CBJ passenger automobiles and subsequent AEL&P hydro capacity effect and RCA policy on net metering.

2. CBJ CIP

- a) 5% for Sustainability Ordinance discussed as it pertains to building and design projects. (New buildings and major renovations.) Question about staff interpretation and enforceability has been discussed with CBJ attorney but further action needed before a decision can be made. Other discussion regarding establishment of a base standard (or standards) was offered. To be discussed with Maria when she returns on Nov. 12, 2008.

Anchorage ordinance also offered for comparison. Not all buildings covered by baseline.

Additional discussion occurred about budgeting versus engineering ramifications and objectives as well as how to make Ordinance's implementation, methodology and interpretation more clear-cut and to better align incentives with sustainability issues.

3. Outreach

a) Farmers' Market deficit to be discussed when Maria is available.

C. Local Sustainability Partners - Liaison Reports

Discussion about City Operations (including fleet issues, no idling policies for cars but not buses), UAS (Spring forum and ongoing research), US Green Building Council (Rick will be liaison.)

D. SDAT deadline approaching but we will not pursue due to lack of CBJ support.

E. Information Sharing. Commercial and residential power usage down 8% from last year but government sector only down 2% and is accelerating.

CBJ testing new, more efficient street lights in advance of full roll out.

VII. ADJOURNMENT at 7pm