

Minutes

Juneau Commission on Sustainability
Wednesday, April 1, 2009, 5:15 pm
Downtown Library, Conference Room

- I. CALL TO ORDER by Sean Lynch with the following members in attendance: Sean Lynch, Sarah Lewis, Eva Varadi Bornstein, Bob Bellugh, Gayle Wood, Bob Doll (present for portion of mtg), Catherine Fritz. Staff present: Beth McKibben. Public present: Alida Bus, Diane Slater, Bob Coghill.

New JCOS member, Bob Bellugh was welcomed.

- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the March 4, 2009 meeting were approved with the following revision:

- ◆ Revise first sentence of Item III. C. Modifications of Feb 4, 2009 meeting to read:
“Modification: Item V(2): Eva Bornstein described plans for the next event and explained that the event would hope to obtain \$600 from CBJ funds as match for grant from State of Alaska Agriculture Division.

- III. Committee Membership and JCOS Meeting dates:

- ◆ Bob Bellugh was added to the Food Security Committee. The JCOS meeting venue was moved to the Valley Library conference room from May through September, 2009.
- ◆ Greening CBJ Operations Working Group: Gayle is liaison. She noted that she is impressed by the actions of the group. They are working on a variety of procurement issues, fuel efficiencies, and office conservation measures.

- IV. Board Vacancy Status: Sean noted that we have a current vacancy on the JCOS. There was discussion about the process of selecting new members. There is currently no input from the JCOS on qualifications needed/desired. Meeting attendance by members was also discussed. Eva noted that three seats of current members are up on June 30, 2009.

- IV. Activities Update From Staff Liaison: Beth updated the JCOS with the following:

- ◆ ICLEI document on Outreach & Communications was given to Catherine for Outreach/Public Education Committee review.
- ◆ Institute for Sustainable Communities: Catherine and Sarah asked that info be forwarded to them.
- ◆ Climate Communities Local Climate Leadership Summit in Wash DC, May 18, 2009.

- V. Juneau GHG Emissions Report: Beth and Alida attended the presentation to the Juneau Assembly. They reported that it was well received. ICLEI process for next steps was referred to the Assembly and will be taken up this coming Monday. Assembly member Sanford requested more info on Climate Action Plan, which was subsequently provided to him.

- VI. Federal Stimulus Monies for CBJ: City Manager, Rod Swope requested ideas from CBJ Department Heads a couple of days ago. This generated a long list of potential uses for the approx \$131,000 in funds. Discussion followed that there are actually three sources of CBJ funds to consider: Energy Efficiency Improvements CIP fund, post-avalanche emergency funds not used, and Fed Stim funds. Priorities should be defined by JCOS and should consider leveraging

additional funds and other considerations noted on the US Dept of Energy description of the Fed Stim funding. Alida encouraged JCOS to contact Alaskan Clearinghouse for possible additional funds. Beth reviewed the “rules” of the Fed Stim funds as she best understood them at this time. There is a June 26 deadline for application of CBJ projects. It was moved by Sarah; seconded by Sean with unanimous consent to narrow down the CBJ list at a meeting of the Energy/GHG Committee on April 13 and forward to the City Manager immediately thereafter. It was agreed to send ideas of how to evaluate the list of CBJ projects to all JCOS members.

VII. Energy/GHG Committee Report: Gayle reported that the committee would like to see CBJ move forward with developing a Climate Action Plan and begin implementation asap. Three public members attended their last meeting. There is a lot of interest in Energy issues in our community. Beth suggested that JCOS members review the Homer Climate Action Plan that can be found linked from our website. Beth also suggested that we link ICLEI’s Five Milestones – she will send to Catherine.

VIII. Food Security Committee: Members will set a meeting time and forward to JCOS members and Catherine will post on the website. Issues to begin working on include zoning codes to increase allowable urban chickens (for eggs). Catherine suggested the committee consider a “Plant a Barrel” project to local leaders (political and others) to demonstrate commitment to food security. Produce could be donated to a non-profit, used by individual, or brought to the Farmer’s Market. Master Gardeners are available to give free advice about planting.

IV. Outreach Committee: Catherine is keeping the website updated. She asked that people send interesting info to her for posting.

- ◆ Bob explained the upcoming “Planning for a better Capital City” meeting to be held April 25, 2009 at Centennial Hall and asked that JCOS members attend.
- ◆ Catherine asked for help with the annual Earth Day event at the Glacier Visitors Center. JCOS will be collaborating with Cooperative Extension Service. Gayle and Eva offered to help organize and staff the table. Beth said that ICLEI has a program called “Community Conversations about Earth Day” – she will forward information to all.

V. Joint meeting with JCOS and Affordable Housing Commission. Gayle reported on the meeting they held on March 10th. It was a good exchange of information that was led by the Housing Commission.

VI. Farmer’s Market Update: Eva reported that market planning is underway, The original grant that she applied for was not approved, but instead, was referred to a different group (Farmer’s Markets Marketing Fund). An application to this group was submitted with a 50% match required (funds to be provided by CBJ as earlier approved). A community meeting was held last night regarding the market, with good participation. It was decided to staff a table at the annual plant sale in Carrs/Safeway parking lot on May 9, and at the UAS Community Day on May 23.

VII. Downtown Parking Garage: Catherine raised concern that the design has been revised to eliminate the possibility of a telephone hill community garden. After discussion, the JCOS agreed to have Bob ask about the status of the earlier proposed garden and to get more direct information about the design and reasons that a garden may not be possible.

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm

Minutes drafted by Catherine Fritz