

Juneau Commission on Sustainability
Wednesday, December 02, 2009, 5:15pm
Downtown Library, Large Conference Room

I. Chair Sandy Boyce called the meeting to order at 5:19pm. Also in attendance: Gayle Wood, Rick Wolk, Beth McKibben (staff), Alida Bus, Eva Bornstein, and Sarah Lewis.

II. No Agenda Changes.

III. Minutes of November 4, 2009 meeting approved.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A. Paula Terrel -- working with the Alaska Marine Conservation Council (AMCC) to coordinate support for the Alaska Coastal Communities Global Climate Change compact (the compact). AMCC is the lead on the compact, working to engage local communities. The compact is not endorsing any particular legislation, just the general concept of climate change action, addressing threats ocean acidification among others through energy efficiency and renewable energy measures. The goal is present the compact to the Alaska Congressional delegation. Petroleum industry and climate change deniers discussed were brainstormed as only potential opposition to the compact. Doug Dobyn with the Douglas Indian Association was in attendance at the meeting and the point was brought up that tribes should be invited to sign on as well. JCOS will transmit the compact to the mayor with our endorsement.

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. City liaison report – Beth brought the enabling ordinance of JCOS as promised at last month's meeting.

B. Green Gazelle: Sustainability Entrepreneurship--Rick has a research project for entrepreneurs to be more environmentally and economically successful. He brought this as a JCOS information item only, not intended to get JCOS involved necessarily. To network, a green business can get into the "ecosystem." A rural and remote areas program in Alaska, Juneau is included, but Anchorage and Fairbanks are excluded. The goal is to get a framework to help businesses grow and diversify. Good luck Rick!

C. Items up for Assembly Action -- nothing.

D. Committee Reports

1) Energy/GHG subcommittee--Gayle reported the discussed of a city green building ordinance at the last meeting. She mentioned it may be problematic for the city's development department (CDD) to be funded if private building waived fees for permitting. Bob has drafted a letter for CBJ to support a green building ordinance

generally. Southeast Alaska Building Industry Association (SEABIA) would like to see a more stringent building code to level the playing field in green building locally. A national code may be a couple years out, so it is timely for Juneau to act now to at least accept some higher standard of building. Beth reminded of the importance of incentivizing retrofits on our existing building stock, as well as the opportunity for a renting program.

2). Food subcommittee--Sandy brought up the idea of vertical farming, that it might be a great way for Juneau to highlight sustainability, local agriculture, green jobs, and renewable energy. He even foresees ecotourism as a revenue source for such a project in Juneau! Visit www.verticalfarms.com for more inspiration. Sandy will look into technology funding with help from Rick. Sarah reported that the last time the Food subcommittee met they discussed neighborhood gardens and compost community food cycling. The food subcommittee will meet again next Wednesday.

3. Outreach -- Nothing reported

VI. Action: Discussion of a JCOS memo to CBJ manager regarding a draft LEED ordinance. Sarah says the idea to add the private sector to the ordinance would slow down the ordinance's passage. Her recommendation would be to stick to the city's buildings. The draft memo is sent back to the Energy/GHG subcommittee for further work at their next meeting, December 16th at 5:15 at AEL&P.

Discussion of commission position organization in preparation for January's meeting. Sean will assume the chair position, and Gayle nominated Alida for the vice-chair. There was agreement that Catherine is doing a great job at keeping meeting minutes.

The next JCOS meeting will be January 6th at 5:15pm at the downtown library large fish bowl conference room.

VII. Adjournment at 6:25pm