

MINUTES
Juneau Commission on Sustainability (JCOS)
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, October 5, 2022, 12:00 p.m. (Noon)
Zoom

I. Call to Order. Chair Keiser called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

Present: Gretchen Keiser, Marian Call, Steve Behnke, Duff Mitchell, Nick Waldo, Dave Teal, Nick Waldo, Jessica Barker, Danielle Meeker

Absent: Jim Powell

A quorum was present.

Staff & Others Present: CBJ Staff Liaison Denise Koch, Lori Sowa (AEL&P), Planning Commission Liaison Paul Voelckers, Assembly member Carole Triem, Stuart Aston (CBJ RecycleWorks), Ben Hoch

II. Agenda Changes.

None

III. Approval of Minutes.

a. September 7, 2022

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell to approve 9/7/22 minutes as amended. Approved by unanimous consent

IV. Public Participation. None.

V. Action/Discussion Items

a. Blueprint Downtown Juneau – Beth McKibben (CBJ CDD)

Ms. McKibben announced that the public comment period on the Steering Committee Review Draft of Blueprint Downtown closed in mid-September, but there will be two more opportunities for public comment.

The boundaries of Blueprint Downtown extend from The Rock Dump to Norway Point (just north of the Juneau Yacht Club). Blueprint Downtown divides the region into eight sub-areas, which cover a spectrum of uses. The mission of Blueprint Downtown was to create a unified, “big picture” plan for downtown, over a 20-year planning horizon.

Blueprint Downtown worked with consultants over a year-long visioning process to create nine focus areas that were accepted by the 13-member Steering Committee. An estimated 800-900 people participated in the visioning process. Outputs of the visioning process include a vision statement and six goals, as well as a list of top five priorities.

Ms. McKibben provided an overview of the plan and recommended that JCOS members read the Reader's Guide to Blueprint Downtown and Chapter 2.

Ms. McKibben noted that once the plan is adopted, CBJ will share responsibility for its implementation with other partners, such as the Juneau Downtown Business Association. The plan will be used as a basis for decision-making by CBJ in areas such as land use decisions and capital funding. Ms. McKibben described how Blueprint Downtown will complement and fit within the larger portfolio of CBJ plans.

Comments regarding the plan can be sent to blueprintdowntown@juneau.org.

In response to a question from Chair Keiser, Ms. McKibben said that she is aiming to have the next draft submitted to the Planning Commission by the end of 2022.

Mr. Behnke noted that Blueprint Downtown incorporates a lot of ideas that have been put forward by JCOS, Renewable Juneau, and others regarding green energy, sustainability, etc.

Mr. Mitchell suggested that Ms. McKibben review CBJ's legislative priorities and identify potential synergies between these priorities and Blueprint Downtown.

Ms. McKibben concluded by encouraging JCOS members to submit public comment.

b. Solid Waste Overview – Stuart Aston (CBJ RecycleWorks)

Mr. Aston provided an overview of entities involved in Juneau's waste disposal (Alaska Waste, Waste Management, CBJ and RecycleWorks). Mr. Aston noted that there are no contracts or ordinances controlling how Alaska Waste or Waste Management functions, which constrains CBJ's ability to regulate their operations. In many communities, the local government either owns the certificate to haul waste or the landfill.

Mr. Aston discussed the timeline of waste management in Juneau, beginning in the early 2000s. Mr. Aston suggested that Commissioners review the 2008 Solid Waste Management Strategy, which included a recommendation for CBJ to obtain more local

control of waste management. The Strategy also suggested that CBJ purchase the hauling certificate from Alaska Waste, but efforts to do so have been unsuccessful.

Mr. Aston also provided an overview of the history of recycling efforts in Juneau, including CBJ's contracting with Waste Management to operate the recycling center at the landfill. Mr. Aston noted that the CBJ Recycling Center diverts 7-9% of waste from the landfill per year, and that the success and growth of CBJ's recycling programs (the recycling center, hazardous waste disposal, and junk vehicle disposal program) depend on voluntary citizen participation.

Mr. Aston concluded that he is available and willing to coordinate more with JCOS through regular updates, providing tours, discussing challenges, etc.

Mr. Mitchell recommended that JCOS continues to meet with Mr. Aston to discuss waste management strategies and options for obtaining and exercising more local control. Chair Keiser expressed interest in learning more about options for waste mitigation.

c. Legislative Priorities – Denise Koch (CBJ) and Gretchen Keiser (JCOS)

Ms. Keiser discussed a memo (included in the meeting packet) from Katie Koester, Engineering and Public Works Director, to all CBJ Boards and Committees, providing information on the FY2024 CBJ Legislative Priorities list and soliciting their input into CBJ's Legislative Priorities. Ms. Keiser noted that JCOS previously supported last year's priority of dock electrification and proposed an additional priority of energy retrofits for Juneau housing, which was not accepted as a legislative priority.

Ms. Keiser shared the request from Engineering and Public Works for JCOS to submit brief comments on the draft FY2024 CBJ Legislative Priorities list.

Ms. Koch added that the projects included in the priorities list are meant to be large, visionary projects, rather than deferred maintenance. Ms. Koch also noted that the list is meant to reflect the community's priorities.

Mr. Behnke asked whether the list of legislative priorities limits CBJ or its sub-entities from pursuing federal funding for other projects not included on the list. Ms. Triem responded that she sees the value in having a list of legislative priorities, but does not view the list as the conclusive statement of CBJ priorities.

The plan is for JCOS to bring draft nominations for discussion at a November meeting in order to meet the Dec 1st deadline.

VI. Information Items

VII. Commissioner Comments

VIII. Next Meetings

Monthly Work Session/Subcommittee Oct 19, 2022@ 12PM ZOOM

Monthly Work Session/Subcommittee Nov 2, 2022 @ 12PM ZOOM

Monthly Regular Meeting Nov 16, 2022 @ 12PM ZOOM

IX. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm.

Submitted by Danielle Meeker, Secretary