

Minutes
Juneau Commission on Sustainability (JCOS)
Wednesday, September 7, 2022, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) Zoom

I. Call to Order. Chair Keiser called the meeting to order at noon.

Present: Jessica Barker, Steve Behnke, Marian Call, Gretchen Keiser, Duff Mitchell, Jim Powell, David Teal, Nick Waldo

Absent: Danielle Meeker

A quorum was present.

Staff & Others Present: CBJ Utility Superintendent Brian McGuire, CBJ Staff Liaison Denise Koch, Lori Sowa (CBJ), Planning Commission Liaison Paul Voelckers

II. Agenda Changes. None.

III. Approval of Minutes.

With minor technical changes, the minutes of August 27 were approved without objection.

IV. Public Participation. None.

V. Action/Discussion Items

a. New JCOS members

With introductions of all members, new members Jessie Barker and Nick Waldo were welcomed to the commission.

b. Source Control Presentation (Brian McGuire--power point in packet)

Mr. McGuire reviewed problems facing the sewer system, with emphasis on limiting non-domestic waste that enters the treatment plant. Volume in general is often above design capacity (indicating infiltration of storm water), with organic load and fats, oil and grease being particular problems.

The utility action plan calls for work in three areas:

1. Reducing organic waste by encouraging food suppliers to divert waste from the sewer to composting.
2. Reducing fats, oil and grease by educating food service providers, inspecting facilities, and enforcing best practices regarding alternate disposal of these waste products.
3. Finding and halting infiltration of storm water.

In response to Mr. Teal's question regarding what JCOS could do to help, Mr. McGuire responded that support of capital projects was probably most important.

Mr. Mitchell noted that fats, oil and grease could be diverted to compost.

c. National Drive Electric Week

Mr. Mitchell reported that the 9th annual EV roundup would occur on September 24 and would be expanded to include bikes as well as cars. He noted a need for volunteers.

MOTION: Mr. Teal moved approval of sending a draft proclamation to the mayor for assembly action. The motion was adopted without objection.

d. Climate Action Sustainability draft

Mr. Behnke referred commissioners to the August 31 draft that he and Ms. Keiser developed. The intent of the draft is to

1. summarize what CBJ has done about meeting Juneau's climate and renewable energy goals and
2. propose a 5- to 10-year action plan to continue to gain momentum toward meeting Juneau's climate and renewable energy goals as well as other and community sustainability goals.

Chair Keiser noted that the longer term focus is important to identifying priorities that JCOS could then plug into ongoing CBJ-CIP cycle and new legislative priorities, particularly now that the federal government appears set to distribute significant "sustainability" funds in future years.

Mr. Powell suggested that JCOS expand the set of priorities to include a broader range of sustainability issues. Chair Keiser and Mr. Behnke agreed that JCOS should be proactive about additional sustainability issues, but wanted the paper to focus on where JCOS can help the city optimize Juneau's access to federal climate and energy funding that aligns with our priorities.

Chair Keiser and Mr. Behnke requested that commissioners review and comment on the draft that Ms. Koch will distribute to members via Google Docs.

e. JCOS 101

Chair Keiser suggested in an August 31 memo that new members would benefit from a series of short presentations on JCOS origins, the Juneau Climate Action and Implementation Plan (JCAIP), the Juneau Renewable Energy Strategy (JRES), major efforts/issues in recent years, and JCOS governance and assembly interaction.

Mr. Benke's presentation on the origins of JCOS covered an earlier energy advisor entity, former Mayor Botelho's 2007 actions, and JCOS formation. His presentation was cut short by meeting time limitations, and he will pick up with early Juneau energy/GHG inventories and the JCAIP.

VI. Information Items

Denise Koch reported that CBJ had extended an offer to an applicant for an environmental project specialist.

VII. Commissioner Comments

Chair Keiser requested members to contact her with agenda items for the September work session. She also asked about having the JCOS annual retreat in November to build on CBJ momentum on several efforts and as a way to integrate new members, rather than wait until January 2023. Commissioners were amendable, and Chair Keiser will work with Ms. Koch to conduct a survey on possible dates.

VIII. Next Meetings

Sept 21, 2022 work session @ 12PM ZOOM

Oct 5, 2022 regular meeting @ 12PM ZOOM (Chaired by Duff Mitchell)

IX. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm.

Submitted by David Teal for Danielle Meeker, Secretary