

MINUTES
Juneau Commission on Sustainability (JCOS)
Wednesday, July 6, 2022, 12:00 p.m. (Noon)
Zoom

I. Call to Order. Chair Keiser called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

Present: Chair Keiser, Members Steven Behnke, Danielle Meeker, Duff Mitchell, Jim Powell

Absent: Member David Teal

A quorum was present.

Staff & Others Present: Staff Liaison Denise Koch, Former Staff Liaison Beth McKibben, Planning Commission Liaison Paul Voelckers, Nate Abbott, Alec Mesdag, Michele Elfers

II. Agenda Changes.

Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved.

III. Approval of Minutes.

a. May 27, 2022

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell to approve the May 27, 2022 minutes. *Hearing no objection, the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.*

IV. Public Participation. none.

V. Action/Discussion Items

a. JCOS Staff Liaison Transition – Beth McKibben (CDD) & Denise Koch (EPW)

Memo from City Manager Rorie Watt explains the transition of liaison from CDD to EPW.

b. JCOS Member Recruitment – Gretchen Keiser (JCOS)

Currently two applicants, including one application for reappointment. According to the Deputy Clerk, JCOS appointments are on the agenda for July 11th meeting. More information about JCOS' mission is available on website.

c. JCOS 2022 Work Priorities - Gretchen Keiser (JCOS)

Table of meeting priorities is included in meeting packet. Recently lost two committee chairs with departure of three commissioners. JCOS is in need of Vice Chair.

Regarding RAISE Grant application, JCOS hopes to hear back on application status in August 2022.

Chair Keiser asks Staff Liaison Koch whether JCOS or CBJ will take the lead on revising requirements for LEED certification/exemptions. Ms. Koch notes that CBJ architects will probably not be able to work on this issue until early fall.

Chair Keiser notes that JCOS identified \$500,000 as a placeholder amount for waste diversion/reduction projects (under local waste recovery goals). CBJ did not approve this funding for inclusion on the 1% Sales Tax extension ballot proposition for October election.

CBJ Engineering and Public Works is recruiting for an Environmental Project Specialist. JCOS has previously proposed the creation of a Sustainability Coordinator position. Chair Keiser suggests that JCOS work with future Specialist and EPW department and strengthen relationships. Staff Liaison Koch adds that application will close on July 15th. The new position will report to Lori Sowa, CBJ Engineer II. Environmental Project Specialist will work on projects related to JCOS priorities (e.g., GHG inventory, waste reduction, composting), as well as other projects, such as monitoring source control by wastewater utilities (i.e., controlling what goes into sewers). Position is fully funded by CIP.

Mr. Mitchell asks about the similarities in responsibility between this position and a potential JRES Energy Manager or Sustainability Coordinator. Ms. Koch responds that, from the CBJ perspective, this position would take on several of the responsibilities of a sustainability coordinator. Mr. Powell suggests that JCOS continue to emphasize the commission's priorities in order to support action. Ms. Sowa notes that embedding sustainability-focused positions within CBJ helps to put focus where it belongs and ensure sustained support for projects that require funding and staff time.

d. Juneau Climate Report – Jim Powell (JCOS)

Commissioner Powell reports that the climate report is finished and has been printed. Climate report had 23 authors, and is significantly different from 2007 report in terms of graphic design and including nine key messages, as well as recommendations. Mr. Powell is preparing a press release for distribution on July 11th. City Manager Rorie Watt suggested that the report be delivered to Katie Koester from the Department of Engineering and Public Works. Mr. Powell is planning to share the report with the Assembly at the July 11th meeting via public comment.

Chair Keiser asks if Mr. Powell is planning to organize a sustainability session in the fall. Mr. Powell responds that he is working on a roll-out plan and will plan to coordinate with UAS and, potentially, CBJ on a webinar. Report will be posted on the Alaska Coastal

Rainforest Center website. Mr. Powell notes that he will be working on sustainability indicators next.

VI. Information Items

a. Whitehorse Waste Management - Gretchen Keiser (JCOS)

Chair Keiser visited Whitehorse waste management facility and met with key staff. Whitehorse has a solid waste action plan published in 2013, which includes a goal of 50% diversion to recycling. Whitehorse completed the plan over 15-18 months, with assistance from consulting firm. Plan authors first held sector-specific meetings to present information and better understand sectoral needs. Focus of plan is on tackling commercial businesses and institutions first. The city owns public waste facilities.

b. Energy Management at CBJ Facilities – Nate Abbott (Parks & Rec)

Memo is included in meeting packet. Mr. Abbott reports that Parks & Rec has been using a program called Energy Star Portfolio Manager. The program has its drawbacks, however. Parks & Rec has been trying out several new software packages, and has selected Brightly Energy Manager (which is also used by Juneau School District). Parks & Rec has sent the contract over the CBJ Legal Department and to Brightly. Mr. Abbott reports that Parks & Rec hopes to start using the software in the fall to monitor and bill ~60 buildings. New accounts payable position will assist in collecting more information. The goal is to make it easier to get information into the system. The biggest lift is the initial set-up of the system.

Mr. Behnke asks Mr. Abbott if Parks & Rec is missing any critical information. Mr. Abbott responds that the ~60 buildings does not include smaller facilities, including parts of the airport. Brightly software is set up to bill per building, so the addition of extra meters in a building does not add to cost. Mr. Abbott notes that one of the long-term goals is to understand energy use of CBJ facilities on a daily basis.

Mr. Abbott shared a presentation – included in meeting packet.

c. Community Wide GHG Tool – Denise Koch (EPW)

Ms. Koch reports that CBJ has teamed up with Dynamhex. CBJ did not receive federal grant for this work, and is now working on purchasing the software after approval of sole-source contract. Mr. Abbott has participated in previous meeting with DynamHex.

VII. Commissioner Comments

VIII. Next Meetings

Monthly Work session/Subcommittee July 20, 2022@ 12PM ZOOM

Monthly Regular meeting Aug 3, 2022 @ 12PM ZOOM

Monthly Work session/Subcommittee Aug 17, 2022 @ 12PM ZOOM

IX. Adjournment: Mr. Behnke motions to adjourn at 1:27 pm.

Submitted by Danielle Meeker, Secretary