

MINUTES
Juneau Commission on Sustainability (JCOS)
Wednesday, March 1, 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 Anjuli Grantham, Duff Mitchell, Danielle Meeker, Steve Behnke, Colin Peacock, David Teal, Lisa Daugherty *Absent:* Member Colin Peacock. ***A quorum was present.***

Staff & Others Present: Staff Liaison Beth McKibben, CBJ Assembly Liaison Carole Triem, Planning Commission Liaison Paul Voelckers

Members of the Public Present: Nicole Velasco, Dave Peterson, Alec Mesdag, Zach Gianotti

II. Agenda Changes. Two members asked for items to be added to VI. Information Items portion of the agenda: Ms. Grantham (JCOS-AARP sustainability series), and Mr. Mitchell (food security initiatives).

Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved as amended.

III. Approval of Minutes.

a. February 2, 2022

MOTION by Vice Chair Grantham to approve the December 1, 2021 minutes with the corrections noted, and the December 15, 2021 minutes. Seconded by Mr. Mitchell. ***Hearing no objection, the minutes were approved with corrections as noted by unanimous consent.***

IV. Public Participation.

Dave Peterson introduced himself as a new CBJ Planner II.

V. Action/Discussion Items

A. RAISE Grant/ Dock Electrification Study - Energy Committee Chair Mr. Behnke

Meeting packet includes a rough draft memo to City Manager Rorie Watt in response to marine passenger fee recommendations. Mr. Mitchell noted his personal interest in Juneau Hydro/Juneau District Heating and notes that it is an AEL&P project – Juneau Hydro has no power purchase agreement with AEL&P at this time. Consequently, Mr.

Mitchell believes that his involvement in dock electrification efforts does not constitute a conflict of interest.

Energy Committee Chair Mr. Behnke provided an update on dock electrification. Mr. Behnke met with Chair Keiser, Rorie Watt, and Alex Pierce to develop an arrangement for communications re: RAISE grant. Communications from JCOS will flow through Steve to Erich Schaal at Docks & Harbors. CBJ is developing a contract for someone to write the grant application. The JCOS Energy Committee has been working on recommendations for updating/improving last year's grant application, which we can discuss with the consultant once they are onboard. The deadline for the grant is April 14th. Rorie Watt asked for single point of contact at JCOS, which will be Mr. Behnke.

Mr. Behnke noted a parallel effort that is underway, which is City Manager Rorie Watt's request for recommendations on how to spend marine passenger fees in FY2023. Mr. Behnke noted that JCOS might want to clarify the Energy Committee's role in responding to the dock electrification study.

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell for the Energy Committee continue to be the lead on dock electrification issues and work on the RAISE grant application with CBJ, with Energy Committee Chair Behnke being the lead point of contact. Seconded by Ms. Grantham. ***Hearing no objection, the motion was approved with unanimous consent.***

B. Marine Passenger Fees - Energy Committee Chair Mr. Behnke

The Energy Committee has circulated a draft letter in support of the City Manager's recommendations for the usage of FY2023 marine passenger fees. The City Manager's recommendations include three of JCOS' points from last year, including a downtown circulator. The Energy Committee has added some questions and comments about the electrical infrastructure that AEL&P has recommended.

Mr. Mitchell suggested having a robust discussion with experts once the questions from JCOS are received by the City Manager

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell to approve the draft letter with Chair Keiser's suggestions to City Manager and have it forwarded as appropriate. ***Objection by Chair Keiser for purposes of discussion***

Chair Keiser asked if JCOS is outlining a process for CBJ and/or other experts to respond to the questions JCOS is raising. Chair Keiser asks if JCOS is requesting that CBJ pause to

get a fuller analysis of what this community wants on its waterfront in terms of electrical infrastructure, or something else?

Mr. Teal noted that JCOS' questions regarding electrical infrastructure relate to the RAISE grant application as well, and asks if some of the pieces of needed electrical infrastructure should be added to the grant application in order to seek external funding.

Chair Keiser asked if the effort of purchasing one transformer to address the issue on Franklin Dock will result in piecemealing the whole system, and if it would behoove CBJ to pause and do some independent analysis. Chair Keiser suggests that these questions be answered by CBJ.

Mr. Behnke relayed AEL&P's point that Juneau will have two to three years lead time to purchase this equipment, so there's some impetus to get things moving. Mr. Behnke notes that the approval of the marine passenger fee is just the starting point, which is why it's okay to just ask questions at this point. As we know, there will be some sort of purchase process.

Chair Keiser removes her objection.

MOTION by Mr. Mitchell to authorize the Energy Committee Chair to draft a letter in support of the City Manager's recommendations for usage of marine passenger fees as submitted earlier, with assistance from Chair Keiser, to be submitted in a timely manner. Seconded by Vice Chair Grantham.

C. Goal Tracking - Chair Keiser

The meeting packet includes one page on how to establish a goal tracking process for committees. Committee chairs can fill in blanks. This will be a regular item on the agenda going forward.

D. JCOS- AARP Sustainability Series - Vice Chair Grantham

On Wednesday, March 9th at 6pm, Vice Chair Grantham will be co-hosting a JCOS webinar with Linda Kruger from AARP. Next session will be moderated by Steve (buildings), then Duff, then Colin (Food & Waste), then Linda will be moderating a session on health and climate.

E. Local Food and Waste Recovery - Mr. Peacock

Mr. Peacock notes that Ms. Daugherty has joined the Local Food and Waster Recovery Committee. Mr. Peacock has talked to the Alaska Food Policy Council about using them as a sponsor for any grant applications. Mr. Peacock plans to reach out to Katie Koester and Lori Sowa.

Mr. Behnke recommended planning a sustainability session to pull people together and focus on these issues. That's one of the roles that JCOS played in helping facilitate the formation of Alaska Heat Smart.

Mr. Peacock supported planning a summer or fall sustainability session.

Vice Chair Grantham asked what is happening with zero waste planning within PWFC.

Ms. Daugherty responded with an update from the CBJ Public Works & Engineering Department. \$100,000 is a CIP request that still needs final approval, which will make funds available in July. The Public Works & Engineering Department doesn't yet have a clear plan for how to spend it. Ms. Daugherty suggested having a JCOS work session on how to plan the planning of zero waste (temporary CBJ coordinator position to run stakeholder meetings, etc), unless CBJ would prefer to hire a consultant. JCOS can start thinking about who would be a good consultant, and start talking to Whitehorse to find out if there's something they would've changed about their process. Public Works & Engineering would like JCOS to do some "pre-planning" planning so that CBJ knows what we're going to do with the money before it becomes available. Assembly Member Bryson has expressed interest.

VI. Information Items

Planning Commission Liaison Paul Voelckers - Planning Commission has discussed collective work to get the next group of building codes in place. Codes need to be updated to reflect new construction methodology.

Assembly Member Carole Triem - The mayor has created a housing task force, chaired by Loren Jones. Their final product is going to be recommendations of changes to Title 49. On Monday, the Assembly changed rules and procedures. Not sure if that will affect JCOS or other boards and commissions. Working on making sure that CBJ has enough zoom accounts. Budget cycle is about to start today. There will be a special Finance Committee meeting on Saturday, March 12th to do strategic planning.

Planning Commission Liaison Paul Voelckers noted that he is on the housing task force, which is specifically focused on issues that Chamber of Commerce and developers have raised to streamline sections of Title 49 municipal code. This issue is separate from the conversation regarding international building code.

Vice Chair Grantham asked if there is any update on GHG inventory.

Mr. Behnke noted that CBJ had a deal going with DynamHex that has software that allows for modeling of energy use and emissions. CBJ did not get the grant, but has set aside ~\$40,000 in CIP for conducting a GHG inventory. Mr. Behnke met with Denise Koch to discuss strategies. Mr. Behnke, Ms. Koch, and Facilities Manager Dave Abbott met with DynamHex to regroup. Mr. Behnke and Ms. Koch are going to develop a work plan. CBJ will have to decide if they can do it themselves or need to develop a contract. There is some progress being made. The emissions inventory is one of the projects that PWFC is tracking. CBJ is looking at getting new software that would allow them to update their energy information system more efficiently, which may be able to plug into DynamHex software.

Mr. Mitchell noted that the Downtown Business Association supports the same recommendations as JCOS, and recently changed their mission to add the word “sustainability”. Mr. Mitchell also reported that there was an important announcement recently to replace gas turbines and stabilize power in Railbelt. It’s a pathway for additional renewable energy in Railbelt.

VII. Commissioner Comments

VIII. Next Meetings

Work session on March 16th, 2022.

IX. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1:01 pm.

Submitted by Danielle Meeker, Secretary