

City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ)
Juneau Commission on Sustainability (JCOS)
Meeting Minutes
Annual Retreat January 31, 2015
CBJ Assembly Chambers

I. Meeting called to order at 10:13 A.M.

Present: Steve Behnke (Acting Chair), Beth McKibben (CBJ Staff Liason), Kate Bevegni, Darrell Wetherall, Amy Skilbred, Clint Gundelfinger, Duff Mitchell

- Introductions from JCOS participants were given.

II. Agenda amended to move the Auke Bay Plan Comments to Action Items.

- Steve Behnke delivered a discussion/preview of the 2015 Annual Retreat agenda.

III. Public Participation - Gretchen Keiser

IV. Action Items

- Auke Bay Plan Comments
 - Kate Bevegni discussed the draft letter which showed support of the Auke Bay Plan(ABP) and provided a request to incorporate and reference the Climate Action Plan (JCAP) as part of the ABP.
 - Bob Deering inquired as to the boundaries of the ABP; Beth McKibben delineated the boundaries from the ABP.
 - Amy Skilbred inquired about how the Auke Bay area residents felt about the ABP.
 - Ms. Bevegni replied that the ABP steering committee was very rooted in the community with volunteers from that area and community support.
 - Steve Behnke stated that the letter did what we needed it today, namely showing JCOS support and requesting incorporation of the JCAP. Mr. Behnke motioned to send the letter. Mr. Deering and Ms. Skilbred seconded the motion.
 - It was decided to review the letter and send it the week of February 2-6, 2015.

VI. Information Items

Committees

- Outreach/Accountability
 - Kate Bevegni (Co-Chair)
 - Duff Mitchell (Co-Chair)
 - Amy Skilbred
 - Clint Gundelfinger
- Energy Plan (including Building Codes)
 - Bob Deering (Chair)
 - Darrell Wetherall

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Steve Behnke
Clint Gundelfinger

- Solid Waste (including Bio-Solids)
Bob Deering (Chair)
Kate Bevegni
- Others
 - Amy SKilbred initiated a discussion regarding the subject of food security.
 - Beth McKibben referenced the email from Erich Schaal regarding land use codes for farm animals and discussed some of the pertinent CBJ code
 - It was suggested that we entertain a presentation on the subject and discuss at a regular JCOS meeting.

Focus for 2015

- Review and reminder of JCOS charge and the Comprehensive Plan—Discuss potential revisions to the sustainability section of the Comprehensive Plan.
 - Beth McKibben commented that there was an entire chapter in the Comprehensive Plan dedicated to sustainability in addition to the chapter (6) on energy.
 - Steve Behnke added that the chapter has useful content including indicators and that we are charged with developing indicators, but that indicators are not much good if a decision making body does not use them.
 - By indicators is meant sustainability indicators for CBJ used to guide and evaluate decision making.
 - Duff Mitchell commented that focusing on GHG reduction goals is forward thinking and also serves as an indicator (if and how those goals are being met).
 - Bob Deering brought up the concept of leading indicators vs. lagging indicators.
 - Steve Behnke inquired as to the time frame for revisions to the Comprehensive Plan; Beth McKibben stated we were getting close to the end of the time period.
 - Beth McKibben further iterated that sustainability principles are embedded throughout the entire Comprehensive Plan and as such we should not limit our participation to merely two chapters (previously referred to). Ms. McKibben also suggested that we investigate other communities' sustainability plans/programs.
 - Duff Mitchell commented in support of the idea of how we thread the concepts of sustainability throughout the Comprehensive Plan and suggested

that we take a few minutes each meeting to address quantized portions of the Comprehensive Plan with regards to concepts of sustainability. Clint Gundelfinger agreed with Mr. Mitchell regarding this approach.

- Steve Behnke replied that our role is to work with the CBJ/Assembly and other groups to implement sustainability concepts rather than review everything and suggested that it may be better to focus on a few things and then work to get sustainability concepts incorporated into CBJ business.
 - Amy Skilbred added that it would be helpful to have people come to us to discuss sustainability within the context of the various projects they are involved in.
 - Bob Deering added that engaging in that type of activity would also force people to then think about incorporating sustainability concepts.
 - Kate Bevegne stated that we are also doing that already with the Green Team going to them.
 - All engaged in a collective discussion on bringing people in to present and explain their various projects in reference to the Climate Action Plan and the Comprehensive Plan.
 - Duff Mitchell suggested sending out a letter to various groups requesting information or a report on how they have contributed to the Climate Action Plan and/or the Comprehensive Plan.
 - Bob Deering suggested limiting the idea to selected project reviews.
- Review JCAP implementation plan—JCOS and CBJ progress on top action items.
 - Steve Behnke reminded everyone that we have this great implementation plan and whilst looking at review processes for CBJ we should revisit the implementation plan for guidance and outlines.
 - Duff Mitchell suggested acquiring feedback from other entities/groups as to how they are contributing and implementing components of the JCAP and as an example referred to the NOAA facility. Mr. Mitchell offered to draft a letter to send out.
 - Clint Gundelfinger suggested the development of an award for those individuals or entities who implement aspects of the JCAP. This idea was discussed by the entire group.
 - Energy plan—JCOS role in advising and overseeing the project.
 - Steve Behnke stated the project was proceeding and that a key component was working with decision priorities.
 - Darrell Wetherall added that this was a hands on JCOS project.

- Bob Deering commented that we need to be cognizant of the decrease in fuel prices and how that may affect accounting.
- Solid Waste – Biosolids treatment/disposal and waste management—JCOS role moving forward and supporting the Assembly with this 2015 priority.
 - Beth McKibben stated that we are currently waiting on the CBJ assembly.
 - It was discussed that we should keep this on the agenda for 2015 regarding any unresolved issues and continued monitoring.
- Advocacy and Community Outreach—invite community members involved in different aspects of sustainability to JCOS meetings to give short briefings as well as CBJ directors or staff and potentially area students. How can JCOS use Facebook and our website more effectively?
 - This was addressed in part during the discussion of the Comprehensive Plan.
 - Amy Skilbred suggested enhancements to the JCOS website and utilizing Facebook and news articles.
 - Duff Mitchell brought up his idea of a high school liaison and highlighted the Earth Day and July 4th efforts and activities.
 - It was suggested that we also entertain the idea of a tribal liaison.
 - Clint Gundelfinger inquired as to whether the annual home show might be a good venue for public outreach and this was discussed.
- Accountability at CBJ – how CBJ is implementing the JCAP? Discuss the green team mechanism and resourcing implementing sustainability at CBJ versus potential cost savings; Incorporating sustainability checks into the CIP process, can JCOS do this as a project so we catch all projects right at the start?
 - This was addressed in part during the discussion of the Comprehensive Plan.
 - Steve Behnke commented that he was skeptical about going through the CIP process for all projects; focusing on big projects might be more effective.
 - Kate Bevegne suggested establishing embedded sustainability “checkpoints” or a project sustainability checklist.
- Building code—continue work on improving it for residential buildings and creating a new one for commercial buildings.
 - JCOS just sent a letter to Building Advisory Committee regarding upgrading codes to be in line with IEC and we are waiting on receiving feedback.

- JCOS members going to Committee as a Whole Assembly meetings –Would it make a big difference for JCOS potential impact by knowing more about current issues?
 - It was discussed and suggested that it would be most efficient to have Kate Troll report on COW meeting subjects.
- Updating climate change predicted impacts for Juneau.
 - It was suggested to have John Neary (director of Mendenhall Glacier Visitors Center) give a presentation on the subject of predicted climatic impacts to the Juneau area.

Annual Report – due June 2015

- It was decided to discuss the Annual Report during a regular JCOS meeting.

Future Presentations

- February/March – Rich Ritter, CBJ, Energy efficiency and City projects
- March/April – Greg Smith –CBJ building maintenance upgrades
- Scott Willis
- Food security
 - Sara Lewis- Cooperative Extension/Food Security
 - Leia Heifwitz- food
- SEACC – energy plan

Attendance

- Discussion to change the CBJ Assembly liaison and the CBJ Staff liaison to become non-voting members in order to reduce the number of members required for a quorum from six down to five.
- It was decided to make this an agenda item for the next regular meeting.

Additional

- Gretchen Keiser commented that we (JCOS) have a full plate and were hitting all the subjects we were responsible for.

VII. Meeting adjourned at 1:10 P.M.