

Minutes

Juneau Commission on Sustainability
Wednesday, May 1, 2019
Downtown Library, Large Conference Room
12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER: @ 12:03 by Chair Duff Mitchell.** Commissioners present: Gretchen Keiser, Jim Powell., Christine Woll, John Smith, Ed King, Jim Rehfeldt., and Steve Behnke. Assembly liaison present: Michelle Hale. CBJ liaison: Tim Felstead. Planning Commission liaison: Michael Levine.

I. **AGENDA CHANGES:**

Action taken: Agenda approved after moving “Heat Pump Initiative” and “JRES and CIP” to information items.

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made: Gretchen makes a motion to approve the meeting minutes for April 4, 2019; John seconds.

Action taken: Meeting minutes for April 4, 2019 approved.

- II. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** No member of general public spoke to JCOS.

III. **ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. Airport LEED exception request –overview of memo sent –

Duff stated that the Airport LEED exception had been sent [Attachment A]
Michelle mentioned that there may be \$300,000 on pending financial list to help get certified, and that there was a general feeling that the airport could come up with additional funding.

2. Request for funding for update to Climate Change Impacts report

Jim P. explained the purpose of the letter [Attachment B]. There was a report that went out in 2007 that looked at the prediction of climate change impacts for Juneau. Now UAS is looking for a \$5000 to ask to update the report. He has got commitments from faculty members and interns to spending time updating the report, including social and economic impacts. UAS did it for free in the past, but it took 2 years, and he thinks that having some additional funds would allow it to get done faster. There were originally a few different asks in this letter, but not it is just for one purpose, to recommend that funding.

Gretchen asked what timeline the project was on. Jim responded that he thought it would be sometime in 2020.

Mike asked about a perceived conflict of interest, given that Jim P is asking for funding, and is a member of JCOS. Jim P volunteered to excuse himself from voting on it.

Ed asked why this money was needed, and if this expense would not be covered under normal expenses of UAS. Duff said there are a few extra costs for students that they usually don't

cover. Jim P further explained that the first report was not a peer reviewed report, and that the \$5000 will not go to salary. The \$5000 will be used to make that report a peer reviewed document because it costs money to publish.

Ed explained that he wanted to make sure we aren't circumventing the normal business processes around procurement, and wanted clarity on whether or not what Jim was proposing was a normal course of business. Jim P said it was not, but that the money would go to the arts and sciences school and that was the level of detail that was provided. Duff asked this discussion be included in the minutes.

Motion made: Steve makes a motion that the letter requesting for \$5,000 to support updating the 2007 Report on climate change impacts in Juneau be sent to the city manager. Gretchen seconds the motion.

Action taken: Motion to send letter to city manager approved.

3. Marine Passenger Fee and Dock electrification

Duff reminded commissioners that JCOS has submitted a request to the city, prior to when a new agreement had been reached between CBJ and CLIA about the use of Marine Passenger Fees.

Duff drafted a letter to amend the previous request [Attachment C]. It includes a request to appropriate \$500,000 to conduct dock electrification design and prepare bid-ready documents by a dock electrification engineering firm. The cost estimate was based on discussions that Duff had with engineers.

Motion made: Steve makes a motion to approve the letter; John seconds.

Discussion:

Michelle asked if the design process proposal addresses AELP's concern that there's not enough energy. Duff asked Michelle if AEL&P had stated that there is not enough energy, Michelle said yes. John and Duff said that at the JEDC event focused on cruise ship sustainability, Alex Mesdag had said AEL&P had enough power to do 1 dock, but it would be complicated for a second. There had been discussion at the session about how the issue is complicated and people don't understand it

Michelle said that they are hearing about this issue from both sides. They are pretty far down the planning process for marine passenger fees, but they still want to be better informed. She asked again would the design address the question of whether there is enough power? Duff stated no. Michelle stated that this is why the assembly was suggesting a feasibility study.

Duff said that he has numbers from FERC that show that there is enough power, and that Juneau District Heating will take more power that currently have.

Steve stated that in his opinion, you are never going to get an answer from AELP on this question, unless the Assembly decides whether or not they want to electrify the dock. A feasibility study will just continue the political push and pull.

Ed said that demand should come first. If there is demand, then the electric utility can determine the required infrastructure to make it happen. If you do a design, that will tell you what the demand is. He also stated that this should be connected with JRES.

Duff stated that if there is a shortage in a low year, there is an interruptible client (Greens Creek Mine).

Michelle stated that it is going to be a much easier sell this to say “there is data that shows that in a good water year this is probably good. Design will help us understand the power demand. Then the electric utility can figure out how to make it work”, then to be having people argue over the facts.

Michael suggested that maybe the first step is for the Assembly to develop an agreement with AEL&P that says “We are going to electrify the dock and then figure out what its going to cost and what it is going to take.” Maybe there would be benefit from a firm statement from the assembly that we are going to electrify. John agreed with the idea of a firm statement from the assembly.

There was discussion about what language exactly does JRES say; the collective memory was that it wasn’t as hard and fast as compared with JCAP and that it got walked back a bit from its original goal around dock electrification.

There is further discussion on whether or not an Assembly commitment makes sense.

Duff states that the feasibility request is actually for a report on impacts, and he questions whether that is even appropriate.

Motion made: Steve withdrew the motion, John seconds.

Group discusses potential language changes to the letter to reflect the discussion. The group agrees they want to ask CBJ to commit to dock electrification, specifically reference JRES and timing of dock electrification, and some word smithing. It is discussed whether or not to include language that reflect’s Ed’s logic about demand and supply; he agrees to send his own comment and work with Michelle. Michelle suggests that it is good if the letter doesn’t reference the Renewable Juneau petition, given that petitions often are signed by people who don’t have all the information.

Future action requested: The group decides that based on the discussion, the letter will be modified by Gretchen to add language changes to the letter to reflect asking CBJ to commit to dock electrification, for specific reference to JRES and JRES’s statement about “when the time is right”, that JCOS thinks now is the right time, and some additional wordsmithing.

Motion made: Ed makes a motion to send the letter with the modifications as agreed upon to the Assembly; John seconds.

Action taken: The committee approves sending the letter with the modifications as agreed upon to the Assembly.

4. Dockless Electric Vehicles – CBJ Moratorium

The ordinance for a moratorium on dockless electric vehicles was approved.

5. AEA VW Grant/LO NO Grant Notes

Duff explains that CBJ will be applying again for funds through the AEA VW Grant and Low-no grant programs.

Motion made: Gretchen makes a motion that authorizes Duff to write a letter in support of the application; John seconds.

Action taken: Commission approves motion.

Future action requested: Duff to write letter in support of application.

6. Bus Ridership

Michelle says that she is a bus rider, and she finds that there is lack of information / education about the bus system. She mentions that parking is constantly coming up as an issue for the Assembly, and she would like to see a strategy in Juneau for increasing bus ridership, especially because of national trends of young people driving less.

Tim mentions that there is lots of stuff in the comprehensive plan and in the non-motorized transportation plan. But there is a money issue in terms of implementing some of the recommendations, including how do you make them more "limousine-like". As an example, there is a park and ride facility being planned, and the idea is to not make it covered or heated has come up to save money.

John states that there needs to be more education about it in the community. Michelle says that it is probably more than just an issue for CBJ to take on, and that it needs to be a larger community. Christine suggests holding a sustainability session, and Michelle wonders if maybe it could be a special Assembly project.

7. CPACE

Gretchen explains that CPACE stands for commercial property assessment clean energy, and that it provides financing of clean energy on commercial building. A building owner obtains private loan for energy upgrades/retrofits which is repaid via a special assessment added to their annual property tax bill.

AEA has grant money to figure out what a program like this might look like in Alaska, and they are moving forward with consultants to survey interest and potentially develop a model involving a state-wide administrator. AEA recently gauged CBJ's interest in this idea; Jeff Rogers (CBJ CFO) will be the point person for Juneau, but unclear yet what the long-term commitment will be. The program is being implemented in 32 states.

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Outreach - Website

Christine and CBJ have been going back and forth on new website design; should be ready to review very soon.

Future action requested: Christine suggests adding a standing agenda item for story requests – any upcoming events or past stories that are worth posting?

Christine asked if anyone has any stories for the website. No one has any that have already been published.

2. Outreach – Sustainability Session

Jim P. reported that it makes sense to wait and see what happens with Blueprint Juneau, and what JEDC does as part of the Tourism BMP process, before figuring out what a supporting JCOS role could be in terms of continuing the discussion around the carrying capacity of Juneau for visitors.

Duff suggested that checking in with Lisa Daugherty (Juneau Composts) might be a good topic for a future session. He wanted Brian McGuire, CBJ Wastewater Superintendent to talk about solid waste; Brian wants to wait until he has shown success. Christine suggested adding something on bike and bus ridership to the list.

Future action requested: Duff asked if Tim can provide availability over the next few months as ideas come up.

3. Outreach – Sustainability awards

Jim P. and Christine think it is a great idea. Jim P. will do some research on what other cities have done. Christine suggests possibly a work session to flesh it out.

4. Annual report

The JCOS annual report is due soon.

Future action requested: Tim will send out the old report; committee chairs will complete their sub-sections.

5. Heat Pump Initiative – Steve Behnke gave summary on the Heat Pump Initiative

6. JRES and CIP – \$250,000 is set aside in the CIP for 'JRES Implementation'. Steve Behnke and the Energy sub-committee is working with Michelle Hale on what this money might be spent on.

V. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting Adjourned 1340

Submitted,
Christine Woll, Secretary for Meeting