

MINUTES
JUNEAU COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY
Wednesday, June 18, 2008
Downtown Library, Large Conference Room

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sarah Lewis at 5:08 p.m.

Present: Sandy Boyce, Jonathan Kamler, Dave Hanna, Dan Miller, Sally Schlichting, Catherine Fritz, Gayle Wood

Absent: Bob Doll, Eva Varadi-Bornstein, Rick Wolk

Staff Liaison: Maria Galdziszewski and also Ben Lyman, Community Development

Public: John Kremers, Paul Herendeen, Mike Orford, Bill Leighty, Marc Matsil, Max Mertz, Wayne Jensen, and Sean Lynch

2. AGENDA CHANGES

The Diamond Park Aquatic Center Ground Source Heat Pump was moved to the first Action Item of the meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Remaining minutes to be approved were tabled pending review.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Bill Leighty commented that the Alaska Energy Authority is working on regional energy planning and he wanted the COS to be aware of this, so that the COS could file comments, if desired. He distributed a draft letter to Steve Haagenson of the Alaska Energy Authority, related to a state-wide energy plan.

Sarah introduced Sean Lynch as a new member of the COS starting in July. She also thanked Jon for his service to the COS during its formative first year of existence.

5. ACTION ITEMS

A. Diamond Park Aquatic Center Ground Source Heat Pump

Marc Matsil, Max Mertz, and Wayne Jensen discussed a proposal to revise the scope of the project to include a hybrid ground source heat pump. 50% of the maximum heating need for the facility can be met with a GSHP system. The heat pumps should be able to totally handle the building 9 months of the year. Analysis found that this is the best option, saving between \$150,000 and \$200,000 in annual operating costs in the first year. The analysis included conservative assumptions of 4% for energy and core inflation. The system

will cost \$1.5 million more than a fuel oil or electric boiler system. Vertical wells may be 300 feet deep. It was noted that the payback is good, even with conservative assumptions. The importance of receiving approval for the additional expense was stressed as the heating system needs to be designed now. Other funding is being sought, and it was hoped that the CBJ wouldn't ultimately be required to fund the entire cost of this energy efficient heating system.

MOTION: Moved by Catherine that the COS draft a letter of support for \$1.5 million to be used for a hybrid ground source heat pump for the Diamond Park Aquatic Center, along with funding other energy improvements. Furthermore, the letter should be sent to the Public Works Committee and to all Assembly members and after the letter is drafted, it should be forwarded to the chair for her signature. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Transit Plan Comments

Ben Lyman talked about the COS's possible role in the Transit Development Plan. He noted that the "Preferred Plan" referred to in the draft Transit Plan has been eliminated. He stressed that even if the plan is adopted, funding and implementation of the plan is the key. He pointed out that in terms of sustainability and affordable housing, the "Optimal Plan" is best. He suggested that the COS consider strong wording that speaks to implementation of the plan, in addition to voicing support for adopting it. He suggested the COS first ask the Planning Commission for adoption and implementation of the plan, and then ask the same of the Assembly when the Assembly considers the plan. Ben noted that the 2002 plan was not adopted. The plan will likely be before the Planning Commission in August and before the Assembly in October.

Ben noted that the Optimum Plan revamps the entire transit system, with expanded service days, holiday coverage, and shorter loops with transfer points. A trunk-line between town and at least to UAS was proposed and other routes included Lena Loop and the ferry terminal. This plan is more flexible and adds buses to match demand. The "Intermediate Plan" includes some additional service options. He noted that the "Preferred Option" mirrors existing service with some modification, but requires more vehicles, is more expensive, and has reduced flexibility. Therefore that option has been removed from the draft plan.

Ben also thanked the COS for their hard work related to the Comprehensive Plan. He said the Energy Chapter still needed work before it would be done. He said some of Gayle Wood's testimony, in behalf of the COS, would be incorporated. Staff was also looking at adding a transit section, including carpooling, into the Energy Chapter.

The Planning Commission substantially agreed with the COS's submission on the Sustainability Chapter, with one addition made by Nancy Waterman, and a couple minor changes.

Sally Schlichting reviewed the Energy/GHG Committee's draft endorsement of the Transit Development Plan. Comments would be submitted for consideration by the consultants and were due by June 30th. Comments made by the COS members included the importance of improved shelters, snow/berm removal at bus stops, and the need for safe pull-outs at bus stops. It was observed that the plan does not seem to address any goals, objectives, or other desired outcomes, such as reducing the dependence on fossil fuels, off-setting green house gases, or improving bus use to employees in underserved employer areas. Improvements to the executive summary were also mentioned. Sally asked that the COS members review the draft comments forwarded by the Energy/GHG Committee within the next 24 hours and either object strongly or approve.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

Note that the original agenda included informational items for the Diamond Park Aquatic Center GSHP (A) and Ben Lyman's Transit Development Plan (B). These topics were covered within the Action Item section.

C. There were no topics mentioned under items up for Assembly action.

D. Focus Areas

1) Energy/GHG

Sally commented on the goals set by the members of the committee, which are identified as itemized below.

- a) CBJ Greenhouse Gas Emissions Audit. Alida Bus has been hired as an intern to handle the audit.
- b) SDAT application. Sally and Catherine passed out the SDAT draft application and asked everyone to review and submit comments by July 15th. They described the two community forums related to identifying key energy issues and then addressing them. The American Institute of Architects will donate \$23,000 to this project and will write the final report.
- c) Energy Forum. The idea is to follow-up on the event the COS organized this last May.
- d) Incentives for building energy efficiency measures. The committee would like to explore this topic over the next year.

2) CBJ CIP

Bob and Dave are on this committee. The discussion revolved around the need to talk to Rod Swope and then start outreach into the Engineering Department.

3) Outreach

Sally, Catherine and Eva are instigating the Farmers Market and Food Festival. They are starting to get lecturers and partners, including the Cooperative Extension Service. Radio interviews are scheduled and other advertising needs were discussed. Funding for advertising will be available in July. There may be a premier showing of Eating Alaska. The filmmaker is from Sitka.

E. Local Sustainability Partners

Maria reported that the City Operations Committee is focusing on carpooling. Rod Swope mandated energy conservation long term. The CBJ reduced energy usage by 20 – 45%, depending on the facility, during the avalanche related Snettisham outage.

F. Information Sharing

The only meeting scheduled for July will be held July 16th at the downtown library.

Committee Assignments: Sandy will be on Outreach and Energy
Sean and Dan will be on CIP

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:13.