

City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ)
Juneau Commission on Sustainability (JCOS)
Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2015
CBJ City Hall Conference Room 224

I. Meeting called to order at 5:36 P.M.

Present: Steve Behnke (Acting Chair), Kate Troll, Kate Bevegni, Duff Mitchell, Darrell Wetherall, Bob Deering, Clint Gundelfinger

Visitors: Tim Felstead (CBJ Planner)

II. Agenda amended to add the Green Team to committee reports.

III. Minutes of the January 14, 2015 meeting approved. Minutes of the January 31, 2015 Annual Meeting approved.

IV. Public Participation - Nancy Waterman (Friends of Recycling) and Linda Deakins (Secretary, Friends of Recycling). Ms. Waterman and Ms. Deakins stated they were in attendance reviewing what the group will do and looking for new potential members. They also announced the Friends of Recycling annual meeting is to be held at 6:00 P.M., April 9, 2015. Ms. Deakins asked if there was a place for recycling in the JCOS. Bob Deering replied that recycling has been on the JCOS radar in the past under the umbrella of solid waste. Steve Behnke asked for a summary of the Friends of Recycling group. Ms. Deakins replied that Friends of Recycling had worked to get the current recycling programs in place; started looking to recycle glass then moved on to several other projects; and that some feel the recycling systems in place do an adequate job and some feel it is not enough. Kate Troll suggested a focus on more regional recycling areas (since the CBJ recognized this need) and raised the question for the potential for food waste composting. Duff Mitchell stated that Petersburg was able to implement these kinds of programs due to tribal funds. Mr. Deering thought there might be other constituents that hadn't been reached out to as potential members.

V. Action Items

A. Elections – Steve Behnke elected to serve as Chair; Duff Mitchell elected to serve as Vice-Chair; Clint Gundelfinger agreed to continue serving as Secretary.

B. Work Plan for 2015 – Steve Behnke gave an explanation of the sub-committees outlined during the January 31, 2015 Annual Meeting with a reiteration of the sub-committee members. The sub-committees include Energy Plan (including building codes/energy codes); Outreach/Accountability; Solid Waste (with monitoring of bio-solids). The group also discussed suggestions for possible members of JCOS. Mr. Behnke raised the question of getting back to a set work session schedule. Duff Mitchell said that it was not always possible to get notice out for short-term needed sub-committee efforts and that it would be helpful if there were some way to become aware of projects sooner, perhaps utilizing the sustainability checklist/checksheet idea suggested at the January 31, 2015 Annual Meeting.

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C. Annual Report (due June 2015) – It was discussed to use the previous annual reports as an outline including an update from the Green Team. Tim Felstead suggested that it would be good to get the report completed by May so the report could make its way through Human Resources. Clint Gundelfinger agreed to get an outline together based on the past (2014) year’s minutes.

D. Assembly/Planning Commission liaisons as voting members – Steve Behnke discussed the quorum situation. Kate Troll explained that the having Assembly and Planning Commission liaisons as voting members was set up so there would be a direct connection with the CBJ Planning Commission and CBJ Assembly but that now it was not necessary for that purpose given the forward progress JCOS has made. Ms. Troll continued to explain that there was a potential attendance problem for Planning Commission and Assemble members resulting in a lower number of JCOS meeting participants to meet quorum requirements and that other boards/commissions do not have Planning Commission or Assembly voting members. Duff Mitchell wondered that if meeting the quorum requirement was a problem then it may be a member vacancy problem, and that since the Assembly was very receptive to JCOS right now if it elevated JCOS’ stature if we had voting members form the Assembly and Planning Commission. Ms. Troll stated that she didn’t think that there would be any stature lost without these voting members. The question was raised as to why it takes so long to approve members to which Ms. Troll replied that Human Resources actually moves fast regarding board/commission applicants. There was a general group discussion of positives and negatives on either side of the issue. Bob Deering motioned to recommend to CBJ Human Resources that Planning Commission and Assembly liaisons not be voting members of JCOS. The motion was seconded by Kate Bevegni. There was a unanimous vote approving the motion. Kate Troll abstained from voting.

E. Web Page Update – no current update. The Andy Baker presentation on saltwater heat pumps is not available yet.

VI. Information Items -

A. City Liason Report – there are 4 applicants for RFP bid; Steve Behnke and Darrell Wetherall have been involved with scoring/rating of the bid proposals.

B. Items Up for Assembly Action – According to Kate Troll, regarding the report on bio-solids options the Assembly is learning about how limited the options are and are waiting on some analysis on particulars of the dryer/furnace opton. The Assembly has not committed to funding the project and is waiting on different cost options and is asking a lot of questions. Bob Deering made the observation of the studies performed that there was not much done regarding “out of the box” ideas or options from a regional perspective. Ms. Troll stated that the Assembly was receptive to ideas further stating that the project came with a steep price tag and the Assembly wanted to get it done right. Mr. deering suggested that if there is anew approval that JCOS should be made aware of it. Kate Bevegni added that the connection to solid waste in general should be considered because the waste problem is bigger than just bio-solids alone. Ms. Troll added that the Assembly does not want to limit solutions that do not also add to solving the more general waste problem(s).

C. Committee Reports

i. Solid Waste /Biosolids – discussed above. Additionally, Bob Deering asked generally if anyone had heard of Panhandle Produce which wants to set up greenhouses next to landfill to potentially use landfill “natural” gas for heating purposes.

ii. Energy – covered above. There has not yet been a response from the Building Code Committee.

iii. Comprehensive Plan Update – no new information.

iv. Green Team – a presentation is being done to the Finance Dept. on JCAP. We can find out from Beth how it goes. Docks and Harbors asked for a presentation to be delivered.

D. Additional – Bob Deering opened a discussion about amending the meeting schedule to make meeting more accessible to Planning Commission and Assembly members. Kate Troll stated that to that end Mondays and Wednesdays were bad.

VII. Meeting adjourned at 6:55 P.M.