

Juneau Commission on Sustainability (JCOS)
Annual Retreat
Thursday, December 5, 2024, 5:00 PM
Juneau Downtown Library Large Meeting Room
DRAFT Minutes

Meeting Called to Order at 5:04 PM by Chair Waldo.

Land Acknowledgement – Nick Waldo

Roll Call:

Members Present In-Person: Nick Waldo, Griffin Plush, Laura Achee, Brennen McCulloch, Duff Mitchell, Marian Call

Members Present Virtually: Jessie Barker

CBJ Staff: Dianna Robinson, EPW Environmental Project Specialist (in-person); Nate Rumsey, EPW Deputy Director (virtual)

Chair Waldo asked Nate Rumsey, the new EPW Deputy Director, to introduce himself. Chair Waldo then gave a quick summary of JCOS' duties and activities.

Agenda Items:

1. Marine Passenger Fee Discussion

Chair Waldo gave an overview of last year's priorities and projects. A discussion ensued about the Circular Study and the results. Dianna gave a recap of that project and the success of last year's requests. Dock Electrification was identified as a priority for the group.

Chair Waldo asked for help drafting the memo. Duff made a motion to give Nick, Brennen, and Griffin the authority to draft a memo to the Assembly based on the previously submitted Marine Passenger Fee priorities. Griffin seconded the motion; motion passed.

2. 2024 Recap:

Solid Waste Subcommittee Recap – Nick

- Worked to support the Zero Waste Campus, compost facility, and waste characterization study
- Supported the solid waste disposal options study

Outreach Subcommittee Recap – Marian

- Sustainability Sessions
 - Varying level of attendance – attendance seemed based on relative level of controversy.
 - However, the less well attended sessions also brought value through conversation.
 - The sessions take a lot of member and staff time
 - The subcommittee should decide on a full year's worth of events early in the year in order to advertise the events well ahead of time

Transportation – Duff

- No formal subcommittee work, but Duff has been monitoring CBJ activities related to transportation, including:
 - Dock electrification
 - Electric buses
 - Support for grants like US DOT's NOFO grants

3. Priorities for 2025

Ongoing:

- Letters of Support for grants
- Comments on the Capital Improvement Project (CIP), Marine Passenger Fee (MPF), Capital Legislative Priorities (CLP) processes

Old priority table

- Nick did not update the previous year's priority table due to time constraints, but would like to discuss a reformat
 - JCOS tried a task-based approach last year, which worked well for the Outreach and Solid Waste Subcommittee
 - There's an advantage to the individual project-based approach, but Duff raised the issue of lost institutional knowledge when members leave the committee
 - Discussion ensued around the idea of convening more subcommittee meetings to pass on that knowledge
 - Should there be a required number of meetings for each subcommittee?
 - Dedicated members that go to public meetings should report out to the group
 - Standardized reporting for subcommittees?
 - Standard committee written report
 - Reduce time spent covering subcommittee verbally in regular meetings
 - Due one week before the scheduled meeting
- Nick: Should the group return to project-related work?
 - Project based work ended up falling under subcommittees – should the group stick with that?
 - Discussion around returning to a worksession format, and not have separate subcommittee meetings
 - Is the group able to utilize the break-out room feature on Zoom? Dianna will speak with the Clerk's office, but suspects there will be issues with OMA
- Marian requested a round robin discussion about everyone's sustainability interests
 - Marian: small business/artist perspective:
 - Communications
 - Outreach
 - Emergency planning
 - Food security

- Community planning around internet outages
- Laura: Communications background
 - Communications and outreach
- Griffin: Infrastructure and funding background
 - Communications
 - Outreach
 - Planning
 - CAP
 - Energy planning
 - Emerging climate threats
- Nick: Science background
 - Identifying where JCOS can enact change
 - Solid waste
 - Outreach/sustainability sessions
- Brennen: Science/engineering background
 - GHG emissions reduction
 - Electrification
 - Electric vehicles, buses, and Alaska Heat Smart
 - CAP/JRES update (Net Zero)
- Duff: renewable energy development background
 - Reducing pressure on systems
 - Focusing on Juneau-specific impacts
 - EVs, heat pumps, buses, dock electrification
 - Hybrid cruise ship/ferries
 - Nexus of sustainability and affordability; connecting sustainability to different values
 - Seawater heat pumps for data centers
 - Electrifying Kensington Mine
 - Providing institutional/historical background information
- Nate:
 - Infrastructure
 - Funding
 - Financial sustainability
 - Emergency Management
 - Communicating to the public
- Dianna:
 - Solid waste
 - Communications
 - Deferred maintenance
- What projects do people want to support next year
 - Staying engaged with the comp plan process/sustainability
 - Energy and Sustainability chapters in comp plan
 - Nick, Marian, Jim, Griffin
 - Solid waste
 - Nick, Marian
 - Food security

- Energy
 - Transportation, CAP
 - Brennen, Duff, David, Griffin
 - Outreach/Sustainability Sessions
 - Marian
- 4. Officer Nominations
 - Chair/Co-Chairs: Nick, Marian, Griffin
 - Vice-Chair: Nick, Marian, Griffin
 - Secretary: Brennen

Meeting ended at 7:42 PM