

Juneau Commission on Sustainability (JCOS)

Wednesday, June 25, 2024, noon

Minutes

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Behnke called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

B. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

C. ROLL CALL

Present: Steve Behnke (outgoing committee chair,) Gretchen Keiser (also outgoing) Duff Mitchell, Marian Call

A quorum was present.

Staff & Others Present: CBJ Staff - Ashley Heimbigner, AELP - Lori Sowa, Brennen McCulloch.

D. Discussion

The purpose of the meeting was to update members on the status of major climate/energy topics and to discuss recommendations for moving forward. While the committee did not make a set of formal recommendations, we had a good discussion and agreed to forward the following suggestions to the Commission:

1. The Energy Committee needs a new chair, and new members, with the departure of 2 long-time members
2. The Energy Committee's focus is on community goals and implementation policies relating to climate mitigation, energy efficiency and the use of Juneau's renewable resources, as reflected in the CBJ Comp. Plan, the Juneau Climate Action and Implementation Plan, and the Juneau Renewable Energy Strategy.
3. JCOS should focus on more systematically advising the CBJ and the Assembly on the policies and programs needed to achieve Juneau's sustainability goals.

It should continue to advise the Assembly on their annual goals relating to sustainability. Given the lack of specific staffing capacity related to climate and energy, CBJ staff rely heavily on Assembly annual goals to set priorities. Development of annual sustainability goals has been a bit of a haphazard process in the past -- it should be made more systematic -- for example by working closely with staff and the JCOS Assembly liaison to frame its recommendations well in advance of the annual Assembly retreat. Ideally JCOS would have some sort of discussion with the COW before the annual goal setting session.

JCOS should actively engage in the budget process and the CIP. JCOS has successfully encouraged greater attention to sustainability in the CIP over the past few years. However, last year we were completely unsuccessful in getting

attention to our CIP recommendations. JCOS should discuss with staff how to more effectively incorporate sustainability provisions into the budget and CIP.

Steve recommended that the Energy Committee and JCOS be prepared to work closely with CBJ staff on the ongoing review and update of 49.35.800.

Sustainable building standards for construction and renovation of buildings. This is exactly the kind of major policy initiative that should be a priority for JCOS. E&PW intends to bring these to JCOS in September or October.

4. JCOS needs more consistent, systematic and timely information on CBJ and community efforts, initiatives and policies related to sustainability.

There's a lot going on, but no systemic procedures for keeping up, or for timely identification of the areas where JCOS should have input. Dianna has recently started including a slot for monthly updates on CBJ efforts. JCOS should discuss what and advise on what formats would be most helpful for these. Should there be periodic, medium detail updates from CBJ staff and other organizations on major activities (dock electrification, EV infrastructure, EV fleet development, decarbonization of buildings, solid waste, etc.)?

JCOS should continue its focus on the Public Works and Facility Committee meetings. These are where the CBJ specifically and systematically tracks and reports progress on Assembly sustainability goals. JCOS should consider asking for copies of these updates.

5. JCOS has made good progress in reviving it's long term efforts at public outreach through it's series of sustainability sessions. It should include energy/climate related topics in future sessions.
6. Steve and Gretchen both intend to stay active in Juneau energy and sustainability related issues. Feel free to call on them for context, history and advice. Mr. Mitchell had an informal conversation with Representative Hannon and a Corrections official about the potential for using GHG emissions from the landfill to heat the Lemon Creek Correctional Facility.

K. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm.

Submitted by Steve Behnke, Chair, Energy Subcommittee