

Minutes

Juneau Commission on Sustainability
Wednesday, October 7, 2009, 5:15 pm
Downtown Library, Large Conference Room

- I. Call to Order by Gayle Wood at 5:20pm. In attendance: Bob Doll, Catherine Fritz, Rick Wolk, Bob Bellagh, Sean Lynch (arrived at 5:25), Alida Bus, Eva Bornstein. Staff Liaison, Beth McKibben. Public Present: Chris Mertl, Juneau Urban Forestry Partnership, and Rich Seifert, UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Energy & Housing Specialist
- II. Minutes of September 2, 2009 approved.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Rich Seifert provided an overview of his work with Cooperative Extension Service (CES). Sustainability, conservation, response to climate change are all part of the CES mission. Rich suggested the JCOS consider the Resilience Program (Grad students at UAF) for project support. It's northern ecology based, has world-view focus for graduate study. Headed by Dr. Terry Chapin (member of National Academy of Science).

Chris Mertl introduced his work with Juneau Urban Forestry Partnership. He is interested in working on connecting the multiple issues with healthy forests – it's more than trees. The green infrastructure involves many components that must be considered together. He has been hosting lunch meetings to help groups come together in projects. They are considering organizing a Green Infrastructure workshop, sponsored by Conservation Trust, for Spring 2010. Anchorage and Fairbanks held these workshops 3 years ago. Chris invited participation from the JCOS.

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. City Liaison Report: Beth reported that the CBJ Staff Committee has reviewed an employee survey done by Homer, to inform their (CBJ) survey. This will be sent to all CBJ employees, and a Green Policy Manual will result.

Beth shared the 2009 Juneau Green Guide that summarizes efforts going on in Juneau.

Beth inquired to the City Manager about the status of the "Juneau LEED" ordinance, but has not yet received anything from the Law Dept. JCOS reiterated that they want to be involved early in the review of the draft document. Beth will stay in touch on this issue and keep the JCOS abreast.

B. Items up for Assembly action: The CIP process will begin in December for FY11. Discussion followed about getting Energy Audits for at least a few CBJ buildings listed in the priority projects. Bob commented that the CIPs could be required to include estimates of GHG reduction targets in their requests. The targets are expected to be acted on Nov 2, 2009 at the Assembly. There was also discussion about requesting that funding criteria for CIPs include progress toward meeting the GHG targets.

C. Committee Reports

Energy/GHG Committee: Committee has been busy. They spoke on KTOO's Focus on the Community program. Alida will check with KTOO for digital file link from the Focus on Community program to link to the website.

The GHG Targets were forwarded to the PWFC Committee and forwarded to the Assembly.

Gayle and Alida recently met with Jim Powell, UAS, for possible project with students.

Gayle, Alida, Catherine have been planning for Energy Fair, Nugget Mall, Oct 10.

Next meeting of Energy/GHG Committee is October 28, 5:15pm at AELP.

Food Security Committee: They have not been able to meet. Composting discussion followed. Bob will continue to keep the idea of composting on a community scale going, and to possibly include paper and address this recycling problem. It was also suggested that the Food Committee suggest changes to the domestic livestock ordinances to make it easier to raise chickens for eggs and other possible animals for food.

Outreach Committee: Catherine reported that she has provided some updates to the website and will continue to add content.

JCOS reviewed hand-out materials for the Energy Fair on Saturday, 10-4. Alida will be there all day; other JCOS members are encouraged to stop by to give Alida a break.

Farmers Market Report: Eva distributed the final report. We have a carry forward balance of \$356 for net year. There were 33 vendor participants. We did not use all of the grant funds, so approximately \$500 was returned to AK Division of Agriculture. There will be meeting on Oct 29th at 5:15pm at JACC with all of the partners to discuss how the event can continue to happen. JCOS agreed that our role would continue as a sponsor, seek funding from CBJ, and lead the educational programs.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

Final review of October 7, 2009 letter to Assembly in support of GHG targets. Moved by Bob and seconded by Rick. JCOS approved unanimously. Bob explained that once the Resolution is approved, he expects to see an RFP for a Climate Action Plan issued by the City Manager's office. Bob noted that an executive order has been issued by President Obama for federal agencies to reduce GHG emissions.

Alida will be attending the Bioneers Conference at UAA, Oct 16-18, 2009. This is part of a national presentation of biological pioneers interested in designing a sustainable world. Coordinated nationally with events in many locations, based out of San Rafael, CA. Co-Operative Extension Service is sponsoring Alida. It was unanimously agreed to accept CES' generous sponsorship of Alida.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:

VII. Proposal for Plasma Waste Reduction is going to be made to the Assembly. Bob would like the JCOS to hear about this. Eva mentioned that Sue Chasen at JEDC is familiar with this technology.

VII. ADJOURNMENT at 7:15pm.