

Juneau Commission on Sustainability
January 5, 2012
DRAFT Minutes
Large Conference Room, Downtown Library

Present: Assembly Member Mary Becker, Eva Bornstein, Alida Bus, Jenni Lefing, Nancy Waterman, and Lisa Weissler. Jenni Lefing kept the minutes.

Others present: Staff Liaison Beth McKibben

I. CALL TO ORDER

Alida Bus called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm

II. AGENDA CHANGES: None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of December 2011 approved.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

V. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Sustainability Indicators:** A cover letter, sent out by Nancy Waterman to the Commission was read aloud. This letter describes the work done to date by the Sustainability Indicators Working Group, and explains that at the last JCOS regular meeting, “it was decided that each member would review the draft indicators and we would then decide as a group on a few top indicators to develop and bring to the Assembly.”

The December 21 revision of the DRAFT Sustainability Indicators spreadsheet from the working group was available. This revision includes references pages to the Juneau Climate Action and Implementation Plan (JCAP).

Tonight’s goal is to take another step towards the goal of presenting indicators to the Assembly, so that they are able to have a “dashboard,” on how to gauge how the city is doing in regards to sustainability.

To do this, the commission discussed each of the indicators and used a voting exercise to determine whether the indicator or group of indicators under a

policy were: ready for action (green card); on the right track, but needs more work (yellow card); or unclear or too vague to be implemented (red card).

Energy Category

A memo was sent from Steve Behnke to the Commission in which he proposed four sustainability indicators to address the energy-related policies in Chapter 2 of the Juneau Climate Action & Implementation Plan (JCAP):

1. Fossil fuel energy use
2. Renewable energy use
3. Greenhouse Gas emissions
4. Annual progress on the JCAP

A conversation took place around these four indicators that included they are all measurable and in the JCAP. It was agreed that these indicators were ready to move forward, and that all four were related to the indicator:

Implementation of relevant strategies and actions recommended in the Juneau Climate & Implementation Plan (JCAP).

[Below is a summary of the voting results and discussion that took place around the rest of the indicators, in the order they appear in the DRAFT Sustainability Indicator Spreadsheet, dated 12/21/11.]

2.1.IA5 Provide ongoing information on the need to adapt to climate change with the goal of developing a community response to negative local impacts.

Indicators:

1. *Annual number of flood events on the Mendenhall and Taku Rivers*
2. *Annual number and location of avalanche events*
3. *Annual CBJ costs of flood and avalanche monitoring, and other risk management costs, including personnel*
4. *Amount of ocean acidification in the Juneau area*

The majority of the commission voted yellow, that these indicators are on the right track but need more work. The committee needs to consolidate these indicators and “boil them down” in words.

2.2.IA3 Develop administrative policies and procedures, create employee incentive programs, and reward new sustainability promotion ideas that can

be practically implemented by CBJ. Such programs might encourage ride-sharing, more efficient ways to use the city's fleet, and active participation in recycling.

Indicators:

- 1. Annual number of meetings held by the CBJ Green Team; how often the team meets*
- 2. Recommended actions or polices are adopted that are adopted, implemented, or funded by the CBJ.*
- 3. Implementation of relevant strategies and actions recommended in the Juneau Climate Action Plan & Implementation Plan (JCAP)*

The commission voted to delete the first two indicators and keep the third.

2.2.1A5 Develop performance standards for the design of all new or renovated CBJ buildings and provide funding incentives for higher levels of performance.

Indicator: Annual number of projects that CBJ has done that follow LEED standards.

The majority of the commission voted yellow, that this indicator is on the right track, but needs more work. It was suggested that the indicator be edited to be more specific.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2.2.1A6 Identify and develop the sustainability expertise of CBJ staff and develop strategies for using the expertise collaboratively throughout the CBJ government.

Indicators:

- 1. Identify what programs and expertise exist within the CBJ*
- 2. Number of staff that participates in CBJ sponsored sustainability related programs*
- 3. Annual number of sustainability related outside training programs that CBJ staff attend.*
- 4. Amount of follow-through with implementation of recommended strategies.*
- 5. Implementation of relevant strategies and actions recommended in the JCAP.*

The commission voted red, to delete (unclear or too vague to be implemented) all five indicators, as they don't necessarily speak to the sustainability [commission] and are difficult to measure.

2.1.1A7 Initiate community development programs to attract sustainable businesses to Juneau and the Southeast Alaska region.

Indicators

- 1. Number of public and private initiatives that are being developed to further sustainable use of natural resources and better environmental practices (e.g., JEDC cluster study, Alaska Brewery reuse of mash for energy, Sealaska pellets)*
- 2. Amount and type of support for existing businesses engaged in sustainable practices (e.g., businesses recycling toner cartridges, recycling cooking oil from cruise ships)*

The majority of the commission voted yellow; indicators on the right track, but need more work. It was suggested that these indicators might be ones to collect anecdotal evidence.

2.1.IA11 Provide ongoing support to sustain Juneau as a robust governmental center and as a regional hub for goods and services.

Indicator

- 1. Progress towards improved statewide access to legislative meetings- broadcast of the legislative session; video conferencing*
- 2. Progress toward expanding and improving the capitol campus*

The majority of the commission voted that that these indicators are on the right track, but need more work. It was suggested that this indicator needs to be "boiled down."

QUALITY OF LIFE, DEMOGRAPHICS, EDUCATION, HOUSING

2.1.IA8 Support socio-economic and cultural diversity with the goal of creating and maintaining a community where individuals can live and thrive for the duration of their lives.

2.1.IA9 Protect ecosystems surrounding the community and preserve their inherent biodiversity.

2.1.IA10 Support the individual and commercial production of foods locally with careful evaluation of environmental impacts.

The majority of the commission voted that all indicators (see DRAFT Sustainability Indicators) listed under each of these policies in this category are on the right track, but need more work.

The next steps in the Sustainability Indicators projects are:

1. Refine indicators based on commission feedback.
2. Commission to develop a “package” to present to the Assembly, that will include what the indicators are measuring, and explain how the commission got there.

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. City Liaison Report

1. Green Team Update

- Green Team was scheduled to meet on 12/21/11, but was canceled due to lack of members able to attend. The next meeting will take place the third Wed. in January.
- The Green Team is regularly writing educational articles for the *Health Self Newsletter* that is sent to all CBJ employees and their family members who are on CBJ's plan. Along with the articles, are contests where readers can win small prizes, such as water bottles donated by Parks and Recreation. The January newsletter will have information on the JCAP, including a link to it online. Beth McKibben will forward a copy of the newsletter to the Commission.

2. Annual Retreat will take place 01/29/12 from around 9:30 am to 1. Beth McKibben will inform the commission on exact times and location.

B. Items up for Assembly Action: None reported.

C. Committee Reports

1. CHG/Climate Action Plan Update- None reported.
2. Outreach Liaison – Tina Brown, a Juneau resident, asked if the Commission was interested in being involved with Earth Hour, taking place March 31.

- a. Jenni Lefing and Alida Bus will explore this further and report back to the Commission at the Feb. meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT: 6:54 pm