

**Juneau Commission on Sustainability (JCOS)
Annual Retreat January 29, 2012 9 am
Assembly Chambers**

Committee Members Present: Assembly Member Mary Becker, Steve Behnke, Eva Bornstein, Alida Bus, Jenni Lefing. Kate Troll, Nancy Waterman, Lisa Weissler, and Darryl Wetherall. Jenni Lefing kept the minutes

Others Present: Staff Liaison Beth McKibben

I. CALL TO ORDER

Alida Bus called the meeting to order at 9:07 am

II. AGENDA CHANGES: None

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Current Committees/Groups

1. GHG: This committee has not met since the Juneau Climate Action Plan (JCAP) was adopted, and has become almost a committee of one. Steve went to CBJ Green Team meeting and talked about the JCAP. He noted that a lot of the items could be implemented without much funding.
2. Green Team: At the last meeting, discussion took place regarding a joint meeting between the Green Team and JCOS.
3. Outreach: Alida is the current liaison. Efforts the committee has been involved with have included, outreach for a Christmas light recycling and the Juneau Sustainability Blog. It was noted that future JCOS efforts being talked about, such as the cruise ship reward program, would include outreach.
4. Food Liaison: Sarah Lewis was the point person.

Currently there are 2 active committees (Outreach and GHG). In the past there have been others.

B. Focus for 2012

1. It was suggested that the commission take a step back, and look at our objectives for the year to determine what committees are needed. The commission discussed the goals of JCOS:

- Outreach to community, which has included one-day events organized through the Outreach committee, and electronic blog.
- It was noted that a JCOS webpage could be created within the CBJ framework. (One example provided was Eaglecrest).

2. Committee members presented proposals for their ideas on what the focus of JCOS should be this year. *Below are the proposals presented along with discussion that followed after:*

a. **Definition of Sustainability:** Lisa proposed that JCOS develop a Definition of Sustainability. This would include: defining sustainability generally, as well as in different areas, and then providing outreach to the community on these definitions.

Discussion:

- It was noted that sustainability means something different to everybody, and it was suggested that instead of a definition that we many want to think of what want to accomplish.
- It was also noted that it is important for us to know how each of us on the committee thinks of sustainability, and how we as a group define.
- It was mentioned that there is a definition of sustainability in the comprehensive plan.

b. **Steve's Two Priorities**

1. Completing the Sustainability Indicators Project
2. Implementing the JCAP
 - Figure out how we [JCOS] can assist CBJ in implementing JCAP.
 - It was suggested that there be a committee focused on JCAP Implementation.
 - The Climate Action Manual was completed December 2011 which lays out specific recommendations for implementation, but doesn't specify who should do it. There is an opportunity for JCOS to coordinate along with the CBJ Green Team and other groups.
 - Beth will look into getting copies of the Climate Action Manual for JCOS members.

c. **Completing the Sustainability Indicators Project:** At the January 4 meeting, it was agreed that five indicators were ready to go and others needed more work. Nancy presented two options for completing the Sustainability Indicators Project:

- Option 1: Draft and move forward to the Assembly a report on what's ready in this project (the energy indicators and robust governmental indicator). This would close out the indicators project.
- Option 2: JCOS presents the same draft report as outlined in Option 1, and continues the selection process and other work on indicators.

Discussion:

- Option 3: A third option was suggested; to recognize that developing indicators is an ongoing process, and that we should look at other indicators.
- It was suggested that an indicator committee be formed.
- It was noted that Santa Monica's sustainability plan includes specific goals under each area, and that other groups [in Juneau] are working on indicators, so JCOS should work with them.
- It was suggested that no matter what, we should share with the assembly where we are at on this project.

- A discussion took place on which option JCOS should move forward on. This included asking whether our work is coordinating with the Assembly's goals, and that if we focus on option 1, it doesn't mean that we won't focus on other indicators/areas.
- The question. *What option should JCOS move forward on in the Sustainability Indicators Project?* was proposed to the commission.
 - 6 Voted for Option 1
 - 0 Voted for Option 2
 - 1 Voted for Option 3

d. Promoting Sustainability of Juneau's Cruise Ship Industry: Kate presented a project that would focus on how JCOS can promote sustainability and encourage green practices with cruise ships.

- Justification includes that Juneau receives more cruise ship stops than any other port in North America, and Juneau is a community that is economically dependent on cruise ships and our pristine environment.
- The project would occur through an award program that would recognize ships focused the most on sustainability.
- First steps would include JCOS focusing on becoming familiar with the range of cruise ship sustainable practices, and see what they are already doing.

Discussion:

- It was suggested that the first step be for JCOS to educate ourselves and take the time to learn, before starting project.
- Look into Tourism Best Management Practices
- Think about how to get other groups involved, and make sure to run it by the Assembly.

e. Three committees were proposed for 2012:

1. Outreach/Education

- Report Cards (linking with assembly goals)
- Hold forum with experts to learn about different topics (such as recycling etc.)
- Tech assistance/support
- Website
- Green Team

2. JCAP Implementation

- Indicators
- Energy
 - Biomass
 - Hydro
 - Heat District
 - Water Systems
- Food (such as Slow Food Group)

- Electric Vehicles

3. Initiatives (Projects)

- Cruise ships
- Define sustainability
- Electric Tour Buses
- Recycling Advocacy

It was suggested that at the next JCOS meeting, we talk about what to accomplish next year; who will do what, and define goals. Members were asked to come to the next meeting with thoughts on what committees they want to be involved with.

C. ATTENDANCE

Beth passed out an attendance sheet for 2011-2012 (to date) for the commission. As noted on the sheet, "procedures for the committees state that a vacancy is created when a member misses more than 40 percent of the board meeting in a 12 month period. 40% of 12 is 4.8 or 5 meetings; if a member is physically unable to attend board meetings for more than 90 days.

D. ADJOURNMENT: 12:35 pm