

FINAL MINUTES
Juneau Commission on Sustainability
Wednesday, April 23, 2014, 5:30pm
Downtown Library Large Conference Room

The meeting was called to order by Lisa Weissler.

In attendance: Lisa Weissler, Lauren Heine, Steve Behnke, Bob Deering, Darryl Wetherall, Kate Bevengi (and Elsie), Amy Skilbred, Ben Haight

Beth McKibben staffed the meeting; Notes were taken by Lauren Heine

II. AGENDA CHANGES-Action Items and Information Items moved to May 14 meeting; only the Public Participation part of the meeting was held

III. Minutes of March 12, 2014 were approved

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- A. Jim Calvin, McDowell Group; joined by Barbara Sheinberg of Sheinberg Associates – Jim provided an overview of the Juneau Economic Development Plan. Described economic baseline study and undergoing household survey via telephone and internet about opportunities, barriers and goals; also talking with high school kids and social media
- B. Will also be launching a survey of businesses with help from the Chamber of Commerce; also talking to non profits; what do they see coming and what might community do to build sustainability into the economy to enhance collective economic well being.
- C. Hope to have it wrapped up by December when present to the Assembly.
- D. Includes infrastructure, quality of life, housing, employment, economic development (diversity and growth) and a variety of policies. Will pull all this together and work with Assembly to think about where to get biggest bang for the buck from investments.
- E. Some interesting learnings:
 - a. 30% of work force is non resident to Juneau; many not even be Alaskan
 - b. 10% of Juneauites are over 65. In 10 years, that will be 20% over 65
 - c. local participation in workplace is going down. Do we have senior services and health care for seniors to keep money in Juneau?
 - d. Income by small businesses is trending down; is something influencing entrepreneurship;
- F. Jim asked about JCOS thinking about economic policies understanding that sustainable infrastructure is essential for sustainable economy
 - a. Economic diversity; need tech savvy people to come here
 - b. Attract young people and mobile professionals
 - c. Look at Portland, OR as a model for developing communities that is not fully centralized; eg Douglas could be more of a community at microenterprise/community scale; chicken and egg kind of thing; attractive communities attract creative people who create ventures
 - d. Energy; Alaska is number 1 per capita for energy use in US. 80% of footprint in Juneau is petroleum-based and makes us vulnerable; what happens if there is an energy crisis? Juneau cancelled energy plan without any warning. Yet energy is driving force of economy; to not have an energy plan is vulnerability and throwing money elsewhere.
 - e. Environment has changed; Japan was SE Alaska's biggest purchaser of logs; manufacturing and milling could have been done here but just shipped logs in the round; even wrt mining, are there additional opportunities here? 50% of fishing quotas are owned by people out of state; privatization of resources. Now king crab

and shrimping are closed; moratorium on new sport fishing; quotas for King salmon and more; Most product gets shipped down south rather than coming to Juneau and creating a product that can be resold. Lots of opportunity to develop natural resource added value to keep in Juneau.

- f. Barriers include price of real estate and business space downtown; too high; successful businesses have to move; huge cost of construction; biggest thing is to keep seniors here; need more housing to keep them here; they are ones with the money;
- g. Circular migration of young people; seasonal jobs; role of arts and also sciences such as labs and fisheries and forest service; there could be more collaboration between entities and people in Juneau;
- h. Issue of economic and academic diversity; entire economy is based on extraction and pressure on science by economic pressures; limits opportunity for science education; Dependence on government, mining and tourism makes us vulnerable. Squeezing them most from these streams. Think about Norway as a model; build an infrastructure based on high altitude hydro and benefit residents by thoughtful sale of natural resources.
- i. Sustainable Tourism: Pressures to add more people onto cruise ships; very large and also a lot more very small cruise ships; what is the carrying capacity for Juneau? How many helicopters can land?
- j. Will road really reduce cost of transportation and goods?
- k. Education. There is no real reason that Juneau should not have best education in the state. Something is missing in being able to integrate the well educated people who live here.
- l. How to prioritize? Answer needs to come from the community. Biggest bang for the buck? What metrics to use? Idea of paying off debt; Assembly does NOT have metrics yet; looking for some indication of what can we expect to get from certain investments. Is it high wage jobs? How to measure success in economic development and well being. Economic prosperity means different things to different people. Will be the same size in 10 years? What is NOT the metric of success? Economic growth? Population growth? More tourists?
- m. Land ownership; unused buildings and space; how to bring land owners together to better understand why these spaces are not being developed; need to change the dynamic.
- n. Everyone should voice their opinion at: www.Juneaueconomicplan.org

V. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Annual Report – Discuss at next meeting on May 14; Steve will email Annual Report by May 14
- B. Airport Sustainability Plan (Bob) – discuss at next meeting
- C. Web Page Update - discuss at next meeting

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS – Address at May 14 meeting

- A. City Liaison Report
- B. Items up for Assembly Action
- C. Committee Reports
 - i. Solid Waste
 - ii. Energy
 - iii. Comprehensive Plan Update

VII. ADJOURNMENT Moved and approved 7:04PM