



CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

Meeting Minutes - Final Sustainability Commission

Officers: Chair Katie Riley, Vice Chair Aurora Taylor, Secretary Erik de Jong

Members: Elizabeth Bagley, Gerry Hope

Staff Liaison: Bri Gabel, Sustainability Coordinator

Assembly Liaison: Thor Christianson

Monday, January 6, 2025

7:00 P.M.

Harrigan Centennial Hall

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Staff Liaison Gabel called the meeting to order at approximately 7:07 P.M.

Present: Elizabeth Bagley (telephonic), Gerry Hope, Erik de Jong, Katie Riley (telephonic), Aurora Taylor, Thor Christianson (Assembly Liaison)

Absent: None

Staff: Bri Gabel (Sustainability Coordinator)

Public: Barb Bingham, Larry Edwards, Joel Hanson, Kay Kreiss, Kevin Mosher, Scott Saline

II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

CHAIR

Hope moved to open nominations for Chair.

Motion PASSED 5-0 by roll call vote.

Taylor moved to nominate Riley as Chair; Riley accepted the nomination.

Riley moved to nominate Taylor as Chair; Taylor accepted the nomination.

Taylor was ELECTED as Chair 3-2 by the following vote.

Taylor 3 - Bagley, Riley, de Jong

Riley 2 - Hope, Taylor

VICE CHAIR

Hope moved to open nominations for Vice Chair.

Motion PASSED 5-0 by roll call vote.

Hope moved to nominate Riley as Vice Chair; Riley accepted the nomination.

Riley was ELECTED as Vice Chair 5-0 by roll call vote.

SECRETARY

Hope moved to open nominations for Secretary.

Motion PASSED 5-0 by roll call vote

Riley moved to nominate Hope as Secretary; Hope respectfully declined the nomination.

Hope moved to nominate de Jong as Secretary; de Jong accepted the nomination.

de Jong was ELECTED as Secretary 5-0 by roll call vote.

III. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

No changes.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

Approve the December 2, 2024 minutes.

Hope moved to approve the December 2, 2024 minutes.

Motion PASSED 5-0 by roll call vote.

V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD *(not to exceed 3 minutes on topics off the agenda)*

Joel Hanson provided an update on the Sitka Community Garden project and outlined some of the challenges they were facing in moving the project forward.

Kevin Mosher thanked the Commission for their work.

VI. SPECIAL REPORTS

None.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**A. Discussion on Sustainability Commission 2025-2026 Goals**

Gabel advised the Commission to create a short list of goals in anticipation of voting at the next meeting. She advised the Commission to get any requests to her for additional information as soon as possible. Commissioners discussed goals and shortlisted:

- A revisit/progress update on resolution 22-18: Decarbonize City Operations by 2030
- Continue municipal solid waste strategy with support from the Southeast Alaska Solid Waste Authority and Southeast Conference's regional municipal solid waste planning project.
- Continue community energy visioning (supporting the Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy (SCRES))
- Continue supporting fleet electrification.
- Explore regional approaches to sustainability work and/or organizational partnerships, possibly consider hosting an event as a 2026-2027 goal.

Hanson requested the Commission consider forming a partnership with the Sitka Community Garden

B. Discussion/Direction/Decision on Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Draft

The Commission continued the discussion from the work session prior to the meeting regarding the next steps for revising the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Draft. Gabel requested the Commission consider writing the purpose/introduction section of the document to better connect the inventory to Sitka and serve more as coauthors, requested additional support in aligning the technical assumptions with the public comment received and exploration of additional data visualizations and science communication techniques. In response, the Commission formed the following working groups:

Purpose/Introduction: Hope, Riley, Taylor
Technical Assumptions: de Jong
Data Visualization: Bagley, Taylor

Kay Kreiss requested an additional draft of the GHG emissions inventory be released before finalization.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS**C. Review and Amend the Bylaws**

Gabel introduced the item that this item was intended for the Commission to reflect and adjust operations as needed.

Commissioners had questions about legality of lowering the commissioners age minimum to 16 and the possibility of increasing the number of telephonic participation opportunities to aid commission members that are travelling often. Gabel explained that would require a code revision; Christianson and Mosher would sponsor a change per the Commission's request. Gabel added that she would follow up with some research and return with an item that reflected the findings.

D. Discussion/Direction/Decision on Commission Attendance to the Sitka Living Locally Event

Barb Bingham introduced the upcoming event on March 29th and how it evolved over the years. Commissioners discussed what could be presented at the event and their availabilities to support a booth. Taylor requested that an item be brought to discuss specifics of the participation at a future meeting.

Hope moved that the Sustainability Commission attend and participate in the Sitka Living Locally Event. Motion PASSED 5-0 by roll call vote.

IX. PERSONS TO BE HEARD *(not to exceed 3 minutes on topics on or off the agenda)*

Bingham provided further details on her involvement in the Sitka Community Garden and additional updates on the project.

X. REPORTS *(Staff, Chair, Assembly, Commissioners)*

Staff: Gabel announced that she had been accepted into the Energy Leadership Accelerator Program that was offered through the Alaska Center for Energy and Power and RMI.

Chair: Taylor reminded those in attendance that the Southeast Conference was in February in Juneau with a focus on Transportation. She summarized the conversation the Solid Waste Advisory Group had in December with a commercial composter and that the conversation was productive and raised many more questions that would need to be addressed before composting could be considered in Sitka.

Assembly: None.

Commissioners: None.

XI. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA

The next meeting was scheduled for February 3, 2025 at 6:00 P.M., in Harrigan Centennial Hall.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting.

Seeing no objection, the meeting ADJOURNED at approximately 8:08 P.M.

Minutes By: Erik de Jong, Secretary