



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: Kevin Mosher

Monday, October 7, 2024

6:00 P.M.

Harrigan Centennial Hall

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Riley called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 P.M.

Present: Katie Riley (Chair), Elizabeth Bagley (telephonic) Gerry Hope, Erik de Jong, Aurora Taylor, Kevin Mosher (Assembly Liaison)

Absent: None

Staff: Bri Gabel (Sustainability Coordinator), Kevin Knox (Parks and Recreation Coordinator)

Public: Joel Hanson, Eric Jordan, Sarah Troise (Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy Technical Team)

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

No changes.

III. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

Approve the September 9, 2024 minutes.

Taylor moved to approve September 9, 2024 minutes, with Section VII. Item B as amended by Commissioner Riley.

Motion PASSED 5-0 by roll call vote.

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

Joel Hanson spoke to potential for vertical farming hydroponic gardens in Sitka.

V. SPECIAL REPORTS

None.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion/Direction/Decision on the Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy (SCRES) Workshop to Develop Future Energy Scenarios

Sarah Troise from the SCRES technical presented on the draft SCRES workshop. Commissioners discussed various considerations and improvements that could be integrated into the workshop. The Commission indicated the desire to pilot test the workshop to provide better feedback. Gabel informed the Commission of their options to do so and would schedule pilot groups accordingly.

Eric Jordan suggested to keep it as simple as possible and insisted on a higher sense of urgency.

B. Discussion of EV Transit Van Procurement for the Parks and Recreation Division

Gabel introduced the item and explained that the preliminary lifetime cost analysis of an EV Transit van and a traditional internal combustion engine (ICE) transit van were nearly identical but lacked additional considerations beyond monetary cost estimates. She requested the Commission add their opinion so it could be incorporated into the supplemental appropriation that would be necessary to go the Assembly for the final decision. Gabel and Kevin Knox, Parks and Rec Coordinator answered Commissioners' questions regarding the procurement process and specifications of the van's requirements and intended use.

Hope moved to support the procurement of an electric transit van for the Parks and Recreation Division.

Motion PASSED 5-0 by roll call vote.

Riley, Taylor, and Hope volunteered to review the memo that would be included in the supplemental appropriation.

Gabel called attention to the Decarbonizing and Rightsizing to Improve Vehicle Efficiency (DRIVE) Advisory Group and the role Sustainability Commissioners could have in answering these questions outside of Commission meetings about other vehicle procurements. She inquired about Commissioner interest in volunteering to sit on the DRIVE Advisory group; Riley and de Jong volunteered.

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

None.

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

Staff: Gabel reported on her trip to Fairbanks to attend the Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Project (ETIPP) annual summit and the Alaska Rural Energy Conference.

Commissioners: Hope notified the Commission that he would be attending the Annual National Conference of American Indians as well as the Inter-Tribal Transportation Association's Annual Meeting.

X. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, November 4, 2024. Location was yet to be determined.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Riley moved to adjourn the meeting.

Seeing no objection, the meeting ADJOURNED the meeting at approximately 7:50 P.M.

Minutes By: Erik de Jong, Secretary