



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, November 4, 2024

6:00 P.M.

University of Alaska Southeast
Sitka Campus

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Riley called the meeting to order at approximately 6:11 P.M.

Present: Katie Riley (Chair), Elizabeth Bagley, Gerry Hope, Erik de Jong,
Aurora Taylor (telephonic, left at 6:58), Thor Christianson (Assembly Liaison)

Absent: None

Staff: Bri Gabel (Sustainability Coordinator)

Public: None

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

No changes.

III. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

Approve the October 7, 2024 minutes.

Hope moved to approve October 7, 2024 minutes.

Motion PASSED 5-0 by roll call vote.

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

None.

V. SPECIAL REPORTS

None.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Discussion on Sustainability Commission 2025-2026 Goals

Gabel explained the trend she had noticed Commission goals were either project-based or CBS operations-based, each with their own pros and cons. Commissioners discussed potential projects, such as energy efficiency pilot projects, municipal solid waste and composting, public EV charger challenges, potential studies and how they would benefit from either approach. Christianson suggested looking at building more resources for the CBS website, such as a heat pump page or other educational topics that could save residents money. Gabel discussed the workforce challenges that may be faced with the current vacancies in Public Works and how that could influence the Commission's work.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

B. Review of Assembly Joint Work Session Agenda and Materials

Commissioners reviewed the draft materials and agenda and discussed the logistics of running the work session. Bagley suggested reformatting the slides into a matrix. Commissioners suggested additional documents to include in the work session packet.

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 that 3rd Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy (SCRES) webinar on Energy Economics went well, 4th SCRES Webinar on Reliability and Resiliency with Ron Vinson, Utility Director with Amy Solana and Michael Brown from the Pacific Northwest National Lab (PNNL). She added that the radio series was wrapping up with a greenhouse gas emissions inventory introduction with the final report expected mid November.

Chair: Riley invited those in attendance to the Sitka Conservation Society's Wild Food's Potluck.

Assembly: Christianson spoke of his experience putting an EV on the Alaska Marine Highway System and mentioned the cost and limit of two EVs per sailing.

Commissioners: Hope reported on his trip to Tulalip Washington, and the work to extend an EV corridor from Washington State northward.

X. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, December 2, 2024 at Harrigan Centennial Hall.

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: Bri Gabel, Staff Liaison