

MEETING SUMMARY



Climate Protection Action Committee
Monthly Appointee Meeting
Tuesday, March 1, 2022
8:30 a.m.



Present: Robert Anderson; Mary Pat Baldauf; Barbara Bowers; Penny Delaney Cothran; David Foster; Robert Gudea; Gretchen Lambert; Zach Laprise; Lisa Muzekari; Mary Nesfield; Bob Petrulis; Priscilla Preston; Tameria Warren; Samantha Yager; Lori Ziolkowski.

Chairman Bob Petrulis called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Minutes were reviewed. Gretchen Lambert made a motion that the minutes be approved as presented; Dr. Z. seconded it. Minutes were approved.

Gretchen reminded the group that two non-voting appointee positions were open, and encouraged members to help get the word out.

Penny updated the group on the Ready for 100 Resolution Committee, and said they were awaiting information from Clint to proceed. She asked if Robert and Mary Pat could help by creating a "focus team" with Clint to assist in getting the information. With many challenges and changing of the guard with Joey Jaco's departure, Clint is extremely busy, but Mary Pat will assist as able.

Zach Laprise gave an update on the climate plan update. They're discussing the possibility of applying for an EPA STAR grant to assist with plan development, but are still evaluating that option.

Bob Petrulis updated the group on the work of the Communications Committee. The next webinar will be in April and will include information on and highlights from USC's Climate Ready Columbia conference. Mary Pat confirmed that the Public Information Office has assigned a staff member to get footage at the conference, and the committee is waiting to see the program before making specific requests.

Bob Gudea said that the Internship Committee met a few weeks ago to discuss the values and goals of an internship position. Once they have a draft, he'll send out to the whole group for their review.

On the topic of the procurement cohort, Dr. Z. reported that she had nothing new to report.

Mary Pat announced that the City/CPAC would have an informational table at the Climate Ready Conference and asked for suggestions on what to feature. Instead of having handouts, it was suggested that QR codes be developed so attendees could link to various items instead of having handouts, which often end up being trashed or left behind. Mary Pat asked if members would be willing to work shifts at the table, and nearly everyone agreed to help as needed.

Sustainable Midlands director Becca Smith announced information about the sustainable neighborhood tour (combination of 11 confirmed locations) being held on April 3 part of the conference. Volunteers are needed to serve as docents and should contact her to volunteer. Sustainable Midlands is also assisting with recycling at Five Points' St. Patrick's Day festival, and will also need volunteers: register at *****.

Staff Updates:

- Robert Anderson, Public Works Director: Robert said that he looks forward to seeing the program for the Climate Ready Conference.
- Mary Pat Baldauf, Sustainability Facilitator:
 - The City submitted an application for LEED for Cities cohort to follow up on the STAR Communities experience. We should hear something by mid-March.
 - She is updating the website and tweaking the newsletter a little at a time. Please share any feedback and/or ideas you like from other places.
 - Let's Meat Less Columbia and BlueBikeSC has invited the City to participate in a Spring promotion about the impacts small changes like riding a bike and going meatless one day a week can improve the environment. Let's Meat Less is kicking in \$20K for promotions, and there will be group bike rides to meatless meals.
 - For Earth Hour 2022, we're partnering with Parks and Recreation for a "Behind the Scenes Look at Boyd Island" on the Saluda River walk. Free, but limited to 20 people, and registration is required. March 26, early evening; details are being determined.
- David Foster, Fleet Administrator: Next week, Dave will be attending a comprehensive session on electric vehicles, including maintenance, charging and fleet electrification.
- Clint Shealy, Assistant City Manager: Is attending an economic development event in Blythewood, but submitted the following update:
 - Staff presently calculating power cost per unit of drinking water and wastewater treated and distributed / collected and applying master planning growth projections to determine future utility energy needs. Also reviewing staffing projections to determine future growth of City operations and associated energy needs. These projections will be shared with the Resolution Committee for further discussion.
 - We are continuing our discussions with Dominion Energy on next steps. A follow-up meeting should be held in the next few weeks.
 - I will be participating in two panel discussions during the upcoming Climate Ready Columbia Conference.
 - I have not advanced these initiatives as much as I had planned, but ask for a little grace as we transition from Joey's departure to filling the Director of Utilities position. Things are exceptionally busy right now.
- Samantha Yager, Solid Waste Superintendent: Sam announced that she spoke about recycling to the Sierra Club last night, and co-presented with Lexington County's recycling coordinator. Recycling prices remain steady; prices are strongest for PET and HDPE plastics. Cardboard and metals.

Bob then opened the floor for new business. He announced that he'd like to invite E&I members to the next work session meeting to bring them up-to-speed on CPAC. He has a call scheduled with Dr. Bussells, Committee Chair, this afternoon.

Gretchen suggested that since some appointees still haven't met in person, she's like to coordinate a happy hour at WECO on Meeting Street in west Columbia. They have ample outdoor provisions for social distancing. She and Mary Pat will coordinate a Doodle poll and get something scheduled soon.

After hearing no additional business, new or old, Bob adjourned the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- *Appointee Working Meeting: Tuesday, March 15, 8:30am*
- *Appointee Regular Meeting: Tuesday, April 5, 8:30am*
- *Appointee Working Meeting: Tuesday, April 19, 8:30 am*
- *Next Advisory Meeting: May 3, 10 a.m.*
- *E&I presentation to council: Q1 2022 TBD*