

# MEETING SUMMARY



Climate Protection Action Committee  
Monthly Appointee Meeting (*HYBRID*)  
Thursday, January 5, 2023  
8:30 a.m.



**Present in person:** Robert Anderson, Mary Pat Baldauf, Gretchen Lambert, Clara Lotz, Bob Petrulis, Samantha Yager.

**Present via Zoom:** Jason Czerwinski, John Epting, Crystal Garcia, Nina Grey, Kappy Hubbard, Lisa Muzekari, Sabrina Odom, Evan Patrohay, Priscilla Preston, Clint Shealy, Peggy Smedley, Lori Ziolkowski.

Chairman Bob Petrulis called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m.

The November and December 2022 minutes were approved as submitted.

First up was a discussion on CPAC officers, scheduled in January in the by-laws. CPAC is down to only four voting members and is awaiting the City Council's appointment of additional people to bring the membership up to its full strength of seven appointees. The current executive committee (Bob, Lori, and Gretchen) is willing to continue to serve for another month or two until new appointments have been made. It was decided to defer elections until new appointees had been seated. NOTE: Anyone who wants to be considered for a voting appointment – whether you are currently non-voting or a regular guest – needs to apply, even if you have applied before. Please apply online at <https://app.matchboard.tech/boards/137>, and please notify Mary Pat of your application.

Next up, discussion of a new meeting day/time. Lisa Muzekari indicated that not one time worked for everyone, but the spot with the least amount of conflicts is Friday morning, 8:30 to 10 a.m. Bob asked if Friday mornings at 9 a.m. would be possible for everyone. Gretchen made a motion that the CPAC appointee meetings to the first Friday at 9 a.m. (appointees) and the third Friday at 9 a.m. for the working meeting. Mary Pat will send out new Outlook invitations to update everyone's calendar.

## CPAC Priority Updates

**LEED for Cities Update:** Clara Lotz reported that there are still 12 credits left to examine before the application is submitted. Plans are underway to submit in mid-to-late January.

**C-LEAP:** Mary Pat reported that the scope has been finalized; she will send a copy of it with the meeting minutes. Ella with NREL recently recommended via email that the City update the building code. Gretchen explained that as of January 1, the state is now operating under the 2021 International Building Code with South Carolina modifications, primarily residential.

**RESOLUTION 2.0:** Regarding a council presentation, Clint said that he is targeting a work session presentation for February 14. There is a potential that work sessions may end up changing work session scheduling, but to put a placeholder for February 14.

**PROCUREMENT COHORT UPDATE:** Clint said there was nothing new from Dominion, but some renewed interest from the University.

**COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE:** Mary Pat reported that Speaking Sustainability went out at the end of December. She also said that the webinar group would need to meet soon to discuss the 2023 webinar schedule. Bob invited anyone who would like to participate to contact him.

**UPCOMING WORK SESSION:** Bob reported that he did not have anything pressing for a working meeting. Dr. Z. explained that yesterday she attended a meeting with Sustain SC and Fraunhofer via SC Competes. Fraunhofer is bringing money to the state to fund some climate initiatives, and they are coming to Columbia on February 6 to talk about the possibility of funding for City of Columbia and USC initiatives. Dr. Z. said that the turnaround is short, and a working session would be the ideal place to plan for the meeting. Gretchen suggested that all members go to Fraunhofer's website (<https://www.morgenstadt.de/en/ueberuns.html>) and research; Dr. Z. will also have one-pager she can share in the next week. Sustain SC has briefed the Mayor, who plans to attend the meeting. Members, be on the lookout for details about the meeting.

## **STAFF UPDATES**

- **Public Works Director Robert Anderson** reported that it has been a fun year so far, that Public Works is busy and functioning well.
- **Sustainability Facilitator Mary Pat Baldauf** reported the City has been selected to participate in a new EPA cohort
- **Assistant City Manager Clint Shealy** updated the group about Columbia Utilities' response to the frigid temperatures over Christmas weekend. Many pipes were frozen, and when they thawed, demand increased dramatically: daily demand went from 52 million/gallons to 90 million/gallons. For the most part, his team was able to handle it, and things are calming down. Demand is now back to normal as of today. Clint reported that Columbia fared better than many places, such as Memphis, Houston, Charleston and Greenwood.
  - He also reported that the LED agreement with Dominion is about to be signed, which will lower Citywide emissions and provide some incentive funding.
  - Also that they are continuing to develop requests for expressions of interest for excess biogas at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
  - The City is also continuing through the Strategic Energy Management process with Dominion via ICF; the next session is in late January.
- **Solid Waste Superintendent Samantha Yager** reported that they are in the midst of leaf and Christmas tree season, and they are quite busy. She also updated the group on the progress of the leaf drop-off locations throughout the City, an option to help alleviate the backlog during leaf season. Recycling prices are holding steady right now.

The next regular meeting will be on Friday, February 3 at 9 a.m. Again, it will be hybrid with both in-person attendees and participation via Zoom.

Hearing no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.