



MEETING SUMMARY

Climate Protection Action Committee Monthly Appointee Meeting (*HYBRID*) Friday, March 3, 2023 - 9 a.m.



Present in person: Robert Anderson, Mary Pat Baldauf, Gretchen Lambert, Bob Petrusis, Clint Shealy, Samantha Yager.

Present via Zoom: John Epting, Audrey Jones, Brenda Krebs, Lisa Muzekari, Priscilla Preston, David Whiteman, Lori Ziolkowski.

Chairman Bob Petrusis opened the meeting at 9:04 a.m. Because there was not a quorum, it was not technically called to order.

Bob then asked for an update on the appointee situation. Robert said that Council was in the process of adopting a revised handbook with revised and standardized terms and charges. Gretchen suggested that if it is going to be over a few months, that staff ask Council if non-voting members can be moved to voting members for the sake of a quorum.

CPAC Priority Updates

RESOLUTION 2.0: On Resolution 2.0, Bob said that we are waiting to appear before the Health, Safety and Environment Committee. Robert said that he thought the meeting was scheduled for April 25, but Bob said the agenda had not yet been posted. Clint confirmed that and that CPAC would be on the agenda.

MEETING WITH THE MAYOR: Bob reported on his meeting with Mayor Rickenmann. He felt positive about it, and said that the Mayor was interested in creating many pilot projects. Bob invited him to speak at a CPAC meeting, and he agreed. He also updated him on the need for new appointees and to vet Resolution 2.0 with the committee.

GRANTS: There was then a conversation about the EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant, which the City is now eligible for. The grant is structured by Municipal Statistical Areas (MSA). The EPA offered grants to the top 72 MSAs, but because some states and areas passed on the grant, Columbia rose into the top 72. The first step in the process is to submit a "notice of intention to participate" letter by April 28, 2023; a more detailed plan will be due at the end of May. CPAC and staff are inclined to submit such a letter, but will pitch it to the Health, Safety and Environment Committee on April 25. Robert asked Dr. Z. to get some sample letters so staff can start drafting one for the City. This grant will be used for climate planning in the Columbia Metro MSA, which includes the City of Columbia and the counties of Richland, Lexington, Kershaw, Calhoun and Fairfield County.

Clint gave a general update on other grants that the City was pursuing. Robert mentioned that the Dominion-driven street light upgrade is in progress. Mary Pat said that the City has received a formula-funded (non-competitive) grant Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) of \$198,000. The City will use this funding to change *City-owned street* lights to LEDs.

Getting back to the CPRG grant, Clint suggested that we draft letters now so we will be ready to move ahead as the time draws near.

COMMUNICATIONS PLANNING: Mary Pat reported that the Communications Committee met last week and decided to host a “focus group” of sorts to gauge the level of interest in and knowledge of renewal energy in Columbia. The committee would like to raise visibility of the City’s commitment to 100% renewable power by 2036. Priscilla Preston noted that she would like the Sierra Club to start promoting more about what CPAC is doing.

C-LEAP UPDATE: Mary Pat then updated the group on the latest with the C-LEAP program. Because the group leader is leaving NREL for another position, we are undergoing a transition, which will likely set us back a bit. We are in the process of planning another meeting.

LEED FPR CIIES UPDATE: Mary Pat also said that the City had submitted the first application for LEED for Cities. USGBC will be reviewing it, and we will then have an opportunity to change and/or defend our information. Intern Clara has indicated that she will stay until the project is completed.

PROCUREMENT COHORT UPDATE Dr. Z. noted that she had been working with the renewable cohort and has a contact willing to assist the City in getting a cost neutral deal for large-scale solar.

Priscilla noted that she would like to give an update on the Sierra Club’s greening of low-income multi-unit housing units next time. She did indicate that they are making progress in possibility of adding solar for the units.

Clint said that Dominion has made a deal with the City for a 100-year-lease of some land adjacent to the Lower Saluda River for some recreational and preservation opportunities.

The meeting ended about 10:15 a.m.