

MEETING SUMMARY



Climate Protection Action Committee
Monthly Appointee Meeting
Friday, May 5, 2023
9:00 a.m.
Hybrid meeting: In-person & Zoom



ATTENDEES: Robert Anderson, Mary Pat Baldauf, Christine Bhola, Nina Gray, Gretchen Lambert, Bob Petrusis, Tameria Warren, David Whiteman, Samantha Yager, Lori Ziolkowski.

Bob called the meeting to order without a quorum at 9:05 a.m.

Due to the lack of quorum, the group was unable to adopt minutes from March, notes from April.

There was a discussion on CPAC membership and election of officers. No new appointments have been made and staff is unsure if the new Boards and Commissions guidelines have been officially adopted. Mary Pat will follow up with Ashley this week.

Bob reported that the April 25th meeting the Health, Social, and Environmental Affairs (HSEA) Committee went well. Regarding Resolution 2.0, the Committee would like to see the resolution simplified and focused, and re-submitted by their next meeting in June. After that meeting, they will forward the resolution to full council.

At the HSEA meeting, staff reported on the availability of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant from the EPA. This one million grant is available to the City of Columbia as the largest city in the five county metropolitan statistical area (MSA) that includes Richland County, Lexington County, Fairfield County, Calhoun County and Kershaw County. The funds are being designated for the creation of an MSA Priority Climate action Plan by March 1, 2024 and a comprehensive Climate Action Plan by summer/fall 2027. The committee was supportive of the City moving forward with the grant application.

Communications Committee report: Mary Pat reported on the May issue of Speaking Sustainability. The Communications Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, May 9 at 8 a.m. Bob has a list of several items to discuss, including the next webinar, "rebranding" of Ready for 100 and a possible phone bill insert to promote the various opportunities available through the Inflation Reduction act, which was discussed in more detail toward the end of the meeting.

Mary Pat reported that C-LEAP has a new NREL facilitator and that the group would be picking things back up in May.

Mary Pat also reported that the City's initial LEED for Cities submission had been returned and that staff is reviewing the application and will be resubmitting it soon for further consideration. The initial prognosis is that the City will come in one level higher than the STAR Communities rating, which was the goal after STAR. We're hoping to unveil the award at a June City Council meeting.

Bob added a new item to the standing agenda, announcement of new climate/environmental grants being pursued by the City. Mary Pat noted the CPRG from EPA, and the Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG), which the City will be using to convert City-owned street lights to LED.

In staff updates, Robert noted that there are a lot of irons in the fire right now. Mary Pat said that she'd already given her updates throughout the meeting. Sam said that they are slightly behind on yard trash and announced that Solid Waste is targeting student home rental units for move out pickup to prevent unsightly piles from being left on the street.

In Priscilla Presley's absence, Sierra Club volunteer Christine Bhola gave an update on the club's efforts to green rental units in Fairfield County with hopes to eventually launch the program in the City of Columbia. She also announced that the SC Energy Office had selected their group as the pilot project for the Home Labeling program.

In the middle of the meeting, Tamera Warren joined in and the group was able to approve the March meeting minutes and April meeting notes.

The meeting closed around 10:10 a.m. The next working meeting will be held on Friday, May 19 at 9 a.m.