

MEETING SUMMARY



Climate Protection Action Committee
Monthly Appointee Meeting (*HYBRID*)
Thursday, November 3, 2022
8:30 a.m.



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

Present via Zoom: Barbara Bowers, Penny Delaney Cothran, David Foster, Anna McKoy, Evan Patrohay.

Chairman Bob Petrulis called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

Bob noted two amendments to the October minutes:

1. The meeting date was October 20, not October 6.
2. In the third graph, APPROVED should be changed to AGREED.

Gretchen made a motion that the minutes be approved with the amendments; Penny seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

CPAC Priority Updates

RESOLUTION 2.0: Gretchen updated the group on the Ready for 100 resolution 2.0. The comments were recorded and returned to the City, and she asked Clint on the status. Clint reported that the group did a good job responding to the comments, and that he had sent it back to Legal. Some comments are likely to stay as information for Council members. He is scheduling the presentation for the next available working meeting, which is more suitable place for discussion than the regular meeting, which is more ceremonial.

CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATION: Bob said that he has an email into Dr. Bussells to provide the E&I Committee an update. Clint said that Council recently discussed reformulating committees. He is advocating for CPAC, but will not know how the deck is reshuffled until Council announces their plans.

PROCUREMENT COHORT UPDATE: Clint has no update from Dominion Energy SC but will follow up with Danny Kassis on the status of the straw man proposal.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: Mary Pat announced that *Speaking Sustainability* went out this week. She is also updating the website as time allows, and working through Public Relations to increase social media posts. Bob announced that Evan Patrohay, John Epting's new colleague, will be joining the committee and reminded that anyone interested in joining is welcome. The committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 8

a.m. via Zoom. (Please contact Mary Pat or Bob to be added to the distribution list.) He also recommended that the committee focus on getting the word out about the City's commitment to Ready for 100, perhaps with a rebranding now that the official Sierra Club initiative has ended.

C-LEAP: Mary Pat reported that the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) is finalizing a scope for the initiative, and has contacted others to be a part of the conversation, including City of Columbia Community Development, Columbia Housing Authority and Columbia Council of Neighborhoods. Priscilla Presley reported that the Sierra Club has been talking to NREL about some of the issues that have come up in their initiative to green lower income neighborhoods, and that the club is changing their priority to smaller grants to assist low to moderate-income residents. The confusion comes, she said, in that many LMI residents rent from property owners that are not considered to be LMI, and thus do not qualify for targeted programs.

LEED FOR CITIES: We are making progress on the LEED for Cities application, and the goal is for a mid-to-late January initial submission. Completed categories include Quality of Life and Water, and she is now working in Energy. Clara will graduate in December, but committed to stay with the City through the completion of the certification and/or mid-May.

UPDATE ON CPAC MEMBERSHIP: Gretchen reminded the group that December is generally, when "retiring" members roll off and other members start their terms. Officer elections are held in January, and those elected take office in February. Because City Council has held making new appointments as they worked on amending Boards and Commissions, and CPAC is challenged to get a quorum, Gretchen suggested that CPAC might have to move elections. Clint suggested that Mary Pat needs to help "close the loop" with the appointee communications process to be sure new members are aware of their appointment and retiring members are thanked for their service.

STAFF UPDATES

- **Public Works Director Robert Anderson** noted that Ford has canceled the City's pre-order for the Ford F-150 Lightning. The order was placed early and locked in at \$35k, but now Ford has increased it by \$14k. He later noted that after November 15, high-pressure sodium bulbs would no longer be produced. Dominion has no more cobra head high-pressure sodium, so we are slowly starting to shift lights to LED. There is an incentive plan being discussed that would save the City up to \$500k, which could be used to change out the decorative streetlights.
- **Dave Foster, Fleet Manager**, said that they have been extremely busy with breakdowns and a staffing exodus. Today, for instance, five solid waste side loaders are out of service. In terms of electric vehicles, Fleet is awaiting delivery of a Nissan Leaf, but delivery has not been confirmed.
- **Assistant City Manager Clint Shealy** reported that he has been busy working on the bond issuance for water and sewer, and that the City has maintained an elite bond rating from S&P of AA Plus, which will help keep interest costs down.
- **Sustainability Facilitator Mary Pat Baldauf** reported that she and Clint are now working with Dominion Energy/ICF on a strategic energy management program. Staff from the City have formed an energy management team and will be meeting with them on a regular basis to meet milestones.

- **Solid Waste Superintendent Samantha Yager** reported that leaf season is upon us, and there is a plan to help manage them better this season. Solid Waste will place roll-off collection containers throughout the City so residents can drop off their leaves and get them out from in front of their yard. The recycling markets are not great; plastic increased, but metal and cardboard are down. Solid waste is once again having to pay to recycle.

Bob then opened the floor for other business.

- Bob asked if the group would like to start using the hybrid format for work sessions. Gretchen suggested trying it for a few meetings to see how it goes.
- Dr. Z. noted that the EPA has \$27 billion to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in two years. The comment period is now open, and there will be two opportunities to assist low-to-moderate income households. Dr. Z. asked if the City had capacity to handle such a large amount of money, and if not, to suggest how to maximize the benefits of this funding. She also suggested that we look at adding capacity building to the next budget cycle.
- Gretchen announced that CPAC officers met with Community Empowerment Zone director Felicia Maloney and her new employee, Crystal, to discuss possible partnerships. She said they had a great conversation and that the partnership would help CEZ know more about sustainability in projects they are working on and CPAC could use their experience and input to fashion talking points and messaging to others.
- Dr. Z reported about two technical assistance opportunities available one from EPA; the other from the DOT.

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