

MEETING SUMMARY



Climate Protection Action Committee
Monthly Appointee Meeting
Thursday, July 7, 2022
8:30 a.m.



Present: Robert Anderson; Mary Pat Baldauf; Barbara Bowers; Penny Delaney Cothran; Kirstin Dow; David Foster; Nina Grey; Dana Higgins; Kappy Hubbard; Kelvin Keisler; Gretchen Lambert; Lisa Muzekari; Mary Nesfield; Bob Petrusis; Priscilla Preston; Clint Shealy; Peggy Smedley; Tameria Warren; Samantha Yager.

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

Three sets of minutes were submitted for approval: April, May and June 2022. Nina Gray said that her name was misspelled and asked that it be corrected to GrAy. Bob asked if there were any other changes, hearing none, he asked if there was a motion for approval. Tameria Warren made a motion to approve all three sets of minutes; Penny seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

CPAC Priority Updates

CPAC APPOINTEES: Bob intended to include an update, but City Council doesn't meet again until July 26, so CPAC will continue to wait.

RESOLUTION 2.0: Mary Pat deferred to Robert Anderson, who has been bundling staff comments with the hopes of getting it to the Environment & Infrastructure Committee soon. Bob asked if the committee could see the comments. Robert said that since Legal has gotten the resolution, it was now their document, and that he would check with them.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: Bob announced that *Speaking Sustainability* went out last week. The group is working on an August 18 webinar about citizen science. Presenters/topics include Dr. Kirsten Dow on Urban Heat Mapping, DHEC water quality monitoring opportunities, speaker TBA and water quality testing with Congaree Biosphere Reserve and the Circle Initiative by Dr. Tameria Warren.

C-LEAP AND LEED FOR CITIES: Mary Pat reported that the C-LEAP team is meeting on a regular basis (bi-weekly) and that the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) is coordinating a scoping call tomorrow at 11 a.m. NREL has asked us to bring a few more people to the table for these conversations, and the following people/organizations have been invited: City of Columbia Community Development director, Columbia Housing Authority, Columbia Council of Neighborhoods and a Sierra Club member who works with Green Congregations (Nina Gray). Our LEED for Cities intern, Clara, is taking some time off between classes, so this week is quiet, however she is now starting to get into the optional points research process. When she returns, she'll pick up with GIS and Columbia Water.

CLIMATE PLAN COMMITTEE: Zach Laprise, who was leading this committee, has officially moved to Washington, D.C. for his new job, and the committee has been inactive lately. Bob suggested that CPAC engage the City to move forward with climate planning. Mary Pat announced that just this morning she was on an email thread about climate action plan costs, and that the going rate was \$200-\$250k for a consultant to prepare the plan. However, some cities have done their own and drastically cut that figure, including Charleston.

Bob then turned the floor over to Dr. Kirsten Dow from the University of South Carolina, who received a NOAA grant to conduct heat mapping in Columbia. She reported that the data collection date is scheduled for Saturday, August 6 (rain date options include Sunday, August 7 and Saturday, August 13). She has worked with Mary Pat to establish stationery collection centers throughout the city. She is also contemplating how to build momentum and bring adaptation into the process.

She noted that CPAC was hosting the Heat Island Mapping Project webpage, and asked if the City could consider expanding it, including, but not limited to a link on the CPAC landing page. Mary Pat agreed that could be done, and she'll get to it by the end of the week.

Nina Grey noted that the A/C went out in her apartment, and that she had to relocate with family for 10 days. She wondered if the City and/or County had any arrangements for such excess heat emergencies. Mary Pat will check with the City and County emergency management staff to see if such a thing is on their radar. Kappy Hubbard suggested that Nina reach out to the local newspapers as a story idea.

Bob then called on staff for updates.

- Sustainability Facilitator Mary Pat Baldauf reported that her updates were mostly C-LEAP and LEED for Cities, which she already covered.
- Fleet Superintendent David Foster reported that the Ford F150 Lightning on order is not yet scheduled for production; he thinks consumer orders are taking precedence.
- Assistant City Manager Clint Shealy reported that he was in touch with Dominion on three projects: 1) LED lighting initiative; 2) options for biogas from the Wastewater treatment Plant; and 3) the strawman contract for large scale solar.
- Solid Waste Superintendent Samantha Yager reported that the City had received about \$20,000 in DHEC outreach and education grants. She also mentioned that prices had decreased for both metal and plastic.

Bob then opened the floor for new and old business.

Those who are interested in participating in the heat island mapping should register at <https://cpac.columbiasc.gov/urban-heat-island-mapping-initiative/>.

There was discussion on the possibility of CPAC recommending to the E&I Committee the need for extreme heat emergency action. Bob suggested that they do some research before taking that step. Mary Pat volunteered to contact the City and County emergency management officials to find out if extreme heat was on their radar.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

