



MINUTES

Climate Protection Action Committee
Monthly Appointee Meeting
Friday, April 5, 2024 @ 9:00 a.m.

Appointees Present: Gretchen Lambert, Bob Petrulis, Shelley Sasser, Dave Voyles, Dennis Wiehl.

Others Present: Mary Pat Baldauf, Tammy Graham, Kappy Hubbard, Payton Lang, Priscilla Preston, Amy Rivera, Tayyaba Sadiq.

Bob Petrulis called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Clint Shealy updated the group on Ready for 100 v. 2.0 as follows:

- A request for information was released for the wastewater treatment plant biogas project. Seven responses have come in this week, most about cleaning the gas and injecting it back into the pipeline. One was about the creation of a natural gas vehicle fleet. The next step is to pick take the best idea and issue a request for proposals on it. This is a high priority project because there is a possibility of getting some Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) dollars for it. It would be beneficial for the environmental and provide a good return on investment.
- The citywide energy efficiency management request for qualifications has gone out, but no responses have been received yet. We are looking energy saving opportunities that are more efficient and will make the city better stewards, and will narrow the down to a few well qualified providers.
- Jory and the Council of Governments submitted a Climate Pollution Reduction Program proposal for utility scale solar. This would help make a reality a project we've been talking about for about eight years. After wrapping up the discussion, Clint left the call for another meeting.

Seeing many new faces, Bob did a round of introductions.

Mayor's Office intern Amy Rivera, a senior at USC, said that she had been tasked by City Council to look at some City challenges and research what other cities are doing to meet them. Amy chose sustainability because it interests her. She found a unique clean energy workforce training program in Columbus and wants to explore how we might be able to implement such a program in Columbia. Amy later asked the group what areas they may want to improve on, in addition to quality of life and clean energy, and received several ideas. In the interest of time, she asked that people follow up with her via email at amy.rivera@columbias.gov.

The March meeting minutes were approved. Gretchen Lambert made the motion; Dennis Wiehl seconded it. The minutes unanimously passed.

Payton Lang reported that the City is receiving a \$50,000 grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies for the creation of a Youth Climate Action Fund. The City will be making micro grants of \$1500-5000 to youth group ages 15-24 to perform a climate project in the community. CPAC is needed to help get the word out, help vet applications and possibly serve as mentors. There was a discussion of ideas, and Payton left her email address for anyone to contact her with other thoughts, ideas and/or questions.

Mary Pat reported that the revisions to the by-laws were reviewed and endorsed by the Health, Social and Environmental Affairs Committee and were approved by City Council on April 2. She submitted an update of the CPAC MatchBoard description to be sure the information was correct. Mary Pat encouraged appointees to reach out to City residents who may be interested in serving, and notify when they apply so she can follow up on the applications.

She also reported statistics from the April Speaking Sustainability newsletter.

Mary Pat reported that both the SC Office of Resilience and Central Carolina Council of Governments had submitted proposals for the EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program. SCOR's submissions were a land conservation and acquisition with three other states, energy and housing resilience, composting and Don't Waste Food SC, and climate smart agriculture and forestry. As Clint mentioned, the COG presented a utility scale solar plan as well as support for smart surface projects.

In staff updates, Mary Pat announced that she is now assisting Forestry with a new five year grant to provide 300 free trees per year in underserved, Justice 40 areas. The campaign is called Beat the Heat – Plant a Tree, and is designed to decrease the urban heat island effect in Columbia neighborhoods.

She also announced that the May meetings would be off by a week to allow her to attend the Southeast Sustainability Directors Network Annual Meeting in Charlotte.

The meeting was adjourned about 10:15 a.m.