



## **SUMMARY**

Climate Protection Action Committee  
Monthly Appointee Meeting  
Friday, March 7, 2025  
9:00 a.m.  
Hybrid meeting: In-person & Zoom

Appointees Present: Josey Cline, Joyce Rose-Harris, Benjamin Marosites, Bob Petrulis, Julie Seel, Dave Voyles, Dennis Wiehl.

Appointees Absent: Gretchen Lambert, excused

Guests and Staff: Robert Anderson, Mary Pat Baldauf, Jory Fleming, Laura Anne Hunt, Tangee Jacobs, Brad Leon, Mary Elizabeth Pifer, Priscilla Preston, Grant Schaffer, Clint Shealy, Alyssa Williamson

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

Clint Shealy reported as follows:

- The RFQs for the energy audits are moving to RFP next week.
- We are continuing to march forward to the municipal solar at the wastewater treatment plants.
- The dashboard was dependent on securing an intern. (NOTE: The City has revamped the college internship program, which is delaying the hiring of an intern.)
- The City is still negotiating with Dominion on the biogas project.
- The canal recovery has started.
- Bob will give a CPAC update to the April Health, Social and Environmental Affairs subcommittee.

Bob then called for a round robin of introductions as were some new people at the table.

Grant Schaffer of Solar United National gave a presentation about their work in the solar arena. He and his partner, Brad, will be at the working meeting on March 21 to go into more depth on their activities.

Moving through CPAC priorities, the group then discussed the by-laws, the red-lined version of which was in the meeting packet. Dennis asked about the next step; Robert said to send them to Ashley. Joyce Rose-Harris made a motion that the by-laws be accepted as presented and sent to Ashley to move through the process. Dennis seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Next up, Mary Pat announced that there would be an Earth Day Climate Action Fair on Saturday, April 26. The event is being held at Boyd Plaza, in conjunction with Soda City. Jory added that the planning committee is meeting this afternoon; if anyone is interested and/or had any great ideas, they should contact him or Mary Pat. Volunteers may also be needed on the day of the event.

Dave Voyles then presented an update from the Urban Farming group, including their new mission statement. One thing they'd like to do is certify Columbia as a Bee City USA and work with the on low/no mow program. The group endorsed the work that the committee is doing, and Robert suggested that Bob take this to the April Health, Social and Environmental Affairs subcommittee. Dennis made a motion, which was seconded by Joyce Rose-Harris, and it was approved unanimously.

The City is recruiting the second round of Bloomberg Youth Climate Action Grants. They are also doing an informational session on March 19 at 4 p.m. at the Mayor's Conference Room. We have received two applications, but know of 10 others working on them. Proposals are due on March 22, and the group is encouraged to help spread the word. Joyce Rose-Harris volunteered to help score the applications.

Mary Pat said that 820 e-newsletters went out and there was a 50% open rate. The link click rate was 9%, and the most viewed link was the one about micro plastics in the human brain.

Jory Fleming updated the group on the CPRG grant, which had been paused in January. We have access to the funds again, and the EPA project officers have been allowed to communicate with the grantees again. The Climate Conversations mini grant is now open again, as well, and Jory walked through the grant.

Bob noted that there is still a request from the Columbia Choral Society, but he has not been ready to proceed. He asked for the group's blessing to take it from here in terms of support. Robert asked if they could tie in to the Earth Day event; he said that he didn't know if they could be "concert ready" by then, but perhaps they could do a piece from the concert during the event.

Robert announced that along with the good news from the CPRG side, there was bad news in that the USDA/Arbor Day grant was defunded. Columbia Green has now presented a proposal to help carry out the work of the grant despite the defunding.

The summary from the February meeting was approved as submitted.

Dennis announced that Columbia Compass was having two meetings on March 12 and encouraged members to attend if possible as many of the items are ones that CPAC cares about.

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