



## **SUMMARY**

Climate Protection Action Committee  
Monthly Appointee Meeting  
Friday, October 10, 2025  
9:00 a.m.  
Hybrid meeting: In-person & Zoom

Appointees Present: Josey Cline, Cameron Cohran, Joyce Rose-Harris, Gretchen Lambert, Benjamin Marosites, Caroline Nagel, Bob Petrusis, Julie Seel, Dave Voyles, Dennis Wiehl.

Guests and Staff: Robert Anderson, Mary Pat Baldauf, Cynthia Davis, Beata Dewitt, Priscilla Preston, Clint Shealy, Samantha Yager.

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

Clint Shealy updated the group on the Resolution 2.0 items.

Clint and others scored four proposals for the energy audits. Clint hasn't seen the results from procurement yet, but thinks there could be a contract presented at Council in December.

The solar farm is moving full steam ahead, and they are close to submitting the interconnection application to Dominion. Based on their response and the queue they put us in will determine if we are able to take advantage of tax incentives.

Clint reminded the group that the biogas opportunity was being repackaged due to Dominion's lack of interest. There have recently been some generators purchased for the WWTP. They are natural gas driven, but there may be a way to power them with biogas. They're still kicking this idea around, but it looks like it could be a favorable option.

Clint stated that the flood of 10 years ago has been on our minds especially this week. Nightly, he has been texting contractors and friends who helped out during the flood.

Clint answered a few questions, and excused himself for another meeting.

Robert announced that he was going to have to leave for a Midlands Business Leadership Group another meeting in about 20 minutes, and noted that two big things are soon coming from the group: a beautification of Highway 302 and new welcome to Columbia signage.

Minutes from the September meeting were reviewed and accepted as presented.

Robert suggested that since he is leaving early for a meeting, he'd like to take up new business of keeping trash out of yard waste and coordinating litter pickups. Julie said that someone had mentioned the possibility of promoting the different types of materials that the City picks up: garbage, trash and yard waste. Robert explained that they kind of balance things on the street in terms of yard waste promotion because the capacity of the compost facility is limited.

Julie had also brought up the promotion of litter pickups in the neighborhoods. Samantha Yager said that the City has a litter crew that pick up the main thoroughfares only. Keep the Midlands Beautiful offers litter cleanup supplies for neighborhoods. Robert added that the City also has an Adopt-A-Street program that Keep the Midlands Beautiful manages. Samantha mentioned that KMB also has an annual Great American Cleanup where they encourage neighborhoods to do litter pickups.

After a general conversation about contamination and cleanups, Robert excused himself to attend the Midlands Business Leadership Group meeting.

Dave Voyles then gave an update on the urban farming/Bee City working group update. There are two BeeCity USA requirements they are working on: an educational event, which will be done during the next Beat the Heat meeting, and the creation of an integrated pest management plan. Dave and co-chair Joey are also talking about some other possibilities.

Next up was Ben Marosites who gave an update on the heat mapping study. They are preparing the research gathered and will share that with the group when complete.

Mary Pat then gave an update on the Bloomberg Climate Action Program, which ends on October 31. Practically all groups are on schedule, and final reports are due November 15. There will also be a showcase with all recipients at City Hall after the first of the year.

Mary Pat reported that Speaking Sustainability went out on July 30 to 792 subscribers. So far, the open rate is 54%; the industry average is 41%. The click rate was 11.5%, a full 9 percent better than the industry average, and the most popular link was the Smart Surfaces Come to Columbia article.

Sustain SC's Cynthia Davis said that since the City is a member of the organization, CPAC is welcome to participate in their events. There is a symposium on October 23, and there are still tickets available. There are also other events coming up, and she will send information to Mary Pat to get out to the group.

Smart Growth chairman Dennis Wiehl said that the committee is meeting after this meeting. They are creating a statement of principle about smart growth which encompasses, which they will be bringing to CPAC in the future.

Staff updates were next. Robert did his before he left. Samantha Yager mentioned that the City's new street sweeper has arrived. Mary Pat said that she is working on the November newsletter and wrapping up the Bloomberg Youth Climate Action program. Mary Pat announced that Samantha Cornell, aka Young Samantha," is still with us, but is on Fall Break.

Caroline Nagel mentioned that a group at USC is looking into the possibility to apply to be a Bee Campus USA; they are slowly making progress.

Beata Dewitt from DES and SC Public Health Association announced that the association is hosting a free lunch and learn Climate and Health seminar about energy efficiency on October 31 at the Edgewood Library. She invited members of the group to register. Mary Pat will send out the information, but it was also in the last issue of the newsletter. The seminar is free, but reservations are required.

In closing, the next meeting will be the quarterly environmental roundtable on October 17 at 9 a.m. Dave Voyles is also having a happy hour to celebrate Bee City USA at his house on the 17<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.