



SUMMARY

Climate Protection Action Committee
Monthly Appointee Meeting
Friday, February 6, 2026 9:00 a.m.
Hybrid meeting: In-person & Zoom

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

Guests and Staff: Robert Anderson, Mary Pat Baldauf, Samantha Cornell, Jory Fleming, Amy Rivera, Samantha Yager.

Minutes from the January meeting were approved with one change, changing Adventure to EdVenture.

Then the group moved to the election of a new chairman. Bob opened the floor for nominations, and Cameron Corhan offered for the office. The nomination was seconded and was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Julie, Bob and Mary Pat reported on the hard hat tour of EdVenture's new exhibit, *Fossils to Futures*. Julie said that EdVenture had requested collateral material for their brochure rack. Robert suggested that we submit Speaking Sustainability. Mary Pat will follow up with EdVenture on this. She also mentioned that EdVenture may promote the exhibit at our Earth Day Climate Action Fair on April 18.

Next up were the CPAC priorities. Regarding the update of the by-laws, Mary Pat reported that it will be covered at the next Health, Social and Environmental Affairs committee meeting, which should be coming up. Councilman Sam Johnson is now the new committee chairman and should be calling a meeting soon.

Mary Pat also updated the group on Speaking Sustainability. The January issue went out to 808 people, and had a 51% open rate. The click rate was 10 %, and the highest views were received by "the exploding trees" article.

Mary Pat announced that the second Bloomberg Youth Climate Action Showcase, held on Tuesday, February 3 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at the City Hall lobby, was a great success. Bob, Dennis and Julie attend the showcase on behalf of CPAC. The student exhibits were creative and council members and the Mayor walked through the

showcase after the council meeting adjourned. WIS and the Charleston Post and Courier both covered the event. Mary Pat said that the City has expressed interest in the third round, which should be announced in February. Robert suggested that Mary Pat send photos from the Showcases to Bloomberg to keep the City visible as the third round begins.

Jory then updated the group on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. All climate action plan deadlines were extended to June. The full draft form of the climate action plan should be complete by the end of the month, and Jory is going to announce the draft is available for comments and review at the Environmental Roundtable Meeting. Robert added that the City will be very interested in reviewing the document. The grant doesn't end in June, but goes through July, 2027, which means he will be employed by the COG until that time. That additional time will allow him to do additional work on climate planning. The Climate Conversations mini grant will also be available through the end of the grant; any 501c(3) may apply. The City has tapped out the \$9,999 with the '25 and '26 Earth Day Climate Action Fairs.

Next up was an Earth Day Climate Action Fair update. Joyce said that she is working on a pledge form that will be used during the event. Mary Pat said that the committee's last meeting was rescheduled due to weather issues, but that they continue to work on the plan. Environmental organizations have been contacted and exhibitor requests are coming in. The committee will meet again soon. Save the Date of April 18 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Soda City; volunteers will be needed.

Dave gave an update on the Bee City program. The Bee City committee met on February 23.

Robert announced that he was recently in a meeting with Columbia Green and the Mayor to discuss ways Columbia Green might be involved in a sustainability project. The discussion ended up focusing on the flood lots in residential that the City acquired after the flood and will be required to maintain in perpetuity. Columbia Green is drawing up some plans involving the placement of pollinator gardens on the lot, and will come back to the table soon.

Dennis update from the Smart Growth group. The group met after the last CPAC meeting and narrowed down suggestions to 10 criteria. The committee wants to engage CPAC members in looking at the document. Something to think about for the next meeting.

Staff updates: Robert said the last two weekends have been challenging with the weather. 225,000 gallons of brine for SCDOT. Wonderful partnership.

Dennis said that he was talking to Larry Cook at the USC Office of Sustainability about issues related to student move out and a possible pilot project with a neighborhood. Robert mentioned that USC used to have a giant yard sale to sell items donated by students, and that we would like to see that become a thing again.

Samantha Yager talked about the neighborhood pickup program in which a student or resident could call in to request a move out pile be removed.

She noted that there will be rain barrel/compost bin sale this spring. Bob asked if one be used for display and possible door prize for Earth Day. Samantha said she wasn't sure when the sale would be held, but she would check and see if they could work something out. If the dates align, Samantha can promote the sale during the Earth Day event.

Samantha Cornell said that she had been working on the final Bloomberg report.

Mary Pat said that she has been working on the groundwork for the Earth Day event, such as recruiting exhibitors and setting up the financial framework for the grant.

Cameron discussed a meeting he had attended for the Home Energy Labeling/Report Card program of the SC Energy Office. Cameron mentioned they are working on implementation. Bob added that for now, program participation will be voluntary. Jory elaborated on the concept and noted that he had done an inspection at his home.

Any other new business for the radar? Joyce announced that she is being treated for a recurrence of cancer. Julie made a plug for the Cottontown Art Crawl on Saturday, March 7 from 10am-4pm.

In closing, Bob reminded everyone that the Environmental Roundtable will be held at 9 a.m. on Friday, February 20. He added that it was a good opportunity to network with other environmental organizations and City staff and update them on the CPAC activities.

Dave Voyles offered his great gratitude for Bob's service as chairman.

The meeting was adjourned at 10 a.m.