



## **SUMMARY**

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

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

Guests and Staff: Robert Anderson, Mary Pat Baldauf, Samantha Cornell, Beata Dewitt, Leonora Dillon, Jory Fleming, Councilman Sam Johnson, Priscilla Preston, Clint Shealy, Samantha Yager.

Cameron called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Bob Petrulis made a motion that the February meeting summary be approved. Dennis Wiehl seconded it, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Next up, Clint Shealy provided an update on the Ready for 100 v.2.0 implementation. He reported that there was an evaluation panel meeting for the energy services project, and they are entering into contract negotiations with Snider Electric. Phase One will be the audit of the facilities so they are following up with a list of the facilities. That will then move into a selection of the low-hanging fruit, five or six projects that look really good and will pay for themselves. They will then do an investment grade audit to determine what the return on investment is.

Once they get a contracts into place, they'd like to include one or two volunteers from CPAC into the process. Anyone who is interested should let Mary Pat know, then once the contract is in place, the volunteers will be incorporated into the panel to assist with decision-making on which projects to select.

Today at noon, the evaluation panel for the installation, operation and maintenance of the solar farm at the Wastewater Treatment Plant will meet. The City hopes to take a regional approach to the project, including East Richland County Public Service District, City of Cayce and Richland County, all buying into the program and sharing the benefits.

The canal projects are rolling along.

Finally, Columbia Water was a major sponsor of Sustain SC's water workshop, held at the Earlewood Community center. There was great representation from across the state, including landscapers, water utilities and power companies.

Clint paused to answer any questions the group had. Clint wrapped up his presentation, and Bob noted that the progress to the energy audits were a really big step and great news.

Cameron then called on Jory to discuss the draft of the regional climate action plan, which was distributed earlier this week. He will be finishing the text portion of the climate action plan on Monday and sending it to a professional document designer at the end of the day. Additional comments will be welcome now through tomorrow afternoon as he will finish his work this weekend. After the document design is complete, the designer will be creating a 20-page version written at the high school reading level to provide an easier to digest report for the general public. Hearing no feedback, the group moved forward on the agenda.

As far as an update for the bylaws, we're waiting for the Health Social and Environmental Affairs committee to approve them and refer them to City Council for final approval. Mary Pat will check with City Clerk Erika Hammond to see what needs to be done for this to happen.

The Bloomberg Youth Climate Action showcases are complete, and the reports have been submitted. Councilman Johnson requested a copy of the reports to review. Mary Pat reported that we're now waiting to hear plans for the next round of Bloomberg grants. The Mayor's Office hasn't heard anything yet, but the Mayor will be with some Bloomberg folks next week. They'll let us know if he hears anything.

Earth Day Climate Action Fair is coming up on Saturday, April 18 at the intersection of Washington and Main Streets at Soda City. Mary Pat reported that planning is currently underway. There will be 10 tables with two organizations located under each tent. Exhibitors received an information packet with details about the event this week. Volunteers will be needed to assist with set up and implementation of the event, and Mary Pat will be recruiting volunteers via email in the next week or so.

Next Dave Voyles reported on the Urban Farming Committee, which has mainly been working on Bee City. Plans are underway for a BeeCity table at the Earth Day Climate action Fair as well as a second quarter Bee City Committee meeting in April.

Dennis Wiehl then reported on behalf of the Smart Growth Committee. He indicated that he had been a bit slack in following up with committee work, but that he will get on it. He asked Mary Pat to send him Nicole Broner's email address as she was interested in assisting with the committee's activities and he will follow up with her and other interested parties.

In staff updates, Robert Anderson gave a paving update. In response to a question about yard waste and other outliers being in the River Road dedicated bike lane, Robert said that education was key. He suggested that Mary Pat contact Regan with the Cola Town Bike Collective to see if they can shoot something out via the Columbia Council of Neighborhoods.

Robert then reported on a new pilot project, the Neighborhood Stormwater Greenspace Collaborative, which involves developing greenspaces on the stormwater floodplain lots the City purchased. It is a collaborative between the City, Columbia Green and the Gills Creek Watershed Association. The lots will be planned by the GCWA and populated by neighborhood volunteers, garden clubs and Columbia Green volunteers. The collaborative's desire is to complete the pilot project lot, Belmont at West Buchanan, by October, 2026.

Related to the announcement that Robert made, Dennis Wiehl had some questions about some changes to the Maxcy Gregg park that neighbors have been complaining about. Robert said that is an actual City park, and that Dana Higgins would be able to update the group about the project.

Mary Pat reported that the City has received reimbursement for the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant to the tune of \$197k+. The grant was used to upgrade selected City-owned streetlights to LED. She also reported that there were four applications for CPAC; we are allowed 11 members and we're down three members with terms ending and a resignation. We should be able to view the applications within the next month.

Samantha Yager announced that there were two events coming up:

- The annual free compost giveaway at the City's compost facility from 8 AM to Noon on Saturday, April 3; and
- The rain barrel and compost bin sale which is now going on, information which was provided in the March newsletter.

Julie Seel had a few event reminders:

- Keep the Midlands Beautiful is doing their annual Shoe Recycling Drive now through April 30. (Information was featured in the March newsletter.)
- Richland County will be hosting an e-waste collection and paper shredding event at Columbia Place Mall on Saturday, April 18. Lexington County will host an e-waste collection on March 21.
- The Seed Sanctuary and Environmental Education Association of SC will be at Gardeners Outpost on Saturday, March 7 from 10 AM to 4 PM.

Leonora Dillon announced there would be a Blue Thumb Landscaper Home Workshop on Saturday, April 25 at Busby Community Center from 9 AM to 12:30 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.