

CCAC meeting minutes

Wednesday February 17, 2021

Present: Committee members Michael Cox, David McCaughey, Deborah Rudnick, Gary Lagerloef, Jens Boemer, Lara Hansen, Derik Broekhoff

Council Liaison: Joe Deets

City staff: Ron Logghe, Peter Best (for green building leg discussion)

Public: Andy Swayne, Kierra Phyfer. PSE

5:34 pm: **Call meeting to Order**

Jens will abstain to anything related to the PSE Franchise agreement discussion

Approve December 18th minutes

David moved to approve, Lara seconded, all agreed

Public Comment - none

Discussion items:

CCAC/UAC Subgroup Report on PSE Franchise Agreement

UAC has approved, Deb and Lara have worked with Mike on modifications. Scheduled to meet with council on the 24th of Feb to present recommendations and ask for next steps. Last night council talked about the franchise agreement process: 1-page public works memo provides brief timeline and overview. Director Wierzbecki mentioned using partnership agreements for items such as clean energy – Joe, Rasham and Kirsten will be a Council subgroup for the negotiations, and there will be outside legal consultant hired for the process. No more modifications suggested to the memo. Mike moves and Gary seconded the motion to approve the memo from UAC and CCAC on the franchise agreement; all approved except Jens abstained. Memo will move forward.

Climate Action Plan

-Council has approved our work plan, and Lara reports enthusiasm for the plan as presented. Mike will recirculate the work plan document.

City Utility Fees

Memo in attachments and discussion of whether utility tax could be used for a green building fund. Discussion with finance director suggested this 6% COBI tax is already utilized for several priorities and would probably not be available for something like the GBF. Group discussed how the equity component might be integrated, with David suggesting that the income to the GBF would be set at a consistent rate per PSE rate payer, but the disbursements could incentivize for lower income customers. Lara asks whether we could renegotiate our rates because our rates are higher than what many other ratepayers pay. Mike will reach out to UTC and PSE to inform our discussion next time.

Climate Legislation

Mike gave a quick summary of last week's Climate and Energy forum and the bills discussed. Peter joined us to discuss how state legislation might assist with GBTF recommendations by addressing the state energy code pre-emption which states that the state energy code is both the minimum and the maximum for energy regulations in residential construction. HB1084 would specifically authorize local governments to exceed the state energy code, and the option of a stretch code or their own requirements that could exceed the state energy code. Bill also includes a heat pump and electrification program. Peter asked for CCAC feedback on what the City role might be in supporting passage of this legislation and implementing the program, and Mike sent out a survey for Peter to ask about this. CCAC feedback from Deb, David and Jens is in perceiving high value of this bill and wanting to support it. Lara and Mike expressed their concern that work should move forward given that every building built represents a carbon commitment. Peter will write up a summary and run it by Mike and will be working with the GBTF moving forward on the mechanics of developing the recommendations.

Community Outreach

Deb, Mike, Lara and Julie met with Kristen Drew to develop some outreach pieces using COBI connects and CM report, following the subjects they are already focusing on and intersecting with CAP priorities. In March we are focusing on the waste component with a couple of articles; then moving on to other CAP areas. Mike Cox is going to pursue some leads with UW climate communications to possibly get involved with CAP outreach. Also working on the idea of a logo to motivate enthusiasm for the CAP.

Race Equity Advisory Committee meeting with CCAC- Lara and Mike reached out to an expert in Portland, Bill Beamer— meeting on March 4, 6pm to discuss race equity and climate with both groups. Mike will send out invite.

Bioenergy and green waste

Michael Smith from Impact Bioenergy- presented to Council in 2017. Potentially an opportunity or resource to explore. There is a larger version of our pilot on Vashon. Mike wants to ask them to attend our meeting in March.

Grant Opportunities

Nick Shiach discussed grant opportunities that he researched on climate change and sustainable transportation grant opportunities. Ron has shared with Ellen and this will clearly go to the climate person once they are hired. Mike will send out the spreadsheet.

Good of the Order:

- Mike shared that Nash at BHS has gotten approval from principal to do a speaker series on climate change for students. He may be coming to us for a speaking engagement 😊
- Gary shared a proposed remediation project on Wyckoff regarding a large concrete project. Michael Cox will try to find some answers on this from EPA and circle back with group.
- Jens updated us that on DOE connected communities- they did not submit a concept paper by the deadline and will not be submitting a proposal. On looking into scope and grant requirements for Bainbridge Island, didn't find sufficient clarity in how the funding would make a big difference over and above PSE's current plans. Jens believes there will be other opportunities like the state CEF that can be explored.

-David updated that a group has submitted a concept paper that includes Bainbridge as part of the PSE service area and can add some additionality to what PSE is already planning.

-March 11: Interfaith climate change event. CAP and bigfoot carbon tracker, clergy will talk about climate and faith in their communities. Mike will share details when ready.

7:28 Adjourn



Michael Cox, Chair 3/18/21