

**MINUTES FOR THE CLIMATE & ENERGY ACTION PLAN ad hoc COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday, December 16, 2015**  
**Siskiyou Room, 51 Winburn Way**

**1. Call to Order**

Roxanne Beigel-Coryell called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. in the Siskiyou Room.

Committee members Bryan Sohl, Louise Shawkat, Greg Jones, Stuart Green, James McGinnis, and Claudia Alick were present. Staff member Adam Hanks was present. Committee member Rich Rosenthal was absent.

**2. Appointment of Vice Chair**

Hanks stated that when Chair Rosenthal realized he would be unable to attend he requested that the group consider appointing a Vice Chair. Group agreed this would be important.

**McGinnis/Alick m/s to appoint Beigel-Coryell as Vice Chair of the committee. Discussion:** Green stated that if she is uninterested in being Vice Chair is willing to take on the job. Beigel-Coryell stated that she is comfortable with either decision. **Voice Vote: All Ayes. Motion Passes.**

**3. Approval of Minutes**

**Shawkat/Green m/s to approve the minutes of December 2, 2015, as presented. Voice Vote: All Ayes. Motion Passes.**

**4. Public Forum**

Matt Hunter – thanked the group for their service. Stated he is a builder with Ashland Post and Beam. He would love to see make sure it is easier for people to do green building. He stated that he isn't talking about making it cheaper to do so, but instead having the process easy so more people are encouraged to do so. He wanted the group to know that there is a stringent building standard called the Living Building Challenge and that Julia Grable(sp?) in town can give them information on this standard. Because this standard is so strict, it frequently runs into challenges with municipal codes.

Group has a brief discussion with Mr. Hunter regarding the types of municipal code conflicts he is referring to.

Hannah Sohl – stated that the meeting time of this group is particularly difficult for students and working people to participate. She suggested that the group have some 4:00 p.m. or evening meetings.

Hanks stated that when the schedule for this committee was set, the idea was for all the administrative type decisions to occur in the daytime meetings, but that during the public process

most of those meetings will occur in a wider variety of meeting times, including evenings, for wider participation.

James Stephens – stated that at the Climate Challenge event he understood one of the speakers to say that 70% of our energy comes from coal-fired plants. He has since discovered that this is not 100% accurate. We purchase power from BPA, which gets lots, but not all, of its energy from water. It is important to pay attention to where our power is coming from as most in Ashland would rather not purchase from coal, even if it's just in terms of accounting. When we talk about what electrons are being used, we need to be clear where they are generated. His understanding is that lots of our energy is from natural gas plants in Klamath Falls, which is not renewable. He wants to see more renewable energy production, but really would be happy if we would just not get any power from coal. He stated that when the group breaks out into smaller groups he would be happy to participate. Additionally, there is no reason for vehicles not to be run off of renewable resources like solar.

Huelz Gutchen – stated that, in response to Mr. Stephens, where the actual electrons come from requires lots of interesting study. It doesn't really matter where we purchase our energy from, what it boils down to is how quickly those electrons arrive here and that ones created closer get here first. Which means that what we really need is to create our own using solar panels. He discussed some of the things agreed to in the recent Paris climate talks and stated that they agree we need to increase both solar panel installations and the use of electric cars.

## **5. Climate & Energy Action Plan RFP**

Hanks reviewed the previous motions regarding the appointment of the selection panel and stated that the City Attorney determined that executive session laws allow for an appointed committee to convene under executive session for the review of documents such as would be in the RFP selection panel process. This means we can add more members to the selection panel. However, neither he (the city attorney) nor the purchasing agent think that's a good idea. Adding more non-staff members creates a higher level of risk to the process in order to maintain compliance with public contracting law. One such risk is confidentiality. He also stated that seven responses to the RFP were submitted on-time.

Group reviewed the timeline for the process.

Group discussed whether the selection panel numbers should be increased. Some felt that it would help everyone who participates to get a better understanding of the process, as you can learn things, even from the contractors not chosen. Some felt the risk was minor.

**McGinnis/Stuart m/s that each member of the committee who wants to be involved be allowed to participate. Discussion:** Group requested clarification regarding whether, after the contractor is selected, all the submittals would be available for review by the rest of the group. Hanks confirmed that all submittals would be public record, and therefore available to everyone, after the selection. Sohl stated that he understands this is an unusual situation, but as this is supposed to be a community-based process, having more members of the community participate

seems appropriate. Claudia stated she doesn't feel her skills would be best used in being on the panel. Group agreed that if she would rather use her skills in other, more creative, parts of the process that would be appropriate. **Voice Vote: All Ayes. Motion Passes.**

McGinnis was the only committee member who wanted to be added to the selection panel (Shawkat requested of staff after the meeting adjourned to be added as well).

Alick stated that she is trying to gain a better understanding of the group and was curious to know if the group considered running a paperless system a group value. Group agreed that, when possible, they want to minimize use of paper. Hanks stated that, unfortunately, some things (like the RFP selection process) can't be paperless yet due to meeting regulations, but that he would try to limit the use of paper otherwise.

#### **6. Schedule and Agenda for Upcoming Meetings**

The next regular meeting of the group will be on January 20<sup>th</sup> the main topic of conversation for that meeting will be the greenhouse gas inventory report. The selection panel will meet on January 11<sup>th</sup>.

#### **7. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diana Shiplet  
Executive Assistant

**MINUTES FOR THE ASHLAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Wednesday, December 16, 2015**  
**Siskiyou Room, 51 Winburn Way**

**1. Call to Order**

Roxane Beigel-Coryell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Siskiyou Room.

Commissioners Bryan Sohl, James McGinnis, Mark Weir, Shel Silberberg, Risa Buck, and Cara Cruickshank were present. Staff member Adam Hanks and Councilor Mike Morris were present. Commissioner Marni Koopman and Councilor Rich Rosenthal were absent.

**2. Consent Agenda**

**Buck/Silverberg m/s to approve the minutes of October 28, and November 18, 2015 as presented. Voice Vote: All Ayes. Motion Passes.**

**3. Announcements**

The next commission meeting will be on January 27, 2016. The Earth Bowl subcommittee will meet on January 6, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. in the Hannon Library at SOU. The Conservation Classes subcommittee will meet on January 4, 2016, at 5:00 p.m. in the Hannon Library at SOU.

Buck stated the City of Talent is considering a Styrofoam ban. Recology's leaf drop off has been rescheduled for this weekend, due to inclement weather on the original date. She spoke at the Association of Recyclers' conference in Portland and discovered that Ashland has good ideas regarding education and outreach to teach other parts of the state.

Cruickshank requested a discussion of the SOU plan to use biomass for heating purposes. Beigel-Coryell suggested that Cruickshank read the minutes of the previous group discussion and if Cruickshank still had questions, she would be happy to connect her with someone at SOU to assist.

Weir gave an overview of some of the agreements made at the Paris climate summit. Stated that this as encouragement for the Commission to continue their work. Cruickshank stated that, in conjunction with the Paris agreements, Portland passed a resolution requiring no new fossil fuels related infrastructure be built.

**4. Public Forum**

Louise Shawkat – stated that RVTD was set to do a presentation at the Transportation Commission, but was unable to attend due to illness, they sent a memo instead. She read some of it aloud and stated that it appears RVTD needs education regarding use of natural gas and the need for more, rather than fewer, transportation options.

Huelz Gutchen – stated that at the last meeting he explained the four parts of energy and that as part of the recent Paris climate agreement 150 countries agreed to see what they can do to reduce carbons. Elon Musk gave a good talk about reducing carbons at the Paris event. Most important to him, though, was that Goldman Sacks representatives came and stated they have investors willing to spend lots of money on things like solar panels, electric cars, and windmills. Bill Gates stated this was all great, but what really needs to be done is to have good innovations.

## **5. Reports/ Presentations/ Updates**

*Downtown Recycling* – Hanks stated he is not sure if they will meet the end of the year deadline. The subcommittee is working on signage and getting the Chamber of Commerce to agree to do the oversight.

*Council Update* – Councilor Morris stated that Council just adopted the Normal Neighborhood plan. He gave some details of the plan and answered the Group's questions. He stated Council also passed an ordinance regarding the growing and processing of marijuana. There are lots of regulations regarding the number of plants allowed and setbacks. He has concerns regarding indoor growing and the burden on the electric system this could cause. Lastly, he stated that in January Council will be considering options for the Railroad Property clean up.

*City Conservation and Operations* – Hanks stated that the refrigerator recycling provider the City has a contract with recently encountered financial difficulties. Recology has stepped up to take their place and the City will go out soon for a new contract. Hanks stated that the Greenhouse Gas Inventory is nearing completion, he is working with the contractor to complete the narratives. It will be presented to the Climate and Energy Action Plan committee on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Lastly, the Public Works Director, Mike Faught, has agreed to send a staff member to the February commission meeting to answer questions regarding water and storm water. To make this an effective use of staff time, Hanks requested the group send questions to him in advance.

## **6. Old Business**

*Sneak Preview Column* – **Buck/Silverberg m/s to approve the BYOB update as written by Weir. Voice Vote: All Ayes. Motion Passes.**

**Weir/Cruickshank m/s to approve the Climate Action Plan update with the red-lined updates submitted by McGinnis. Discussion :** Group discussed whether this was intended to be detailed or just an update. Group agreed that as they are doing these quarterly, it is just an update. **Voice Vote: All Ayes. Motion Passes.**

Group discussed which months particular topics should be covered and determined that this would be the best schedule:

- March – Natural Yard Care Solutions, written by Cruickshank
- April – Earth Bowl, written by Silverberg and Weir
- May – Climate Action Plan Quarterly Update, written by either McGinnis, Beigel-Coryell or Sohl
- June – Water Conservation, written by Cruickshank and Weir
- July – Conservation Classes, written by Buck
- August – Climate Action Plan Quarterly Update, written by either McGinnis, Beigel-Coryell or Sohl
- September – Living With Wildlife, written by Cruickshank

*Climate & Energy Action Plan* – the committee met today, and most of the committee will be joining two staff members in reviewing the seven RFP proposals received. Final approval by

Council on this selection is scheduled for February 2, 2016, which should keep the process on-track. Councilor Morris expressed concern at having so many committee members involved in what typically is a staff-only job. Sohl stated the reason for the extra participation is that it is a community-led plan and the committee felt having more community involvement was important.

*Solar Park Resolution Proposal* – Sohl stated that a group of residents took a tour of the site. In his opinion, it is potentially a good location for a future solar program. He doesn't know all the particulars of the proposed project or of Public Works need for use of the site, but would like the group to consider the version #6 resolution, which has significant changes from the last version (this version is attached to these minutes).

Beigel-Coryell expressed concerns with this request going through the Conservation Commission and believes that it should instead be considered by the Climate & Energy Action Plan in their energy production section. McGinnis questioned the timing this resolution, and wanted to know why is there a need for it to be approved now, when the Climate & Energy Action Plan process is currently on-going. Councilor Morris stated the Council and Budget Committee declined this proposal when it was brought up during the budget process. He questioned why the proposal was then brought to the Conservation Commission. Hanks gave background information as to how and when the proposal was brought to the Commission. Group discussed whether the proposal would be approved by Council, most agreed it likely would not.

**Sohl/Cruickshank m/s to support the proposed resolution, version #6. Discussion:**

Cruickshank wondered if an updated version with additional clarifying changes regarding the timing would make the group more comfortable. Hanks stated that approving this resolution isn't the only option, the Group could approve a letter or memo to Council offering their encouragement to reserve the property and do a study of the proposal.

Group discussed whether it was appropriate to approve the resolution or just ensure that the project possibility be included in the Climate & Energy Action Plan process. Some believe that it is important to push Council into considering challenging issues, others worried about losing Council confidence in the Commission.

Group discussed timing of the proposal and whether there was any risk involved in delaying it. Determined there was little risk that the Council would sell the property, so there is little risk in a delay. Sohl stated that the important part is that many members of the community, including members of SOCAN, would like this project to be specifically addressed, if that's through the Climate & Energy Action Plan, then that would address their concerns.

**Roll Call Vote: Silverberg – no, Weir – no, McGinnis – no, Sohl – yes, Cruickshank – yes, Buck – no, Beigel-Coryell – no. No votes = 5, yes votes = 2. Motion Fails.**

**McGinnis/Cruickshank m/s that the Conservation Commission recommend to the Ad Hoc Committee for the Climate and Energy Action Plan that the feasibility of a potential solar farm site on the Imperatrice Property be evaluated specifically, as a high priority, as part of the development of an energy plan for the City of Ashland within the new climate and energy plan. Discussion:** Buck stated she has a personal issue with putting photovoltaic

anywhere other than on buildings, and therefore can't support the concept. She's not convinced that considering the feasibility, in general, is a good thing. Sohl stated that her opinion is exactly why there needs to be a conversation as part of the Climate and Energy Action Plan, so all sides can be heard. Group agreed that these discussions are an important part of that process.

**Roll Call Vote: Silverberg – yes, Weir – yes, McGinnis – yes, Sohl – yes, Cruickshank – yes, Buck – no, Beigel-Coryell – yes. No votes = 1, yes votes = 6, Motion Passes.**

## **7. New Business**

*Bag Ban Review* – Hanks gave an update on the process to date and stated that there hasn't been as much response as he was hoping for, but there is enough to get a decent understanding of the retailers and grocers responses. The last piece is the Open City Hall topic, which should be open tomorrow.

Weir expressed concerns with the data given by the SOU class. Hanks stated that he is not giving Council all of the data, as some of their conclusions and recommendations have faulty assumptions.

Hanks stated that the most important bit of information out of this is that it appears the large grocery stores are using fewer brown bags, which means the purpose of the ban of getting more people to use reusable bags is working.

Buck stated that if Council isn't going to require more enforcement on the smaller retailers to follow the ban, including the 10-cent fee, then they should just repeal that portion of the ban. McGinnis stated that the purpose originally was to use the 10-cents to make people more aware, and make bringing a bag a habit. Weir stated that in order for these types of bans to continue to be effective, a raise in the fees is required. He would like to see both a raise in the fee to 25-cents and an increase in enforcement by code compliance on the smaller retail establishments.

**Weir/Buck m/s that the Commission recommend to Council that the bag ban fee be raised to 25-cents per bag and that there be an increase in code compliance for those who are not complying with the resolution. Discussion:** Silverberg stated that doing an increase could affect more change, but is concerned that bumping up the fee would erode any goodwill created in the community. McGinnis stated that this is all part of a larger conversation the group needs to have and would prefer a more focused discussion when they aren't under a time crunch. Most of the group agreed they were concerned with eroding the goodwill of the community.

**Weir/Buck agreed to amend their motion to state that the Commission is recommending to Council that they increase code compliance on those who are not complying with the ban.**

**Roll Call Vote: Silverberg – yes, Weir – yes, McGinnis – yes, Sohl – yes, Cruickshank – yes, Buck – yes, Beigel-Coryell – yes. No votes = 0, yes votes = 7, Motion Passes.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diana Shiplet  
Executive Assistant

**DRAFT**  
RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF ASHLAND TO SET ASIDE IN 2016  
100 ACRES ON THE IMPERATRICE PROPERTY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A POTENTIAL  
SOLAR(VOLTAIC) PARK BY A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE CONTRACTOR/INVESTORS FOR NO LESS THAN  
TEN YEARS.

RECITALS:

- A. The City of Ashland is owner of the 864 acres identified as the Imperatrice Ranch Property.
- B. The City purchased the Property in 1996 for the purpose of using it or portions of it for land treatment of treated wastewater as a method to diminish elevated temperatures of effluent discharged from the WWTP into Ashland and Bear Creeks especially in May and October.
- C. The Comprehensive Sanitary Sewer Master Plan, 2012, paragraph 10.2.1, states the effluent can only be applied on 412 acres of the Property "Due to steep terrain and other limiting features (TID canal, wetland swale) portions of the Imperatrice site are not usable for irrigation. Limiting irrigation to slopes less than 20% and providing necessary buffer zones for the canal, swale and property lines provides a usable irrigation area of 412 acres for Class C effluent or 433 acres for Class B effluent..."
- D. CSSMP, CH2MHILL's memo of June 8, 2015 addresses their study results to date. The critical time frame is May and October for temperature mitigation. (Paragraph 5, third and fourth bullets) Their options for mitigation are consistent with the master plan.
- E. Property for a Solar Park would not interfere with the 412 or 433 acres identified in the master plan because a solar park can be located on ~~the~~ slopes 20% or greater. See Map, Exhibit 1.
- F. The City of Ashland must have a redundant power source in light of the threat of natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and drought that can and will effect the entire state including our primary power supplier Bonnieville Power.
- G. The City of Ashland must take measures to curtail its and the nation's carbon emissions. A solar farm on the Imperatrice Property would be an important contribution to getting Ashland and the Valley to zero net carbon emissions.
- H. Investors may be interested in what Ashland has to offer because California's [SB 32](#) dramatically increases the of energy the state is required to derive from renewables to 50 percent, reduces petroleum use 50 percent,—and requires improved energy efficiency of buildings by 50 percent, all by the year 2030. The strongest market for renewables is in California.
- I. President Obama - "Climate change is no longer some far-off problem. It is happening here. It is happening now," he warned the representatives of more than



20 countries attending the Conference on Global Leadership in the Arctic: Cooperation, Innovation, Engagement and Resilience... “Any so-called leader who doesn’t take this issue seriously or treats it like a joke is not fit to lead,” he said. “On this issue, of all issues, there is such a thing as being too late, and that moment is almost upon us.”

**THE CITY OF ASHLAND RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** Provision for Renewable Electric Power

Ashland will set aside on the Imperatrice Property 100 acres suitable for a potential solar farm for a period of 10 years following passage of the resolution. See Exhibit 1 for technically acceptable acreage for a solar farm.

**SECTION 2.** Intention

The intent of the resolution is for all terms and conditions to be worked with and through the City of Ashland Ad-Hoc Climate and Energy Plan Committee that is responsible for development of the City of Ashland Climate and Energy Plan. The purpose of this alignment is to ensure good communication between city staff, the City of Ashland Ad-Hoc Climate and Energy Plan Committee, and the citizens of Ashland.

**SECTION 3.** Terms and Conditions

- a. Council appropriate \$10,000 for staff to research and uncover all relevant title, environmental, geotechnical and inter connectivity information in City files that could be useful to any party seeking to evaluate the site for a potential solar farm. This information must be formatted and linked on a city web page with a link to it on the City home page.  
By no later than June 30, 2016 the City shall have completed posting the information above to a dedicated City web page with a link on the home page so that interested parties-can peruse the known, relevant information regarding the Imperatrice Property-
- b. The Conservation Commission recommends to the Ad Hoc Committee for the Climate and Energy Plan that the feasibility of a potential solar farm site on the Imperatrice Property by evaluated, as a high priority, as part of the development of an energy plan for the City of Ashland within the new climate and energy plan.

**SECTION 4.** This resolution was duly PASSED and ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of, and takes effect upon signing by the Mayor.

Barbara Christensen, City Recorder

SIGNED and APPROVED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of

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John Stromberg, Mayor

Reviewed as to form:

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Dave Lohman, Ashland City Attorney