

**MINUTES FOR THE ad hoc CLIMATE & ENERGY ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION  
COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, June 21, 2018  
Siskiyou Room, 51 Winburn Way**

**Call to Order-**

Councilor Stefani Seffinger called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Councilor Stefani Seffinger, Cindy Bernard, Ben Scott, Pat Acklin, Les Stone, James McGinnis, and Rick Barth (arrived at 5:05 p.m.) Shannon Downey (arrived at 5:36 p.m.) Chris Brown and Jordan Ely were absent. Staff member Stu Green was also present.

New committee member Les Stone introduce herself and explained her background. Other committee members also introduce themselves and their backgrounds.

**Assign roles for timekeeper and action item keeper-** Cindy Bernard, committee member volunteered to keep time and Pat Acklin, committee member volunteered to be the action item keeper.

**Check In – Share your answer to “check in” question-** The committee discussed what CEAP action that they have been thinking about recently and how implementation would affect their daily life. The committee started by looking at building efficiency, inducing efficient appliances, and windows. Related to this was a discussion on how these actions would affect and better quality of life with the lowering of power bills, lowering of greenhouse gases and a more comfortable home. The committee also discussed the strategies of education, community outreach and overall community awareness and the importance of the CEAP plan with an emphasis in looking at carbon footprints. Also looked at was waste including food waste, consumption and the 8% target made by the city in relation to social equity. The committee additionally considered the use of electric and hybrid vehicles in this discussion as well.

Councilor Seffinger invited all to the installation of a new public art piece, *Elevation* on July 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. *Elevation* focuses on efforts in the watershed and the environment.

**Public Input**

*Ray Mallette/314 Luna Vista Street-* Spoke to the co-benefits of the CEAP plan and mitigations related to this including reducing greenhouse gases and getting clean energy sources. He also noted equity and that do this adaptation is needed inducing helping with funding for all. He added that this mitigation actions would need financing a point that has not been discussed.

*Huelz Gutchen/2253 Highway 99-* Spoke to the bike friendliness of Ashland in relation to consumption and the dangers that bicyclist face on the road. He also discussed the CO<sup>2</sup> leakage from fracking wells. In closing he noted educational articles that he sent to committee.

**Approval Consent Agenda**

***Discussion: Bernard/McGinnis m/s the approval of meeting minutes for May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Voice Vote: All Ayes. Motion Passes.***

Councilor Seffinger noted the look ahead for the next committee meeting on July 19<sup>th</sup> 2018. Upcoming agenda items included Empower Ashland planning and discussion of long term format and structure of the committee. The committee discussed that the topic of Empower Ashland would be a recurring item with a focus on specifics of developing a plan.

**Updates relevant to CEAP Implementation** Council Liaison Update- Councilor Seffinger communicated that Kelly Madding would be the next City Administrator and the work that that the Council is doing on affordable housing.

### *Commissions Reports*

- Tonya Graham gave an explanation on the overlapping work of the Wildfire Mitigation Commission including a new ordinance that will have its first reading in July. The commission she added has been looking for places of overlap with other commissions, the CEAP plan being one of the major places. The Wildfire Mitigation Commission wants their plans to be complementary and integrating to plans of the CEAP committee. Graham also noted the discussion of equity around the to be presented ordinance adding that this ordinance surrounds new building and major remodels standards, including plant location, roofing materials and overall updated safety requirements. A discussion is being had about the possibility of including funding for lower income defensible space work through grants. Graham also indicated a list of recommended plants that will also be available in July, a list that has be integrated with conservation. Seffinger noted that a process for assessment of plants is something that could be integrated in, in the future. Graham added that the commission is working on a program to help citizens address what they can do around their home to help minimize the risk for fire beyond what the Firewise program currently offers. James McGinnis, committee member asked what if any parts of the CEAP plan would be mentioned in the new ordinance, as these specific items would support the implementation of the CEAP plan. Graham and Stu Green, Staff Member noted that reference to this was only made in the staff report but not in the ordinance itself. Graham noted that she would this feedback back to the subcommittee. Green also suggested that drafts be circulated to the CEAP committee for review, it was also mentioned that a link to this new language was also in this month's committee meeting packet.
- James McGinnis, describe presentations for reusable resources that has been presented to the Conservation Commission and how this directly relates to CEAP. He also explained that the commission also has four subcommittees including energy conservation, renewable energy, water and waste prevention. The commission he explained is looking at what already being done as to not overlap with the work of other committees, he noted that one of these items was 10 by 20. He also added looking at what can be done to support the CEAP committee as it becomes a commission. He ended by speaking about the commissions Sneak Preview articles.
- Shannon Downey, committee member spoke on the Forest Lands Commission noting the problematic areas in relation to fire including steep areas and erosion, adding that some areas are very close to areas of private lands and the watershed. There is also talk by the commission of ditch and TID pipping in relation to fire danger. In regards to concerns on the possibility of loss of trees, Downey noted that the commission sees vegetation as manageable. She also discussed the leaking water that some areas have been benefiting from. The goal she noted was to landscape and management in relation to what the climate is. The commission has also heard concerns about the cost of enclosing the TID would not benefit the savings in water.

Alkin responded to the above discussion by McGinnis adding the existing resources of people and other commissions should be used to the benefit of CEAP. She stated that CEAP should not recreate items and that these items should be supported and advanced. Downey also added that the Forest Land Commission is aware of the effects of climate change and that this area that is already being worked on, by the commission as the focus has been forest lands but that the principals can extended. Councilor Seffinger also noted the overlapping working that is being done by the Chamber in regards to Healthy Cities and the Wellness committee. She added the committee that this committee was an Ad Hoc that was responsible to come up with ideas and recommendations as to what the next steps are.

McGinnis spoke to the committee about Sneak Preview articles and future articles for the publication that are in relation to CEAP. The article he noted gave an updated on the current CEAP plan, stating what has been done already and what will be done in the future. He added that he would like to work with others on the committee to draft a 700-word article that would be then presented at the next CEAP committee meeting. Ben Scott, Committee Member, and Downey stated that they would both like to help. Alkin asked if it has been suggested to share these articles with more conventional media and urged the

committee to look at the Daily Tidings for a regularly feature article as an option. McGinnis added that this was an excellent point on the subject of outreach. The committee also discussed what the top communication methods were within the community. Green suggested that McGinnis coordinate those wanting to work on this project. McGinnis added the group would try to have something back for Green's review and comment in the next two weeks.

### *Staff Updates*

Green highlighted items that he has been working on. These included:

- Dialogs with Rocky Mountain Institute on housing standards and net zero policies.
- The next round of inventory to be moved to the dashboard.
- The CEAP website content development.
- The Empower Ashland Plan.
- EV Chargers moving to a payment platform on July 9<sup>th</sup>. It was also noted that signage has been placed to notify of this change.

The committee noted the amount of work that Green has and that subcommittees could also be formed for this type of work on other commissions.

Rick Barth, Committee Member, Les Stone, Committee Member, McGinnis and Downey stated they would be able to help with reviewing content for the website and Empower Ashland.

Alkin also suggested the idea of sending out specific one time tasks and the utilization of committee members and city staff. Green noted that the plan did reflect departments and use of City Staff and that he is now working on the workflow of this. Councilor Seffinger also noted that the City is understaffed and that a better a focus is needed. Green ended by noting that committee members can contact him for updates on action items.

### **DISCUSS Equity criteria for CEAP Implementation**

Green directed the committee to packet noting that equity is throughout the plan and those items with co-benefits are to prioritized more highly. He added that these would be the two lenses that items would be worked through as implantation began and he wanted to make sure that these were sufficient. The committee discussed the broad terms of the plan and what is required for analysis. Green asked the committee if this was something that they would want to recommend as a council communication level action for it to be used as a checklist for items in the plan. Green pointed out that currently there is no place to highlight CEAP goals in council communications. The committee also looked at what the format of such a list would be and if all items would have to be checked off before any policy would be allowed to move on, as this could be problematic. The committee moved on to discuss other items and details that could be added to the equity considerations list, one being age and youth.

Green gave an example of a current polies that could be discussed as the wildfire ordinance, housing efficient standards, renewable energy certificates, carbon offsets, EV charging, electric vehicle incentives and payer funded renewable energy projects. He suggested looking at the suggested list and focusing on items such as disproportion impacts, shared benefits and accessibility issues as example. Every item he added with a number attached to it should be evaluated prior to becoming a policy. The committee decided that they wanted to discuss the items as one group and begin looking at the suggested list by looking at housing efficient standards for all housing. Green noted that this discussion would be different then the CEAP plan, as it focuses on low income housing. The committee further discussed this document and suggesting looking at utility programs at a sliding scale, working with owners of housing versus renters. Green suggested the committee a focus on mid to low income housing for during this conversation. The committee took this suggestion and being using the suggested list keeping in mind that this would be list that would help guide policy adjustments. The discussion took into consideration costs related to efficiency standards and local aid programs that help. In addition, the committee looked at the aim of where polices for housing efficiency standards would be focused on such as new building and the impact to low income

housing costs being given to renters as zoning is also changing. The committee focused on what incentives programs and grants that would provide sufficient housing that is affordable and efficient including retrofits through an energy program contract. Such programs noted by the committee were earth advantage, energy star and smart build for builders building rentals. Another item discussed in relation to disproportion impacts would be negative impacts for those in low to moderate housing as this would not be aimed at those in other income levels. In addition, the committee looked at was the demand side solution burdened to those effected by the policy.

The committee continued by looking at how this would effect policy and how risks could be mitigated, what tools could be listed to mitigated the impacts and from there programs can be created including those unintended, as well as costs. It was suggested to begin by calling organization to create a list of what programs could be used as tools to help with impacts.

It was surveyed by the committee the labor intensity of the amount of items that would be need to be gone through for each topic based on the suggested equity list. Green and the committee noted the NEPA concept and also suggested to the committee that he was looking to see if this lenses was complete in relation to the activity. The impact of this activity was noted as far reaching and including considering vulnerable communities. The committee added that this could be used to help look at policy and solutions when gaps are identified. Overall the committee noted that this was a good start. Green added that based on that this would be referenced in CEAP progress reports and noted that the impact of the CEAP goals on the Council Communication template. The committee expressed concerns that adding this to Council Communication template would add more bureaucracy. The CEAP plan it was noted should not be used as one that fixes all problems and that as a committee there will only so much energy for Council items with the focus needing to be on items that reduce greenhouse gases. The committee also looked at the idea of some items being combined and the list being made smaller. Green noted that based on this suggestion that this could be possibly be a research project with the list being simplified. Concern was also given to focusing on what other committees could provide options for possible mitigation and the what the Council's role would be an equity evaluation template and the policies on equity. Green noted that one of the committee's goals was to create process. Overall the committee looked at a simple formula by stating the use of the question, how does a given CEAP action impact and effect vulnerable populations from an economic, social and environmental perspective. McGinnis noted that he would be interested in helping on a list consolidation. Green ended the conversation by asking the committee if they would like further discuss the use of looking at equity, as this was important in the past.

### **Review Draft CEAP Outreach and Education Strategy and GIVE INPUT as appropriate**

The committee began by discussing the carbon calculators. The committee looked at calculators from cool climate and discussed the different versions that are offered noting the awareness and action that it brings. The committee further discussed licensing a product and that there are drawbacks to what the calculators offer. The committee went on to consider creating their own simpler version that fit with the community with already collected city data being added. It was also suggested that a table be set up for First Fridays with a handout on ways to reduce carbon foot print, a hand out on carbon calculators with an attention to be given to what could be done to connect with families. Another thought was connecting to local hotels using cloth bags with Empower Ashland on it and local stores. Green stated that many of these ideas could be added to the outreach plan.

### **CHECK OUT – DISCUSS meeting process**

Green noted that the after meeting survey seems to be working well for committee members.

### **Adjournment**

7:01 p.m.

### **Action Items**

- A small group will meet and create an educational article (Sneak Preview. etc.) that fits the plan

presented by Jim McGinnis. Ben will meet with Jim to work on this.

- Another small group (Rick and Les) will meet with Stu to review and work on the messaging for Empower Ashland. Others expressed willingness to review this work.
- Jim McGinnis volunteered to work on consolidating and reducing the list of equity considerations from the City of Portland found in the CEAP for use evaluating actions addressing CEAP implementation and for the City in general.
- Rick Barth is working on a carbon calculator that is simple and more applicable to Ashland and will meet with Stu to discuss the possibilities.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Natalie Thomason, Administrative Assistant