

MINUTES FOR THE CLIMATE & ENERGY ACTION PLAN ad hoc COMMITTEE
Wednesday, December 14, 2016
Siskiyou Room, 51 Winburn Way

1. Call to Order

Councilor Rich Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Committee members Bryan Sohl, Jim Hartman, Cindy Bernard, Roxanne Beigel-Coryell, Louise Shawkat, James McGinnis, Stuart Green and Greg Jones were present. Staff member Adam Hanks was present. Committee member Marni Koopman arrived late. Committee member Claudia Alick was listening via speakerphone. Committee members Claire Pryor and Isaac Bevers were absent.

2. Approval of Minutes

McGinnis/Bernard m/s to approve the minutes of November 2 and 16 as presented.

Discussion: None. **Voice Vote:** All Ayes. **Motion Passes.**

3. Public Input

Robert Block-Brown – stated he was pleased with the number of people attending the open house. He also thought the general information there was good and presented well. He is concerned because the committee members made it clear they wanted the ordinance approved either before or with the plan approval but it is not clear that this will be done in that timeframe. He is also concerned with how the staff position will be created and where in the org chart that position will be placed. He believes it needs to have management level skills as well as a clear understanding of climate science.

Allie Rosenbluth – thanked the group for their work. She thought the open house was good and gave some recommendations for future events such as having the flyer in Spanish to targets groups we may have left out of the process. She stated that the group needs to hold people accountable for the pledges they made at the open house. She was upset that there was no expression of clear support for the ordinance at the open house and she would appreciate if the group talk about it clearly at the January study session with Council.

Committee member Marni Koopman arrived 3:39 p.m.

James Stephens – thanked the group for allowing the 10x20 display in the lobby outside of the open house. He had several good discussions there. He stated that one thing that came up in those discussions was the environmental impact of solar installations. He isn't worried about this as the City always thinks these things through completely. He stated that solar arrays help to shade the ground which supports a more diverse environment for plants and animals. He stated that on January 10th there will be a demonstration of an electric bus in Ashland. The company giving the demonstration will then move north to Medford, Grants Pass, Eugene, etc.

Huelz Gutchen – stated that he thinks the plan is good but there will be lots to change in it, which is okay because it's a living document. He stated that Portland is now requiring all homes being sold to have an energy audit which much be shown in the real estate listing. He thanked those

who had read his double-bundle e-mail and encouraged the rest to read it. He would like the group to create a list of definitions of terms so that everyone is on the same page.

Ray Mollett – he agrees with the rest regarding the good open house attendance. He stated that page 19 of the plan was his favorite because it lays out the vision and goals. He believes we need to consider things like offsets to meet those goals. He thinks other cities with plans will be doing the same thing. However, there needs to be a good discussion of how much money is spent here versus other locations.

4. Icebreaker

The group did a teambuilding icebreaker around the question what do you most want for Christmas?

5. Open House #3 Recap/Debrief

Rosenthal stated he was pleased with the turnout and thanked everyone for their participation and assistance. He has received positive feedback from the community. Hanks gave an overview of what information from the open house is already on the commission's webpage and what information will soon be there.

Group discussed their observations of the open house. In general they were pleased with the turnout and thought the question and answer period was useful and fostered good dialogue. They generally were frustrated that the implementation plan, even a very rough version, was not part of the open house as that's the "meat" of the plan. Group raised concerns that there will not be enough time for the committee to really review the implementation plan before everything is presented to Council.

6. Draft Plan Review

Rosenthal thanked the committee members who submitted comments and markups to Hanks. Those have already been sent to Cascadia along with some policy-level comments and suggestions from city staff.

Group expressed some of their concerns with the plan including; the 'what's possible' section needing to be clearer, lack of reference to the 8% goal throughout the plan, lack of reflection of Ashland as a tourist destination, needing better context for numbers - particularly related to graphics, needing to highlight that they are science-based targets so they can be updated as science changes. Additionally, the group would like the 8% reference to be a call-out in the plan, rather than just included in the appendix. Hanks stated he had already made this request of Cascadia.

Koopman raised a concern that none of the strategies reflect equity (the beginning statement is not enough) or co-benefits. McGinnis stated he was under the impression that equity would be a consideration of every strategy or action taken, so specifically calling it out each time wasn't necessary. Group agreed that as this was their intention it could be left as-is.

7. Carbon Offsets

Hartman gave an overview of why he believes offsets must be included in the plan in order to

achieve the 8% goal each year (see attached memo).

Sohl asked if the group had already voted to leave offsets as an option. Group agreed they thought they had (from the July 6, 2016 minutes, “Group generally agreed to, ‘retain the option to include carbon offsets, if we can’t achieve goals/targets by any other means.’”). Sohl stated he would rather not have offsets be a specific part of the plan but rather leave the option open for consideration. Alick (by speakerphone) asked if there were anything in the plan prohibiting use of offsets. Hanks stated no.

Group discussed use of offsets and whether they should be specifically called out in the plan and whether they should have limits on usage. Beigel-Coryell stated offsets should be a last-resort option, that we should focus instead on spending the money in our own community for long-term improvements rather than spend it outside our community in order to achieve only a short-term goal achievement.

McGinnis/Beigel-Coryell m/s to ask Cascadia to draft a strategy for consideration regarding offsets for inclusion in the plan. Discussion: Bernard stated she wants to be clear that we should not start with offsets - they should be a last resort for achieving reduction goals. Beigel-Coryell raised concerns that once they are used, there won’t be an easy way to stop using them. **Voice Vote: All Ayes. Motion Passes.**

8. Implementation Plan

Hanks reviewed the upcoming work plan and timeline. Group discussed the timing of the proposed ordinance.

9. Geos Survey Results

Koopman stated that the full report will be coming in a few weeks. There were over 1,000 respondents, which was far more than anticipated. She hopes the response numbers will help Council see that there is support for the plan. The results also should help the future commission to know where the City can supplement efforts already being taken in the community.

10. Next Meeting

The upcoming meeting schedule is as follows:

January 4, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

January 23, 5:30 p.m. preview of plan at Council Study Session (please note: this date is subject to change)

11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Diana Shippet, Executive Assistant

