

The meeting of the Environment and Climate Committee (ECC) was called to order at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 13, 2022, online and by phone.

Roll Call: Bill Welch, Kavi Chokshi, Kellie Jensen, Kersey Marion, Mark Buckley, Neil Baungard, Peter Grube, Rory Isbell, Serena Dietrich, Anne Birky (ex officio), Sasha Sulia (ex officio)

Absent: Rory Isbell

1. Approval of minutes from 12/9/2021 ECC Meeting

Member Jensen and Ex Officio Members Birky and Sulia joined the meeting around 11:04 a.m.

Member Welch moved to approve the December 9, 2021 meeting minutes. Member Dietrich seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously (8-0).

2. Public Comment

No public comments.

3. Updates

Cassie Lacy, Senior Management Analyst, presented the following updates:

- Climate Friendly Equitable Rulemaking update to the Council on January 19, 2022 – there will be an opportunity for City Committees to provide input
- Electric Vehicle (EV) Readiness Plan
- Committee Alternates

4. Bike Rack

Members and staff discussed the following on the bike rack:

- Have a sponsor for each item on the bike rack to research and report back to the full ECC
- Have a process to move bike rack items forward
- It is the responsibility of the Chair and Vice-Chair to set the agenda – members can advocate for bike rack items to be on future agendas
- Some bike rack items are already on the Council goals – create categories for community topics
- Set aside 15 minutes at each ECC meeting for a bike rack topic
- Add Homeowner Association (HOA) rules with solar panel installation – create a HOA Rules category

- Move the bike rack on the agendas before the agenda setting
- Central Oregon Irrigation District COID property sale to move into a larger discussion of land use – land use is a higher-level topic

5. Chair & Vice Chair Election

Members voted for Member Baunsgard as the ECC Chair (8-0).

Members voted for Member Dietrich as the ECC Vice-Chair (7-1) (Member Welch voted for himself).

6. REACH Code

Member Baunsgard presented the following updates on the Reach Code:

- The Reach Code opportunity was introduced at the last Legislative Session
- The Reach Code formalizes the process for the State Building Code to be formalized and have an additional criterion that it will always be at least 10% more efficient than the base energy code
- Would allow cities to be able to adopt the Reach Code as the base code in their jurisdiction
- Lacy and Member Baunsgard have been involved with a group of cities that have been following and promoting this process of other cities
- The new legislative cycle will start with a short session in February 2022
- The City is affirmatively supporting the Reach code – took the recommendation Council on January 5, 2021

7. Subgroup Reports

- **Home Energy Score**

Member Grube presented the following update on the Home Energy Score:

- The Home Energy Score is a proposal that would need to be obtained at the point of listing a home during the real estate transaction
- This would give another data point on what the energy efficiency metrics are of the house
- It suggests improvements that could be made to improve the score
- The Home Energy Score Subgroup heard from the Central Oregon Association of Realtors (CORE) Government Affairs Director Tyler Neese and The Environmental Centers Waste & Energy Programs Director, Lindsey Hardy
 - COAR Presentation
 - COAR has a Government Affairs Council
 - Would like a voluntary Home Energy Score program – against the program being mandatory
 - COAR has four key concerns
 - The cost impact on a real estate in Central Oregon, which is so high, would be an additional line item to the overall transaction

- Concerns around affordability and equity and how it would impact different transaction, different price points and different people's ability to get homes
- The stigma that would come with getting a Home Energy Score for the houses that are older and do not do as well – it might depreciate their value
- Capacity of if this program was mandated – would there be enough people to do the program, get it in time and to keep the process moving forward
 - The overall language of the CCAP – to make the energy behind the seat CCAP voluntary and about getting people educated
 - Concerns on how the program would be implemented
- The Environmental Center Presentation
 - The program is transparent, easily understandable and gives people another data point on a significant investment that they are making
 - There is a lot of precedent out there for the Home Energy Scores – there is a formula, and a number of case studies have happened
 - Denver – made it voluntary and no one did it, except for people who have nice houses or were into the program
 - Austin – made it required and had a percentage of over 80%
 - The Environmental Center got a significant amount of research and data in real time on how the programs are playing out – the ECC does not have to guess about whether concerns are going to happen or not
 - Cities that implement the program have more inspectors and have a weeding out process that people can deliver the best Home Energy Score at the best price and it consolidates
 - Has examples of groups that area already ready locally to start the program
 - There is plenty of research out there to address the concerns
- \$125 to \$175 for the program – ten inspectors would be considered a good number for the size of Bend

Members discussed the following on the Home Energy Program:

- How to get the realtors to buy into the program?
- Do not get caught up in the voluntary versus mandatory – focus on how to implement the program
- Include renters without substantially changing the program – 30% to 40% of people in Bend rent
- Values of the program
 - It can affect the sale of the price to the sale of the house so then people recognize what they are getting themselves into – all houses are home bought and sold, whether they're going to be owner occupied or rented
 - A high percentage of the work that is done in a house is done within the first two years of a transaction – that information is the most salient and valuable

- Why other cities that have adopted this program made theirs mandatory or voluntary
- It is not just depreciating the value of homes, it is increasing the value of the homes that have the actual outcome you want to have
- You cannot make standards voluntary – not sure how to make this program voluntary and have it work

- **WaterWise**

Member Baungard presented the following update on the WaterWise Subgroup:

- Mike Buettner presented the ECC recommendations to the Council at the January 5, 2022 Council meeting with their plan for going forward
- Staff will be starting the technical advisory committee – there is some interest from members of the ECC
- The ECC will be evaluating a mix of solutions, including mandatory ones with the technical group

- **Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities**

Member Goodwin presented the following talking point on the Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities (CFEC) to take to Council:

- ECC is supportive of the CFEC rules because they will aid Bend in achieving several goals and actions in the city of Bend Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP).
- The CFEC rules make significant changes to Oregon land use and transportation planning that prioritize bicycle, pedestrian and transit and impose vehicle miles traveled reduction targets consistent with regional Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reduction targets.
- The City's current (2016) climate goals are to reduce community fossil fuel use by 40% by 2030 and by 70% 2050. The CCAP goals and actions for transportation, if achieved, would result in a 44% reduction in GHGs from the transportation sector. The 2020 Transportation System plan plans for only a minimal decrease in Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) through the 2040 planning period.
- The City's currently planned transportation projects and programs will not do enough to "move the needle" on reducing GHGs from transportation consistent with the CCAP.
- ECC recognizes that adopting and implementing the CFEC rules in Bend will require significant additional financial and technical resources from the State.
- While implementing the CFEC rules and reducing GHGs from transportation is crucial, the City must also continue to pursue GHG reduction from other sectors, consistent with the CCAP.
- ECC recommends that the City commit to supporting the CFEC's substantive standards and goals for reducing GHGs from transportation and land use, and that any critiques of the rules be limited to requests for additional resources to aid the City in successfully implementing the rules.

Members discussed the following updates and changes to the proposed talking points:

- In bullet point three – remove the word minimum with 4.5 VMT
- Add something around equity – could add that the ECC and staff agree with how it is written in the rule

8. Work Plan and Agenda Setting

Lacy presented the following update on the ECC Work Plan and Agenda Setting:

- 2021-2023 CCAP Work Plan
- Agenda Setting
 - January 2022
 - Home Energy Score and/or Revolving Loan Fund
 - Reach Code
 - February 2022
 - Reach Code?
 - Home Energy Score
 - Revolving Loan Fund
 - EV Readiness Plan
 - March 2022-May/June 2022
 - Home Energy Score
 - Revolving Loan Fund
 - EV Readiness Plan
 - Hauled Wastes Management Alternatives Analysis

Members discussed the following on the ECC Work Plan:

- Be mindful not to be too ambitious – things could go faster with the subcommittees
- The work plan may need to be pushed out – it may take awhile and need funds and resources
- Start looking at loan programs and examples – can start a small group

Member Welch, Baunsgard and Buckley volunteered for the Revolving Loan Fund Subgroup.

Member Welch and Grube volunteered for the 100% Renewable Electricity Supply Subgroup.

Members discussed the following on future meetings and agenda setting:

- Home Energy Score Program:
 - Look into other options from the City's side in incentivizing the Home Energy Score Program – possible meeting with City Council Stewardship Subcommittee
 - Subgroup to meet with other stakeholders
- Set aside 15 minutes on the next agenda to discuss the bike rack process
- Add a two-minute report on the CFEC report that will be given to the City Council on January 19, 2022

- 350 Deschutes would like to present on new development and natural gas connections

Member Chokshi volunteered to elevate or sponsor the HOA Rules regarding zero scaping and solar panels.

Councilor Campbell discussed xeriscaping and water use.

9. Adjourned at 12:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kayla M. Duddy
Deputy City Recorder