

The meeting of the Environment and Climate Committee (ECC) was called to order at 11:03 a.m. on Thursday, January 12, 2023, in the City Council Chambers, 710 NW Wall Street, and online.

- 1. Roll Call:** Kavi Chokshi, Kellie Jensen, Kersey Goodwin, Lauren Fraser, Mark Buckley, Neil Baunsgard, Rory Isbell, Serena Dietrich, Smita Mehta, Sasha Sulia (ex officio), Anne Birky (ex officio)

**Absent:** Sasha Sulio (ex officio), Anne Birky (ex officio)

## **2. Introductions**

ECC members introduced themselves, explained their roles in the community, and gave an overview of their background and experience.

## **3. Approval of Minutes from 12/08/2022 ECC Meeting**

Member Isbell moved to approve the December 8, 2022 meeting minutes. Chair Baunsgard seconded the motion. The motion passed (6-0) (Members Fraser, Mehta, and Goodwin abstained).

## **4. Public Comment**

No public comment was submitted.

## **5. Staff Updates**

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

- The second reading of the Home Energy Score passed on December 21. Lacy explained program implementation would be delayed until July 1, 2023.
- Welcome to new members Smita Mehta and Lauren Fraser.
- At the January 18 meeting, Council was expected to have the first reading of an ordinance expanding the ECC to from nine members to a maximum of 11. The two new members would be pulled from the interviews conducted in December.

## **6. SDC Methodology Working Group**

Sarah Hutson, Senior Management Analyst, requested an ECC liaison for a stakeholder engagement around System Development Charges (SDCs). Hutson explained SDCs and what input would be needed from the SDC Methodology Working Group.

Lacy displayed the SDC Methodology Working Group meeting schedule. Mary Winters, City Attorney, provided additional background.

Chair Baunsgard and Member Isbell agreed to participate in the SDC Methodology Working Group.

Members took a short lunch break from 11:32 to 11:40 a.m.

## **7. Chair/Vice-Chair Elections**

Chair Baunsgard gave an overview of the election process and noted there was one nominee for Chair and one nominee for Vice Chair.

Chair nominee was Neil Baunsgard, via email.

Winters clarified the email nomination served as a motion to nominate Neil Baunsgard to serve as ECC Chair. Member Chokshi seconded. **Voice vote** – Chair Baunsgard, Vice Chair Chokshi, Members Jensen, Goodwin, Fraser, Buckley, Isbell, Dietrich, Mehta Yes 9 0 No

Vice Chair nominee was Kavi Chokshi, via email.

Member Chokshi disclosed his new position as the Rethink Waste Program Coordinator at The Environmental Center and noted he had discussed with Winters and Lacy his recusal on items that have potential for conflict of interest or the appearance of conflict of interest.

The email nomination served as a motion to nominate Kavi Chokshi to serve as ECC Vice Chair. Member Dietrich seconded. **Voice vote** - Chair Baunsgard, Vice Chair Chokshi, Members Jensen, Goodwin, Fraser, Buckley, Isbell, Dietrich, Mehta Yes 9 0 No

## **8. Council Goal Input Finalization**

Lacy explained the Council goal-setting process, displayed and presented the ECC's draft responses to the Council Goal Input Form, and noted the form was due that day.

Lacy walked the Committee through each section of draft responses. Members refined the document, with clarification from Lacy and Winters as needed.

## **9. Natural Gas Pipeline Discussion**

Member Isbell provided background and an overview of a proposed expansion of a natural gas pipeline, which would increase that system by 150 million standard cubic feet per day, and explained the pipeline runs from Canada through Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and California, including through the east side of Bend. Member Isbell stated Cascade Natural Gas has

subscribed to the added capacity and went over the emissions impact of using the additional capacity. Lacy displayed Member Isbell's memo to the ECC regarding the proposed expansion.

Member Isbell explained the Attorneys General of Oregon, Washington, and California intervened in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERP's) review of the project in opposition to the application. Member Isbell added this project is not in Cascade Natural Gas's integrated resource plan (IRP), which could equate to higher costs for customers.

In light of the City's greenhouse gas reduction goals, Member Isbell called for a discussion about recommending the City submit a comment opposing the project.

Members discussed, with input and clarification from Winters, the possibility of recommending Council submit a statement opposing the expansion and supporting the Attorneys General of Oregon, Washington, and California. Member Isbell stated an article in the press had noted Senators Wyden and Merkley had come out in opposition of the proposed expansion.

Member Chokshi moved to recommend that the Mayor submit a letter into the FERP record requesting denial of the pipeline expansion due to the increase in natural gas use conflicting with the City's adopted greenhouse gas reduction goals. Member Dietrich seconded. **Voice vote** - Chair Baunsgard, Vice Chair Chokshi, Members Jensen, Goodwin, Fraser, Buckley, Isbell, Dietrich, Mehta Yes 9 0 No

## **10. Updates**

### **a. Waste & Materials Subgroup**

Member Dietrich reported the Waste & Materials Subgroup met with The Environmental Center to discuss current problems, goals, and programs as they relate to waste materials. The subgroup planned to meet again before the February meeting to wrap up a recommendation for how to move forward with that program.

### **b. REBuilding Task Force**

Chair Baunsgard reported the REBuilding Task Force met in December to finalize and vote on recommendations. Chair Baunsgard said the Task Force expects a package of bills to come out of those recommendations; they will then be available for review and be entered into the legislative process.

### **c. Working Group Membership**

Vice Chair Chokshi inquired about adding new members to the Waste and Materials Working Group; Lacy explained that because the group was wrapping up a recommendation, it would be better to wait until after that.

Lacy asked if anyone was interested in joining the Natural Gas Working Group and noted some short-term action items, including meetings with Cascade Natural Gas and 350 Deschutes. There were no volunteers.

## **11. Agenda Review**

Lacy updated the committee on the following upcoming agenda items:

- February 2023:
  - Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Update Presentation
  - Work Planning
- March 2023:
  - Waste & Materials Working Group Recommendation
- Future Topics:
  - Update on CCAP Progress
  - Reprioritization for Next Biennium?
  - Update on City Facilities and Operations Climate Action Plan

## **12. Adjourned at 12:53 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Mitsch  
Senior Administrative Support Specialist