

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

- 1. Roll Call:** Andrew Calise, Jeff Rodgers (present virtually), Kavi Chokshi, Kellie Jensen (present virtually), Lauren Fraser, Mark Buckley, Neil Baunsgard, Rory Isbell, Serena Dietrich (present virtually), Smita Mehta, Jackie Mueller (ex officio), Sasha Sulia (ex officio, present virtually)

**Absent:** Jackie Mueller (ex officio)

## **2. Approval of Minutes from April 13, 2023 ECC Meeting**

Member Buckley moved to approve the April 13, 2023 meeting minutes. Member Isbell seconded the motion. **Voice Vote** – Chair Baunsgard, Members Buckley, Calise, Dietrich, Fraser, Isbell, Jensen, Mehta, Rodgers Yes 9 No 0 (Vice Chair Chokshi abstained)

## **3. Public Comment**

No public comment was submitted.

## **4. Staff Updates**

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

- City Council officially established the Tree Regulation Update Advisory Committee (TRUAC) and determined the ECC would have a seat on that Committee. Council was hoping for more than one applicant from the ECC and asked interested Members to apply. Chair Baunsgard stated the committee designee should report back to the ECC during the TRUAC meeting period.

Senior Planner Pauline Hardie explained the purpose and expected scope of TRUAC and discussed the options Council is interested in seeing with this City Code update.

Vice Chair Chokshi and Member Isbell expressed interest in applying for TRUAC.

## **5. CCAP Update Process Input**

Lacy presented the following slides:

- CCAP Process Update
- Discussion Questions

Lacy asked for feedback from Members regarding the Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP). There was extensive discussion around whether to update the CCAP's strategies and structure, associated budget concerns, working group timelines, resiliency, adaptation versus mitigation, the original CCAP process, community engagement and equity.

Members suggested the following small updates to the CCAP:

- Add more direct land use-focused actions to the CCAP in alignment with the state's new CFEC rules, which tie together land use and transportation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector (Member Isbell)
- Look at natural gas, as current best practices might not be present in the original CCAP (Member Isbell)
- For the ECC's Transportation Working Group: Look at why there aren't more buses or carpool options available to Mt. Bachelor and whether the ECC might be able to lead or help support that effort (Vice Chair Chokshi)
- The ECC's Waste and Materials Working Group is actively talking about how Corvallis passed a reusable dishware/take-out container program. Can the City support a reusables program here? (Vice Chair Chokshi)
- Take another look at the CCAP scope in terms of emissions. Is a third scope needed? (Vice Chair Chokshi)

Members took a brief lunch break from 11:52 a.m. to 12:05 p.m.

## **6. Strategic Energy Management Plan Update**

Lacy presented the following slide:

- Data-Driven Decision Making / Energy Efficiency / Renewable Energy / Fleet and Transportation / Materials Management

Lacy provided an update on actions the City is taking in the Fleet and Transportation and Materials Management sections, as the other topics were addressed at the last meeting.

Member Mehta asked what the acronym TDM stands for; Lacy explained it is transportation demand management, which refers to programs that help people need to travel less. Chair Baungard and Member Isbell provided further clarification.

Members discussed anticipated City staff commutes to the Juniper Ridge facility when it is completed; surplus materials; doing an inventory of the main items the City procures; and the importance of the City modeling CCAP actions in its operations.

Member Isbell asked whether there were updates from the landfill siting relevant to the CCAP. Lacy explained the City is participating in an advisory committee for that process and that the list of potential locations has been narrowed to two or three. Lacy noted the advisory committee is ready to undertake a feasibility analysis of those sites and discussed a potential third location. Lacy added this won't just be a landfill but a comprehensive solid waste facility with potential for

a materials recovery facility in the future, and that the goal is to have the new solid waste facility open by 2029, when the current landfill is slated to close.

Member Buckley asked whether the new facility would influence the effectiveness of household and business recycling; Lacy discussed the Recycling Modernization Act and its requirements throughout Oregon and noted the ECC's Waste and Materials Working Group is beginning to sift through that.

## **7. Natural Gas Policy Options Process**

Lacy stated the topic of reducing reliance on natural gas has come up in various settings, both in the ECC and from Council expressing an interest in moving away from natural gas. Lacy said staff has also heard interest from the community, including via petitions, and that the topic is controversial, with many impacted stakeholders.

Lacy explained she was concerned the Committee could not give this topic the attention and consideration it deserves during the CCAP update process and would like to have a separate discussion to look at different policy discussions for natural gas, get a better understanding of them, and get community engagement on the topic.

Lacy's plan is to convene an ad hoc advisory committee, similar to TRUAC, later this year to look at actions the City could take to reduce reliance on natural gas. She explained ECC Members would be part of the committee, and there would be seat designations for other stakeholders; technical and legal analyses would be included in the process, which Lacy projected to take about four to eight months. The end goal would be to come up with recommendations about which policy options to pursue, including how and when, and to integrate those into the CCAP update.

Chair Baunsgard asked whether Members could do anything to help with the process while Lacy is on leave. Lacy replied the best use of their time would be to research other cities and their policies around natural gas, both in terms of regulation but also other actions they're taking.

## **8. Bike Rack Process**

Lacy explained the "bike rack" process the ECC started a year ago and asked Members to be thinking about it before the next meeting. Lacy provided insight into how the bike rack evolved over time and asked whether Members wanted to actively integrate it into meetings again or change the process.

Following discussion about including a date of when items are added and tracking each comment or question the ECC receives, Vice Chair Chokshi agreed to mock up an alternative way of tracking bike rack items and presenting it at the next meeting. Lacy stated she would bring the discussion back at the June meeting and asked all Members to be thinking about whether they want the bike rack to be part of the ECC's work.

## **9. Agenda Review**

Lacy updated the committee on the following upcoming agenda items:

- June 2023
  - Transportation Working Group Discussion
  - Bike rack process
  - Tree code
    - Lacy will talk to Hardie to determine whether her schedule will allow for engaging with the ECC regarding anticipated City Code changes.
- July 2023
  - NO MEETING
- August 2023
  - Waste and Materials Working Group Discussion
  - Tree Code Update
  - Legislative Update (tentative)

## **10. Adjourned at 1:05 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Mitsch  
Senior Administrative Support Specialist