

The meeting of the Environment and Climate Committee (ECC) was called to order at 11:04 a.m. on Thursday, February 8, 2024 in the City Council Chambers, 710 NW Wall Street, and online.

1. **Roll Call:** Neil Baunsgard, Andrew Calise, Kavi Chokshi, Serena Dietrich (attended virtually), Lauren Fraser, Rory Isbell, Kellie Jensen (attended virtually), Smita Mehta (attended virtually), Alex Cerussi, Laura Tabor

Absent: Mark Buckley

2. Approval of Minutes

Member Isbell moved to approve the January 11, 2024 minutes. **Voice Vote** – Chair Baunsgard, Vice Chair Fraser, Members Calise, Chokshi, Dietrich, Isbell, Jensen, Mehta, Cerussi, Tabor Yes 10 No 0

3. Public Comment

No public comment was submitted.

4. Staff Updates

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

- A Hydro Work Session will take place at the February 21st City Council meeting. The engineering team completed a study exploring conduit hydro power possibilities.

5. Waste and Materials Working Group Priorities

Member Jensen, with the Waste and Materials Working Group, provided an update through the following slides:

- Summary
 - Members completed prioritization of existing CCAP strategies.
 - Held public meeting on 2/5 to discuss strategies and personal prioritization.
 - Collectively reviewed group prioritization results and finalized our recommendations.
- Strategies with Ranking
- Strategy #1
 - Develop and deliver educational programs that encourage residents to compost their food waste.
 - Conduct outreach campaigns that promote waste preventing reduction consumption.
 - Conduct outreach campaigns that promote food waste prevention.
- Strategy #2
 - Develop a recycling and waste reduction program targeting tourists.

- Strategy #3
 - Implement training programs for specific industries to prevent waste.
- Strategy #4
 - Utilize low carbon concrete mixes in City projects and create incentives to encourage developers to utilize low carbon concrete.

Member Chokshi and Lacy provided further details regarding the strategies created by the Waste and Materials Working Group.

Member Tabor inquired about the specific materials indicated in Strategy #4. Lacy explained that this strategy focuses on concrete.

Member Chokshi asked if low carbon concrete is a way to get points for the MUPTE program or other programs as incentives. Lacy stated that there currently are no other incentive programs.

Mary Winters, City Attorney, stated that the City has a large number of project and a lot of concrete goes into City work. The City would have to have criteria when they do RFP's for scoring projects.

Member Isbell inquired about Strategy #3 and if anyone was aware of what businesses would be targeted as high priorities to reduce waste. Member Dietrich explained that a deep dive into industries to be targeted has not been completed yet.

Member Chokshi suggested bringing many of the businesses in the industry together to share best practices and provide guides and training.

Rene Mitchell, Communications Director, will attend the March meeting to discuss a creative brief.

The committee broke for lunch at 11:49am.

6. Tree Code Update Letter

The committee returned at 11:59 from lunch.

The Tree Code Update was taken up first due to time constraints.

Member Chokshi presented a draft of the Tree Code Update Recommendations memo. The data of 8 recent developments were reviewed. The preservation rate was 24%. If the proposed standard of 20% was used, then 29 trees would be preserved. The actual trees preserved was 33. If 25% was the proposed rate, then 10% more trees would have been preserved based on the evaluated data.

Winters explained that the City Council met last night, and the council has broken it into 3 categories. A Tree Code work session will take place on May 15th with the first reading June 15th and the second reading on June 20th.

Member Tabor requested that the Priority Tree graph is explained. Member Chokshi reviewed the graph and explained that the percentages were reasonable.

Member Isbell inquired if raising the percentages to 25% or 30% would further cause unreasonable cause of delay for housing development.

Winters explained that developers stated at the City Council meeting, the rates would cause cost increases and delays.

Member Chokshi asked if the committee would like to vote to continue to move towards a percentage increase to 25%.

Chair Baungard asked for a delay in the vote due to the available time to make a decision and to allow the committee to further review the memo.

Member Isbell proposed a compromise to complete a drafted letter rather than a formal letter at this time.

There was a consensus amongst members to increase the percentage to 25%.

Member Isbell agreed to assist Member Chokshi with drafting the letter to council.

7. Natural Gas Policy & CCAP Update Process

Lacy presented on the Natural Gas Policy and CCAP Process through the following slides:

- Natural Gas Policy – The committee will go to council in March in order to recommend policy and strategies to reduce natural gas in buildings.
 - There are 2 different options to tackle the natural gas policy change.
- Natural Gas Policy Options Process: Stakeholder Committee/Task Force Approach
 - Appoint advisory committee/task force – April
 - Procure consultant and schedule Committee meeting – April/May
 - First Advisory Committee meeting – June
 - Analysis completed – June – September
 - Second Advisory Committee Meeting – October
 - Third and Fourth Advisory Committee Meeting – November
 - Fourth Advisory Committee meeting – December
 - Recommendations to Council and Council provide direction – January 2025
 - Further engage stakeholder with next steps
- Natural Gas Policy Options Process: Stakeholder Interview and ECC/Staff Recommendation Process
 - Procure consultant – April
 - Conduct analysis – May – August
 - Rely on ECC to provide input into analysis scope and determining list of policies to consider
 - Includes stakeholder interviews
 - Staff and/or ECC Develop recommendations based on analysis – September

- Optional additional community engagement for feedback and information – September
- Deliver recommendation to Council and Council provides direction – October
- Optional additional community engagement – i.e. townhalls, focus groups, etc.
- Engage stakeholders as needed with next steps (i.e. policy or program development)

Member Chokshi asked a question about option 1 regarding whether the consultant would be working with the committee and providing a report.

Lacy explained that a consultant will be hired in both options. The legal team will do an analysis of the different options.

Member Tabor asked if the committee in the first option would be new or a subset from the ECC.

Lacy explained that this would be an ad hoc task force.

Winters explained that the City has done this process many times.

Chair Baunsgard interpreted that option 2 would rely more on stakeholder interviews to shape a recommendation. His inclination would be to go with option 2 to have the consultant take all information in with the recommendations of the legal staff and stakeholders.

Winters encouraged the committee to think about how many concerning letters the City Council received when this idea was first discussed. The community may not feel engaged with a stakeholder process.

Chair Baunsgard explained the thought process for going with process 2.

The committee in option one would be led by Lacy.

Lacy suggested having the Natural Gas group meet to discuss this process.

Lacy transitioned to the CCAP discussion by presenting the following slides:

- Community Climate Action Plan Update
 - Pre-Phase: Progress Report
 - Phase 1: Refining existing Actions
 - Phase 2: Adding new Actions
 - Phase 3: Evaluating Actions
 - Phase 4: Prioritizing actions
 - Phase 5: Work Planning and Resource Requests
 - Phase 6: Delivering Recommendations

Lacy stated that some of the actions can be completed by groups or the entire committee. She explained the potential reasoning for both options.

Member Isbell stated that he prefers to go about the project by committee. The working groups already have scheduled meetings, and it will free up the ECC meetings to tackle other matters. Members Calise and Cerussi agreed.

Chair Baungard stated that the additional time allows for deeper understanding in the changes and does more justice and the update more substantive.

Lacy noted that if the committee wants to keep the full committee meetings as well as the working groups, this works but requires many meetings in a short period of time.

Member Chokshi stated that the timeline makes sense.

Member Mehta agreed with doing the working groups but would like the meetings scheduled as soon as possible.

Committee agreed with the May start time.

8. Agenda Review

March – Communications discussion, Tree Code, CCAP discussion

April – Working Group Reports

May – CCAP Update Launch – Progress Report and Completed Action Review

9. Adjourned at 1:04 p.m.

Respectfully,

Samantha Gamelgaard
Senior Administrative Support Specialist