



Climate and Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes Regular Meeting – January 25, 2024

Committee Members in Attendance: Vince Dauciunas – Chair, Kendra Smith, Janet Alderton, Luke Fincher, Chris Greacen, Adrian Kilpatrick, Jay Kimball, Barbara Marrett, Michael Shanks, Jerry Whitfield

Committee Liaisons in Attendance: Lynn Bahrych, Steve Bernheim, Jeffrey Dyer, Sheila Gaquin, Marilyn O'Connor

Ex-officio and County Staff: Jane Fuller, Angela Broderick

Members of the public/guests: David Bill, Faith Van De Putte, Nicole Guitierrez from Cascadia Consulting

Committee Members absent: None

Convene meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vince Dauciunas. He confirmed that a quorum was present. The new County Council liaison, Jane Fuller, was introduced and Vince asked each committee member to introduce themselves and share their background.

Public Comment

Faith Van De Putte shared her ideas about on how to engage the community in the planning process. She suggested creating a collaborative plan for a variety of climate programming that would run in tandem with the official public outreach process.

Steve Bernheim noted that bike lanes have been giving zero carbon benefits on the action table, which he believes is not true. He expressed a view that OPALCO is dominating these proceedings and concern this committee might be displacing the voices of other members. He suggested adding up to 20 more people to the committee.

David Bill spoke about getting more public participation in the process and sharing more information along the way.

Business Operations

- **Approve November 30, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: Barbara moved, and Janet seconded, to approve the minutes of the November 30, 2023 meeting as presented and the motion passed. A friendly amendment was suggested to fix an incorrect link.

Introduction of Climate Element and CAP Work for 2024 – Nicole Guitierrez, Cascadia Consulting

Angela introduced Nicole Guitierrez from Cascadia Consulting, highlighting that Cascadia Consulting has helped on several County projects recently including the Greenhouse Gas Inventory, the ROSS Plan Update and the community engagement for the Destination Management Plan.

Nicole shared a slide presentation to discuss the definition of the Climate Element, what is required in order to be compliant with House Bill 1181 that was passed last year, and the Climate Action Plan work that is kicking off. She shared an estimated timeline showing that the project is expected to take about 18 months and the Final CAP (Climate Action Plan), the Climate Element and the Engagement Summary Report should be completed by June of 2025.

During a group discussion, the following ideas were shared:

- Chris commented that there are several climate groups in the community currently and suggested exploring how we can create more participation and ownership in this process.
- Adrian suggested looking at social events to get people involved; what gets people out of their house.
- Barbara loved the idea of a "Climate Convergence Event" involving music and entertainment.

- Jay suggested that online meetings may gather more people and that in-person meetings tend to have fewer participants. He asked Nicole about community engagement techniques used in the preparing the Woodinville plan and she replied that going to the community instead of having the community come to us has worked well – reach out to youth groups, surveys, tabling, schools etc.
- Janet highlighted the importance of online meetings, a good website with info and resources, and letter writing.
- Steve wanted to ensure the consultants have received the two emails he wrote on October 15th and January 18th sharing ideas. He suggested everyone in the community get an opportunity to speak, balance education with listening.
- Adrian suggested asking specific questions at community events and reporting back to this group. Small infographics and illustrated dioramas are helpful in presentations.
- Jane reminded the Committee that the Comp Plan is a 20-year plan and a framework to guide our work; we need to be looking at this context when developing goals and policies for the climate element. The CAP should also consider 5/10/15/20 year frameworks. The County's Department of Community Development will also be working with the community during the Comp Plan process, and she liked the idea of banding together to facilitate a robust process. This is a challenging, politically charged year so be mindful of saturation in the community. There also needs to be more robust inter-departmental work and review.

Nicole discussed the idea of 'training the trainer' by congregating folks together to share outreach methods and strategy, empowering them to go out into the community to get feedback. Angela reported that we would be working closely with Cascadia on the engagement strategy and that the committee can expect to be involved in reviewing and shaping the strategy. Vince asked Angela to add a category to the SharePoint site where we can place Steve's letters and where committee members can submit recommendations.

The Committee continued the discussion about communicating with the community - possibly using story boards, creating opportunities to have dialog with Islanders about climate change and the use of infographics. Vince suggested making a complex conversation personal, and Lynn related how the Conservation District works directly with landowners to address hazards, looking at immediate needs and bringing solutions. Janet focused on a building code change for the mesh vents on housing to prevent fire embers from entering homes. The committee asked Nicole about working with communities that disagree and how to avoid analysis paralysis and move forward. Nicole said Cascadia has much experience with that and suggested separating voluntary from mandatory changes that need to be made.

Luke reported for the Education Working Group, sharing two primary goals they were focusing on: 1.) electrification to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and 2.) sustainable land use management to reduce tree loss and fire risk. He noted that audience awareness and targeting should include anyone here in the Islands including renters and second-home owners, with peer-to-peer strategies and possibly meeting with homeowners associations or small group meetings. Redundancy should be avoided, and less common solutions should be brought forward. In general, the working group recommended updating the County website and using social media and graphic-heavy/text-light approaches to communicate. Collaborating with writers might be a helpful way to get the word out; Barbara notes that the Journal welcomes editorials. Michael added that targeting the audience, understanding them, and then approaching them in multiple ways.

Vince asked Angela how the Committee could help in preparation for the next meeting, and she said she would be sending out some next steps that includes a timeline. She reminded committee members to review the Comp Plan, and Sheila Gaquin (Planning Commission liaison) reiterated this recommended review by looking for the items in the Comp Plan marked with a "green wind" icon. Vince closed the meeting by thanking Nicole from Cascadia Consulting for her presentation.

The meeting adjourned at 7:33pm.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 5:30pm.