

Commission Retreat Minutes

Wednesday, August 19, 2020 - 5:00 p.m.

Zoom Webinar

In attendance: Chair-Zach Mulholland, Vice-Chair- Julia Johnson, Drew Johnson, Art Farley, Laura Allen, Louisa de Heer, Doug Edwards, Karyn Kaplan, Councilor Emily Semple

Staff: Chelsea Clinton, Samantha Roberts

Absent: Howard Saxion, Mtima Richardson

Call to Order:

Chair Mulholland called the meeting to order.

Staff requested to switch items 3 and 4. Chair Mulholland approved.

Chair Mulholland called for a motion to approve the agenda or request for discussion.

Action Item: Approve Agenda

Moved: Julia Johnson

Seconded: Karyn Kaplan

Vote: All in favor

Opening question: Name a person or movement, current or historic, you respect or admire and why

Commissioners, Councilor Semple and staff provided responses to the question and discussed amongst themselves.

Retreat introduction

Staff reviewed the Sustainability Commission's bylaws to review the Commission's mission and purpose. Staff also led Commissioners through a review as to the purpose of the working agreement.

Annual Report Buildout

Staff led Commissioners through a buildout of the FY20 Annual Report. This included discussing progress on FY20 work plan priorities and activities, progress on committees, and proposals/recommendations/resolutions sent to council. Discussion included the impacts of meeting restrictions related to COVID-19 and the progress that was still made despite these interruptions.

Discuss question: Rose, Thorn, Bud

Staff led Commissioners through a discussion of the past fiscal year's victories and accomplishments (rose), difficulties/barriers to accomplishing past year's work plan (thorn), and new ideas/hopes and dreams for the upcoming fiscal year (bud). Staff typed up responses for Commissioners to reference during the work plan discussion.

Roses

- Commission processes for committees
- CAP work (specifically EV)
- Single Plastics Ban
- Progress of commission on issues
- Getting established in relationships and expectations
- Appreciation platform with council
- CAP2.0 and common goals for sustainability integration in city practices
- Development of budget for ESC and setting up structure for community grants
- COVID raised awareness and opportunities for innovation and creativity
- Education outreach committee (grants and ability to meaningfully engage with community)
- ESC Relationships
- Completion of CAP2.0
- Outreach to community via ESC
- Community support fund via committee
- Single use plastics

Thorns

- Process of taking ideas to council
- EV Ready Homes Proposal and process for making policy happen
- CAP2.0 process compared to current realities of climate change
- Not being able to get final product from committee due to COVID
- Cultural adjustment from consumption to conservation
- COVID, Budget, and Political capital
- Vulnerable populations and those struggling even aside from COVID (barriers to access prior to COVID, made worse)
- How bylaws are set up for new commissioners to engage work and work planning
- CAP and NWN: behavior of fossil fuel companies
- How does commission have significant impact
- ESC has not built in equity into work
- Processes between council and ESC, getting on the council agenda

Buds

- Community Recommended Actions
- Forward progress on CAP implementation
- Opportunities for commission to affect change related to climate work
- New opportunities related to sustainability
- Continue work with committees and recovery
- Relationships and professionalism of the Sustainability Commission
- Success of CAP and related progress
- Opportunities to see what other communities are doing and implementing; potential partnerships and opportunities to create synergy
- Implementation of CAP: work through fossil fuel risk bonds
- Utilize relationship as trusted advisor to City Council

- Work of ESC, city council, and broader community – how are we going in the same direction
- Innovation and creativity in dreaming for the future, including what is being asked of local governments
- Cultural shifts from materialism to self-sufficiency in various ways
- Moving forward – opportunities to rebound after COVID, including energy brought about by police reform and racial justice

Draft FY21 Work Plan

Staff led Commissioners through a buildout of the FY21 Annual Work Plan. This began with providing Commissioners time to think about and share three of their most important priorities or ideas for the next fiscal year for which they would volunteer to spend time on committee. Staff led Commissioners through a review of the themes that arose. Commissioners provided feedback about process for adding material to each theme to include setting priority, as well as further feedback about themes themselves. Commissioners committed to priorities within which to committee over the next fiscal year. Commissioners discussed bringing the draft back for final review and action at the September meeting.

FY 21 Proposed committees

Chair Mulholland introduced an opportunity to establish new committees for FY21.

Commissioner Allen spoke about the proposal for investigating funding strategies to implement the CAP2.0 starting with engagement from the CAP, and other ideas and jurisdictions like Portland.

Chair Mulholland spoke about the proposal for a CAP Oversight Committee to include work on the Dashboard for the CAP2.0, implementation plan for current CAP2.0 actions, process to review all equity panel recommendations and community recommended actions. He assumed an implementation plan would include funding. Staff provided clarification about the intention of proposals.

Commissioner Edward requested clarification if the CAP2.0 Oversight Committee was for overseeing staff work, or creating an implementation plan. Chair Mulholland clarified the Commission's work providing ad hoc advisement to staff and recommendations to Council. Staff clarified goal of Commission and staff working collaboratively. Chair Mulholland clarified the committee will prioritize completion of the Dashboard before other goals in the proposal.

Action Item: approve CAP Funding Committee

Motion: Julia Johnson

Second: Laura Allen

Vote: 8 in favor

Abstain: Louisa De Heer

Commissioner Allen will initiate first committee. Commissioner Farley and Zach Mulholland will participate.

Action Item: approve CAP2.0 Oversight Committee

Motion: Zach Mulholland

Second: Doug Edwards

Vote: All in favor

Chair Mulholland will initiate meeting.

Action Item: approval to extend Air Quality Committee by 2 months

Motion: Louisa de Heer

Second: Karyn Kaplan

Vote: All in favor

Commissioner de Heer will initiate extension of committee.

Commissioner Johnson inquired how to bring back Education and Outreach committee. Staff clarified the need to rearticulate scope of committee based on conversation around FY21 workplan. Commissioner Johnson decided to bring back this committee proposal in the following meeting.

Closing

Staff provided information about upcoming discussion related to commission and board liaisons.

Commissioner Mulholland adjourned the meeting.