

**Climate Change Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday August 17, 2022**

Present: Committee members David McCaughey (chair), Mike Cox (vice chair), Steve Richard, Deborah Rudnick (secretary), John Kydd, Julie Matthews, Kevin Thomas

Council Liaison: Leslie Schneider, Kirsten Hytopoulos

City staff: Autumn Salamack, climate officer

Attendees: Marci Burkel, public

No conflicts of interest stated.

Approval of August minutes: John moved, and Steve seconded with no corrections, approved by all.

Steve asked to have follow up items flagged in the minutes.

Public Comment: none

Discussion:

AGENDA

Climate Officer (Autumn Salamack)

Updates described by Autumn to the **work plan** including:

- piloting green building fund Pilot the Green Building Fund concept with program to transition homes to efficient heat pumps:
 - 1% increase in utility tax, or budget allocations from COBI
 - Discussion included note from David that this was not the original intention to have the city fund this work; Autumn confirmed that this is a pilot program
 - Steve mentioned that heat pumps may be part of the IRA as an applicable use of federal funds- this is a good question for Derik Kilmer.
 - David mentioned ARPA funds came through state agencies as reimbursements; this might go through commerce.
 - **Steve is happy to have a look at the IRA and look for alignments.**
- Language added regarding an invasive species plan by 2025- Deb recommended **Autumn adding the Cooperative Weed Management Area as an external partner.**
- Estimated budget is about \$760K, which is too high- many costs tied to EV charging and infrastructure, there may be many funding sources but must keep in mind that is a lot of work to apply for grants.
- Future discussion for role of the committee including grant assistance.

- Has the city specifically focused on hiring someone to write grants? Leslie mentioned this has been a big topic of discussion for transportation because they are at max capacity. With the IRA coming, there may be a lot of money coming down the line that would be well positioned to apply for grants. Autumn reminds us that the grants also need to be implemented and that is also staff capacity.
- David mentioned Evans school is trying to place Capstone students, even in small groups, and have several available; this could be an additional resource. **David has literature about the group he can share with Autumn.**
- How to represent the most important actions relative to the effect on emissions? Derik and Jens built some spreadsheets that we might dig out and make relevant to the CAP. We might be able to spitball some of these as a group to figure out potential impacts. **Deb will share carbon sequestration estimates** she made with Lara for our tree canopy cover. Do remember emissions reduction is just one of our goals; so, there are several things that go into a decision of prioritization.
- Autumn suggested we add individual CCAC names once we finalize the workplan.
- Leslie asked a clarifying question about sustainable transportation plan and what it covers- does it cover school district transport patterns- Autumn replied that Fehr and Peers evaluating emissions reductions potential of the overall plan and are identifying sources for better data; and also working on recommendations for updating our transportation impact fee. So they aren't making specific recommendations on individual actions, they are looking at what are the data sources moving forward.
- **Mike** will reach out and **Deb** can support reaching out to school board to discuss opportunities for better connections on transportation.
- Kirsten mentioned the revival of the intergovernmental working group, electeds mostly from various taxing districts, that would help foster these kinds of communications.

Racial equity lens – applying a tool to a potential CAP project

- Development of a racial equity tool – looked at Government Alliance for Racial Equity toolkit, brought by REAC, now being run by CCAC (attached in packet)
 - Discussion around economic and racial implications. In the context of commercial landscaping, individuals suggested this might be expected to impact Hispanic community more.
 - Need to think about the policy framework of this – what tools would be included, what populations would be impacted (individual homeowner use vs commercial entities that may have a much higher level of need for batteries, etc.), how fast the ramp-up would be, opportunities for other approaches to landscaping
 - Can the city do a bulk purchase that can reduce purchase prices?
 - Lending library of tools? Seattle has several of them that we could model them. Lending with a lending library could be a good way of transitioning at a lower cost and impact. Gil Engelsen from board of Sustainable Bainbridge has been working on a Library of Things that might address this need- **Deb can reach out to her to find out if this is in the scope.**

- Comments from REAC mentioned by Autumn include reframing, being cognizant of perceptions around the city being responsive to homeowner complaints over the landscapers, who already may not feel heard.
 - Banning the sale vs banning the use – two different approaches.
 - An idea to have a demo of how well electric mowers work as there are some perceptions that they are less effective.
 - Additional frame being public safety – is gas equipment less safe (beyond the air pollution exposure issues).
 - We can look at the GARE toolkit
 - This group can recommend that we as a city has established a legislative agenda, we can recommend adding to it specific issues like this one – Leslie is not sure if this is yet available for viewing?
 - Would a student intern be useful for an issue such as this?
- Climate Officer updates (5 mins) – no verbal updates
 - Climate Smart Challenge update – no verbal updates
 - September 14th Climate Smart Bainbridge webinar: Choosing Appropriate Trees for the Urban Environment (flyer attached in packet), no verbal updates, but everyone should attend!
 - New Erase the Waste business pledge and recognition program – no verbal updates
 - CAP Progress Report: True progress report for November anniversary- let Autumn know if you want to provide feedback or review
 - EV-Ready code updates: planning commission next Thursday to have a public info section to review existing WAC that goes into effect July 2023. Proposal to implement that in January with more aggressive requirements around EV-ready building, commercial properties.
 - ETIPP update and next steps- Initial meeting to understand the scope of the pathways we want this plan to focus on: what role might PSE play, they did not show to this first meeting, what should our approach to then be. Breadth of expertise of this consultancy is wide, but we must define the scope of what we want them to focus on. Many stakeholders have been invited to the table including parks, fire, school district, etc. Second meeting scheduling now, hoping to have these folks join us to get their buy-in and their priorities as this could really benefit those entities
 - Sea Level Rise Grant Wins! 100K from Dept of Ecology that will fund everything but USGS modeling; but Commerce awarded 80K for USGS modeling, 20K from CAP budget- high-resolution sea level rise and identifying public infrastructure at risk.

6:15 Updates

- Groundwater Management Plan (Deb) – no updates
- Open Public Meeting Act (attached - Deb) – group discussion around whether we should sign on to this, and whether there are repercussions for other committees (there will be- this will be an across-the-board decision, not for one committee). Jon provided feedback on a few sentences, Deb will revise with Mike and Julie, we will bring back to group in September to vote on moving forward to council.

- Sustainable Transportation Technical Advisory Team (Mike) – Mark Epstein asked for CCAC participation: WSDOT, Kitsap Transit, Ferries, Parks, BISD, Autumn- as the main goal is to reduce emissions, it would be good for CCAC member to be present. **Mike can reach out to Derik** to ask him if he's willing to participate. If he can't do it, **Kevin said he will.**

Other

6:45 Future Meeting Topics (All)

- IRA on a future agenda- group conversation
- Role of the CCAC – Ellen to engage – we need a clearer understanding of our role – we should all read through what our language says about our purpose. Autumn and Ellen have some ideas for us in terms how we could support them, would be great to get these ahead of time. Think ahead to what types of issues we want advisory capacity for.
- Public farmland – issue raised by Leslie- what is the public getting from this resource? Leslie is asking if CCAC could apply a climate lens to looking at public farmlands?

7:24 Adjourn – Julie moves, Steven seconds, all agreed.

Materials

1. *July minutes*
2. *Updated 2023/2024 CAP Workplan*
3. *Race Equity Toolkit*
4. *Tree workshop flyer*
5. *Draft Open Public Meeting Request Memo*



Co-Chair



Date