

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH
Sustainability Commission
November 12, 2021
6:02 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Sustainability Commission was held Friday, November 12, 2021, in the Mona Lisa Drexler Assembly Chambers of the Juanita Helms Administration Center, 907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks, Alaska.

ROLL CALL

There were present appearing telephonically:

Jimmy Fox	Wyatt Hurlbut
Ariane Glover, Vice-Chair	Brett Parks, Chair

Comprising a quorum of the Commission, and

Alexis Fackeldey, Administrative Assistant III, Clerk
David Bredlie, Public Works Director
Matt Pearson, Recycling Manager
Jeremy Spargur, Energy Management Engineer

MESSAGES

1.a. Citizen's Comments on agenda items not scheduled for public hearing.

NONE

1.b. Citizen's Comments on items other than those appearing on the agenda.

NONE

2. Disclosure & Statement of Conflict of Interest

NONE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

GLOVER,
Seconded by HURLBUT

moved to approve the agenda and consent
agenda as read.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA – continued

VOTE ON MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA AS READ.

Yeses: Fox, Glover, Hurlbut, Parks

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED 4 Yeses, 0 Noes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. *Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes from October 13, 2021.

Without objection this measure was read by title and approved under the consent agenda.

REPORTS

1. Report from FNSB Technical Staff

David Bredlie, Public Works Director, updated the commission on the Capital Improvement Plan and stated the Central Recycling Facility was approved under the plan.

Commissioner Fox asked if there was any feedback from the Borough Assembly regarding support for the Central Recycling Facility. Mr. Bredlie stated that there was no discussion of the item at the Assembly meeting. Commissioner Fox asked about the scoring process and Mr. Bredlie explained the process.

2. Solid Waste Alaska Taskforce’s (SWAT) work on Extended Producer Responsibility Update by Ariane Glover

Vice-Chair Glover stated there is a working group on the extended producer responsibility with the Product Stewardship Institute who plan on developing a bill to move the burden of cost for disposal of electronics from municipalities back to the producers and manufacturers. Vice-Chair Glover also stated the Solid Waste Alaska Taskforce is creating a new working group, in partnership with Product Stewardship Institute, and her plans to participate in it. Vice-Chair Glover asked if she would be allowed to represent the Sustainability Commission on the working group.

Commissioner Fox said the working group seemed like a valuable endeavor to be involved in and thought that citizen and staff involvement would be a good thing. Commissioner Fox wondered if the Fairbanks North Star Borough would consent to being involved.

REPORTS – continued

Commissioner Hurlbut asked about producer responsibility regarding things other than electronics and felt that this working group would be a good thing for the Fairbanks North Star Borough to be involved in.

Chair Parks asked if Commissioner Hurlbut would draft some language to that effect.

Vice-Chair Glover asked Mr. Bredlie if the Fairbanks North Star Borough could provide feedback before the working group's meeting at the end of November.

Mr. Bredlie answered that he would ask the appropriate people.

Chair Parks asked if Commissioner Fox or Commissioner Hurlbut wished to participate.

Commissioner Hurlbut expressed interest in the working group.

Commissioner Fox stated he also received an invitation to the working group, but he did not plan to attend. Commissioner Fox did agree that someone from the Fairbanks North Star Borough should be involved.

Vice-Chair Glover said she would pass the point of contact along through the Borough Clerk's Office.

Commissioner Fox said he thought the best possible outcome would be someone acting on behalf of the Sustainability Commission and reporting back both to the commission and the Borough Mayor.

3. Updated score card on the Central Recycling Facility's operations and performance by Matt Pearson, Recycling Manager

Matt Pearson, Recycling Manager, provided an overview of the updated score card on the Central Recycling Facility's operations and performance.

Commissioner Fox and Vice-Chair Glover asked for the score card as they did not have it and Mr. Pearson shared his screen so everyone could see it.

Vice-Chair Glover asked how the charging of commercial loads was handled. Mr. Pearson laid out the process of charging for loads dropped off at the Central Recycling Facility.

Vice-Chair Glover thanked Mr. Pearson for the update.

REPORTS – continued

4. Brief overview regarding energy efficiency in the Fairbanks North Star Borough by Jeremy Spargur, Energy Management Engineer

Jeremy Spargur, Energy Management Engineer, presented a slideshow that showed what he does, and the measures taken towards managing energy in the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

Chair Parks asked about the specifics of generating less heat by changing lighting fixtures. Mr. Spargur explained the measurement. Chair Parks also inquired why the energy use numbers were not lower consideration to the Covid-19 pandemic and its effects on energy use in buildings. Mr. Spargur stated not all buildings were closed as many had to remain operational throughout the pandemic, but there was a difference in energy use during that period.

Vice-Chair Glover thanked Mr. Spargur for the presentation and requested his slides for future reference.

Commissioner Fox also thanked Mr. Spargur and asked about the standard used in the measurements. Mr. Spargur explained what the standard means and that it was on par with the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standard, but it contains different metrics of success as it is energy related only. Commissioner Fox asked who implemented the standard currently being used in the Fairbanks North Star Borough. Mr. Spargur answered it was a decision made administratively and the standard is encouraged to be included in all future decision making.

Commissioner Fox asked about updates on renewable energy systems in the Borough buildings. Mr. Spargur stated he had no updates.

Chair Parks thanked Mr. Spargur and invited him to come speak to the Commission again. Chair Parks asked about the metrics of the Sustainability Plan and how they might best ask for information in the future. Mr. Spargur stated that some of the metrics cannot be compared to the Energy Star database and it might help to modify those to align with the database's metrics more closely. Mr. Spargur also showed how the Fairbanks North Star Borough School Districts' energy use compared to schools nationwide.

Commissioner Hurlbut elaborated on the thinking behind the current metrics.

Commissioner Fox spoke on combining the metrics so that they might be more useful in comparing to the Energy Star Database.

REPORTS – continued

Commissioner Fox also thought that a future conversation on renewable energy would be beneficial.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion of 2021 Sustainability Commission Progress Report to be Presented to the Mayor and the Assembly

Commissioner Fox explained the reasoning behind the report. Commissioner Fox stated there was not a 2020 Sustainability Commission report due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Commissioner Fox added that the commission needs to decide what indicators are reported to the Assembly and whether the 2020 Sustainability Commission report should be completed.

Chair Parks spoke on how to renew interest in the Sustainability Commission and the reported numbers.

Vice-Chair Glover asked Commissioner Fox to provide background on what work goes into creating the Sustainability Commission report.

Commissioner Fox went over the work he did to generate the previous reports and what data was difficult or impossible to find.

Chair Parks suggested paring down the metrics list and distributing the remaining to the commissioners to be chased down would be the best way to proceed.

Commissioner Fox stated there should be a least one indicator per goal.

Vice-Chair Glover stated the report should be addressed at this Sustainability Commission meeting.

Commissioner Hurlbut wondered what the original goal of the proposed metrics was and whether it produces relevant information to the target audience.

Vice-Chair Glover expressed the importance of presenting the report containing relevant information to the Assembly in person. Vice-Chair Glover stated the ease of collection and relevancy of the statistics should be put in the forefront.

Commissioner Hurlbut asked that the Borough staff be the one collecting this data.

NEW BUSINESS – continued

Commissioner Fox says the code states that the commission annually report to the Mayor and Assembly.

Chair Parks asked how the commission would be invited to participate during an Assembly meeting. Commissioner Fox stated that someone could ask to be invited.

Commissioner Fox said the Farmer Training Program metric and the Food Education metric were both valuable, but only one should be chosen to be included. Chair Parks clarified that they were dropping the metric which measured how many people were employed in private food production.

Vice-Chair Glover stated there was a convention happening soon in Anchorage, Alaska regarding agriculture awareness and education.

Commissioner Fox spoke about goal #2 and the measure was days of food available on the grocery store shelves. Commissioner Fox also said food caches were important. Commissioner Fox stated the metric of community-based processing and distribution facilities and the jury is out on whether that is important

Commissioner Fox spoke about goal #3 and how the metric was previously researched. Commissioner Fox stated that in his mind the number of farms producing food was the most important metric for this goal.

Commissioner Hurlbut wondered if there was a good source for this metric or that someone in the industry might be able to provide a better metric.

Commissioner Fox stated the number of community gardens has been tracked in the past and is important.

Commissioner Fox proposed that the report contain the combined energy consumption instead of breaking out the heat as suggested by Mr. Spargur.

Commissioner Fox went through the rest piece by piece suggesting they all remain on the report.

Commissioner Hurlbut pointed out that electricity usage would be more expensive than heating numbers.

Chair Parks assigned the following goals to the commissioners.

- Increase Agricultural Workforce to Commissioner Fox
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NEW BUSINESS – continued

- Increased Food Stocks Goal to Commissioner Fox
- Increasing Food Production and Sales Goal to Chair Parks
- Increasing Access to Local Fruits and Vegetables Goal to Vice-Chair Glover
- Energy Security Goal to Commissioner Hurlbut
- Household Energy Consumption to Commissioner Glover
- Waste Reduction Goal to Commissioner Glover
- Recycling Classroom to Chair Parks
- Divert Waste from the Landfill to Commissioner Hurlbut

Commissioner Fox thought it would be beneficial to have the plan ready for approval at the January Sustainability Commission meeting. Chair Parks and Vice-Chair Glover agreed.

EXCUSE FUTURE ABSENCES

NONE

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Parks thanked Mr. Spargur for his update and stated his appreciation for everyone's willingness to meet on a Friday night.

Commissioner Fox expressed his gratitude to the Fairbanks North Star Borough staff.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Sustainability Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

APPROVED: December 8, 2021