

Juneau Commission on Sustainability (JCOS)  
2024 Planning Retreat  
Saturday, January 6, 2024, Noon  
Minutes

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Keiser called the meeting to order at noon.

**B. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**C. ROLL CALL**

1. Present: Laura Achee, Steve Behnke, Marian Call, Gretchen Keiser, Duff Mitchell, Jim Powell, David Teal, Nick Waldo
2. Absent: Jessica Barker
3. **A quorum was present.**
4. Staff & Others Present: Assembly Liaison Ella Adkison, CBJ Staff Dianna Robinson

**D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Approved as Submitted

**E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

None

**F. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

**G. AGENDA TOPICS**

1. **2023 Recap** - Accomplishments, What Worked, & What Didn't Work - JCOS Committee Chairs
  - a. Mr. Behnke: Memo on Marine Passenger Fees regarding dock electrification; clean energy investments: IRA financing options and USDA loan programs; discussion of roles of and cooperation with other organizations; beginning to explore waste to energy recovery at Mendenhall waste treatment facility.
  - b. Mr. Waldo: 2023 was a rebuilding year. While there was much information gathering and the November 2nd community outreach meeting on zero waste, recommendations cannot be formulated until a landfill waste audit is completed (scheduled for May 2024). Ms. Robinson had provided a briefing memo to the Assembly in December.
  - c. Mr. Powell: Added food security and emergency response as topics under the climate impacts/sustainability subcommittee. Mr. Powell wishes to determine the level of Assembly support and the intended use of the indicators before committing the effort to implement a system of sustainability indicators.
  - d. Ms. Call: A number of sustainability outreach efforts were effective – participation in the August annual Climate Fair and a November composting session helped keep citizens informed about issues of sustainability. There is the need for an outreach

point person, and JCOS outreach needs to be defined sooner than later, especially with regard to Zero Waste.

## 2. JCOS Work in 2024 - All JCOS Members

There was a free-flowing and broad discussion of how JCOS can continue to make progress in an environment that includes:

- An Assembly and staff that are overburdened with demands on their time and attention. (building and land use code revisions are overdue, the comprehensive plan and other planning documents are outdated, and many goals conflict to the point of appearing to be mutually exclusive—low-cost housing meeting high energy standards, for example)
- Lack of specific assignments/direction from the Assembly to JCOS.
- Heavy reliance on volunteer efforts.
- Painfully slow progress and/or multi-year work on projects ranging from dock electrification, energy financing options, adoption of an EV fleet, and zero waste.

Despite problems, there was consensus that:

- JCOS nudging has resulted in better tracking of energy use in CBJ facilities and more attention to sustainability concerns, zero waste and other JCOS priorities.
- JCOS must be strategic—identifying priorities, monitoring opportunities, making good use of volunteer time, and encouraging CBJ leadership to urge all staff to cooperatively address sustainability goals (as opposed to filling a single position that attempts to work across bureaucratic lines).
- JCOS must continue to encourage progress through contact with CBJ staff and the Assembly.
- JCOS should continue to educate citizens about long-term sustainability issues and collaborate with other organizations that share similar goals.
- JCOS could benefit from restructuring its efforts—replacing subcommittees with projects would encourage volunteer participation in specific efforts without crossing subcommittee lines.

Regarding priorities/projects, the following comprised a rough list, with the understanding that work on the list would continue at the regular February 7 meeting (and beyond). All members should use the 2023 goals list (in the packet for the January 6 meeting) and the shortened list below as a starting point and be prepared to explain why they wish to add or remove projects from the 2024 priorities. Consider a list of priorities that lean toward monitoring an issue rather than generating a product. The process of setting priorities could be facilitated by having each member complete the matrix once its format is determined.

JCOS Priorites 2024						
	Project	Team Leader	Team Members	Outcomes	Timing	Return on Investment of time and effort
1	Clean Energy Financing			Collaborative brief on options / recommendations		
2	CBJ carbon reduction efforts					
3	Zero Waste					
4	Climate Presentations					
5	Sustainability Presentations website & social media					
6	Sustainability Awaards					
7	Sustainability Indicators					
8	Emergency response / food security					

3. **JCOS Officers** for 2024.

Slate of officers nominated to be voted on in February

Chairman: Nick Waldo

Vice-Chair: Marion Call

Secretary: David Teal

## H. INFORMATION ITEMS

## I. COMMITTEE MEMBER / LIAISON COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

## J. NEXT MEETING DATE

4. February 7, 2024 JCOS Regular Meeting

5. Solid Waste/Outreach Subcommittee – January 23, 2024

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm

Submitted by David Teal, Secretary