

Juneau Commission on Sustainability (JCOS)
Wednesday, December 7, 2022, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) Zoom

1. Call to Order

Chair Keiser called the meeting to order at noon.

2. Land Acknowledgement

3. Roll Call

Present: Steve Behnke, Marian Call, Gretchen Keiser, Duff Mitchell, David Teal, Nick Waldo

Absent: Jessica Barker, Jim Powell

A quorum was present.

Staff & Others Present: CBJ Staff Liaison Denise Koch, CBJ Tourism Director Alix Pierce, CBJ Port Director Matthew Sill, CBJ Environmental Project Specialist Dianna Robinson, Mandy Cole for Planning Commissioner Liaison Paul Voelckers, Alec Mesdag and Lori Sowa (AEL&P), Ilsa Lund and Kathleen Samalon (public).

4. Approval of Agenda

Approved with no changes.

5. Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the meeting of November 16, 2022 were approved without objection.

6. Public Participation

None.

7. Agenda Topics

1. 2023 Officers

Without objection, commissioners approved Gretchen Keiser as Chair and David Teal as secretary.

The office of vice-chair will be revisited in March.

2. JCOS Retreat Follow Up

Chair Keiser referred commissioners to an annual calendar and 2023 goals document, which were included in the packet. Both items will be reviewed and solidified at a December 21 work session.

3. JCOS Input on FY24 Marine Passenger Fees

The deadline for input is January 1. After brief discussion of the potential need for additional funds to complete a design/build contract, the need for and funding requirements of transformers, hook-up times for ships, and the potential need for a study of the impact of dock electrification on power supply, Mr. Mitchell moved that JCOS recommendations for using MPFs include funding for

1. a “bid ready” engineering/design study of requirements for electrification of the 16B docks.
2. a system impact study of electrical loads and options to meet all cruise ship dock loads, as well as a broader analysis of requirements to meet beneficial electrification of downtown Juneau.
3. four new circulator buses (matching funds only).
4. water bottles / filling stations (a project that may have been funded but has not been implemented).

An amendment by Mr. Benke to add the two load tap change transformers that will be needed for the 16B docks was accepted by Mr. Mitchell and the amended motion was approved without objection. The amendment recognized that funding for the transformers may involve revenue bonds, but that bond payments may be made with future Marine Passenger Fees. Mr. Benke will work with the JCOS Energy committee to draft a letter to the City Manager, which he will sign in the Chair’s absence.

4. Juneau Climate Action / Sustainability (Cover letter and Report)

Chair Keiser noted that the updated draft includes a new advocacy recommendation section for CBJ to track the money flowing through state agencies and contains a table summarizing funding opportunities in the bipartisan infrastructure bill and inflation reduction act. The Chair asked commissioners to review the draft and submit comments no later than 9 pm, and requested authority to incorporate suggestions in a final letter. Authority was granted without objection.

8. Information Items

USDA Rural Energy Savings Plan (RESP)

Mr. Mitchell reported that the Juneau Economic Development Council (JEDC) is considering submitting a letter of intent to apply for a \$50 million loan (at no interest) that could be re-loaned at rates not to exceed 5%. The purpose of the loans is to reduce energy costs, not focus on reduction of greenhouse gases. In response to a question on JCOS’s role in the program, Mr. Mitchell said JCOS could submit a letter of support and would take an advisory role if regulations are needed.

9. Commissioner/Liaison Comments

Mr. Teal offered to share a draft of Renewable Juneau’s comments on the use of Marine Passenger Fees.

10. Next Meetings

- December 21, 2022 work session (4:30 pm to 6 pm) to complete work on items from the December 3 planning session (ZOOM)
- January 4, 2023 regular meeting at 12PM (ZOOM)
- January 18, 2023 work session at noon (ZOOM) to hear from Dynamhex about their progress on modelling GHG emissions in Juneau.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm.

Submitted by David Teal