

Borough of Carlisle
Climate Action Commission
Executive Committee Minutes
October 21, 2021
7:00 PM

- I. Joel Hicks called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Present at the meeting: Joel Hicks, Karla Farrell, Tony Underwood, Borough Manager Susan Armstrong, Public Information Coordinator Stephanie Taylor and Borough Secretary Joyce Stone.

The commission voted 5-0 to allow additional commission members attend the meeting via Zoom. (Hicks/Badissy)

Sara Markowitz and Tamela Trussell attended the meeting via Zoom.

II. Meeting Minutes

- A. Executive Committee voted 7-0 to approve the September 16, 2021 minutes. (Hicks/Underwood)

III. Public Comment

No public comments were heard

IV. Chair updates

- Update on discussion held at the Sustainability Working Group meeting
 1. Students from Dickinson and Widener College are collecting information on single-use plastics. A draft ordinance was submitted by Widener along with two draft surveys that will used to provide information from residents and business owners on potential barriers and single use plastic concerns.
 2. Dickinson College students are working on EV promotions, specifically the utilization of several Borough parking lots to incentivize the use of EV vehicles and a taking a comparative look at traditional internal combustion engines verses EV vehicles.
 3. Widener College students are working on ordinances for transitional zoning, affordable housing and accessory dwelling, which will assist with reaching the goals of the CAC.
 4. Potential Green Alley project to serve as stormwater reduction as well as providing a possible place for the community to gather.
 5. Feasibility study for the potential of joining a power purchase agreement to be utilized at our public facilities. Mr. Hicks explained the Borough will work with PSAB on a feasibility study to determine if Borough facilities could accommodate an upgrade for solar energy. After touring the facilities, there was a fairly substantial potential for offsetting a sizable amount of our energy consumption.

- Discussion of proposed Climate Action Commission reorganization

Mr. Hicks noted the Commission has been meeting for one year and nearing the end of completing a Climate Action Plan that can be taken to Council for approval consideration. He recognized that now that the Commission has completed writing the Plan, there is a need to reorganize. The focus would change to policy analysis in order to implement short-term project development in the areas of transportation, energy decarbonization, and energy

efficiency/behavior. The CAC members involved on the Projects and Estimates and Zoning Team along with additional members of the public would focus on one or more objectives/projects in each of these areas. The teams would then report back to Council with specific recommendations for action to meet those objective areas in the Climate Action Plan. Mr. Hicks envisions that the Community Engagement Team would remain as is. They would continue to be the primary interface with the public and continue to obtain public input. The Pathways and Analytics Team would continue to refine their estimates for efficacy of the actions in terms of mitigation pathways.

The restructured CAC would be made up of the following 9 members: Chair, Transportation Task Force, Energy Decarbonization Task Force, Energy Efficiency and Behavior Task Force, PAT and CET, SCED Director, Council Member and a Carlisle Borough Resident at Large.

The duties of the Executive Committee would be to:

- Oversee development of the task force policy analyses, including support to the Sustainability Working Group meetings
- Approve actions for Council consideration
- Provide amendments and modifications to the Climate Action Plan as needed
- Identifies and proposes new objectives and projects for development

Mr. Hicks stated the CAC would keep their association with the utility providers and the Carlisle Area School District.

Mr. Badissy expressed concern for forming policy and organizing activity in the same group because the policy formation is so broad and that would be hard to pick one thing to do afterwards. He suggested a splitting of the mission where there are members who are just focused on getting things built, passed or implemented versus maintaining steady progress on a policy schedule. He felt that would be a more effective way to go forward because insulating the project members from policy removes a lot of the delays that could create analysis paralysis.

Discussion ensued in regards to who will initiate the direction and the priorities for the task force. Mr. Hicks noted that newly hired SCED Director will provide direction and ideas to the Commission. Mr. Badissy remarked there needs to be a consistent representation of the community to have the credibility to set a pathway. He suggested the implementation level should be smaller teams that do not involve everyone as to not lose the credibility that has been established. Mr. Hicks expressed that the reorganization of the Commission is opened to change and recommended continuing this discussion at the next meeting.

- Discussion of review process for draft Climate Action Plan submission.

Mr. Hicks recommended submitting a draft plan to Council at the December 1st Workshop meeting and submit the final plan to council at the December 9th Council meeting. The commission members were asked to provide their document drafts to him by November 11th.

Ms. Markowitz inquired if there is sufficient time for public comment between the December Workshop meeting and the December Council meeting. Discussion ensued regarding if using a survey would be the best method to receive public comments on the proposed plan. The Commission expressed the need to be prepared for negative comments that may be received in the surveys. Ms. Markowitz noted that could be an opportunity to combat some of the really common misconceptions regarding climate change.

V. Team Lead Updates:**A. Community Engagement: Sara Markowitz**

A draft document of the community values that were collected from various surveys and sources was shared. This information will be used as criteria in next phase.

They are finalizing the reporting for the grant that was received from Dickinson College's Center for Civic Learning and Action.

B. Pathways & Analytics: Tony Underwood

The team is working on summarizing some of the objectives in the fact sheets to assess which will have the potential for the biggest emissions reduction and the largest co-benefit.

A discussion was held regarding what affect the actions in the plan will have on the local economy. Mr. Underwood suggested grouping the various community values sections of economic resilience, circular economy and affordability together under one category of values to be uses to access the benefits.

C. Zoning: Karla Farrell

The team is working on Chapters 5, 6, 7 & 9 to make some recommendations for zoning and SALDO changes that would support the CAC goals. Ms. Farrell spoke of the 2019 Comprehensive Plan that includes information about community values and goals that could be tied to the Climate Action. She noted it is important when going before the public to talk about how the Climate Action Plan supports the goals of the Borough's Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Farrell suggested reviewing the Community Engagement document and incorporating the information into the executive summary.

D. Projects & Estimates: Mohamed Badissy

The team has not received as much feedback on the projects as they hoped. They are reaching out to peer communities to draw in as many examples of what is actually getting done and getting built elsewhere. He spoke of taking a tour of the new solar facility in Chambersburg and that he has seen examples of solar car parks and composting facilities. Mr. Badissy noted that presently this is a very timely opportunity for available federal and state funding to help with developing a viable project.

VI. Other EC member Updates

None were heard

VII. Next Meeting Date:

Thursday, November 18, 2021 - Sustainable Working Group at 6 PM followed by the CAC meeting at 7:00 PM

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21