

# SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

February 19, 2020

Service Center Conference Room  
1100 S. Sherman Street  
Longmont, CO 80501

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The February 19, 2020 meeting of the Longmont Sustainability Advisory Board was called to order by Vice Chair Violeta Manoukian at 3:31 pm at the Service Center Water Conference Room.

## 1. ROLL CALL

Board Members Present at roll call: Kate Collardson, Mary Lin, Violeta Manoukian, Kay Vollmayer, and Jim Metcalf. Kai Abelkis arrived at 3:37 pm; Cody Flagg arrived at 3:38 pm.

City Staff Members Present: Lisa Knoblauch, Annie Noble, Francie Jaffe, Berenice Garcia Tellez, Kenny Small, and Heather McIntyre

Council Liaison Polly Christensen arrived at 3:33 pm.

Public in Attendance: Brett KenCairn, Julie Hauser, Ginny Black, Doe Kelly, and Macie May

## 2. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

There was a quorum present with five board members in attendance.

Council Liaison Polly Christensen arrived at 3:33 pm.

## 3. ANNUAL REVIEW OF DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### A. Review of Board Rules and Regulations

Staff member Annie Noble reviewed the municipal code language about the purpose and duties of the Sustainability Advisory Board and the Board's Rules and Regulations, both included in the distributed agenda packet. Additionally, she reviewed some meeting procedures from *Robert's Rules of Order* focusing on the role of the Board chair to give context and understanding of what responsibilities come with being elected as the Board chair.

In reviewing the Board's Rules and Regulations, staff proposed updates to the document to reflect the name change made in 2019 to the Sustainability Advisory Board and to add clarifying language for the number of allowed absences from meetings in a given year. This clarifying language included defining an excused absence as one in which 24-hour notice is given to the Staff Liaison or Recording Secretary, and adding that a member could be recommended to Council for removal from the Board after a total of four or more absences (excused or unexcused) in that year.

Board member Kai Abelkis arrived at 3:37 pm.

Board member Cody Flagg arrived at 3:38 pm.

**After further discussion, a motion was made by Board member Lin to approve adding the proposed changes to the Board's Rules and Regulations. Board member Metcalf seconded the motion; the motion passed 7-0.**

**B. Election of Officers**

Staff member Noble opened the floor for nominations for the Board Chair.

**Board member Lin made a motion to nominate Board member Collardson as Chair for the Board. Board member Metcalf seconded the motion; the motion passed 7-0.**

**Board member Lin made a motion to nominate Board member Abelkis as Vice Chair for the Board. Board member Vollmayer seconded the motion; the motion passed 7-0.**

**C. Designation of Posting Place**

Chair Collardson assumed moderation of the meeting.

Staff member Heather McIntyre reminded the Board of the previous designated posting place of the Service Center bulletin board at 1100 S. Sherman Street, Longmont, as well as the City's website.

**Board member Metcalf made a motion to re-designate the posting place as the Service Center bulletin board and the City's website. Board member Abelkis seconded the motion; the motion passed 7-0.**

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 15, 2020**

**Board member Vollmayer moved to approve the January 15, 2020 minutes; Board member Metcalf seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.**

**5. PUBLIC INVITED TO BE HEARD**

Macie May, Chief Operating Officer of Longmont Public Media (LPM), informed the Board that LPM would begin video recording the Sustainability Advisory Board meetings in March 2020 as part of a contract award they received from the City in 2019. Part of the awarded contract stipulates that LPM video record all meetings of Longmont's Advisory Boards and Commissions. She explained the recording process and stated that those meetings will be published on Comcast Channels 8 and 880 (operated by LPM), as well as LongmontPublicMedia.org. After her overview, Ms. May answered questions from the Board.

Ginny Black, a member of the Longmont Chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby, reviewed a request brought before the Board in 2019 to recommend that City Council endorse a federal bill for national legislation for a carbon fee and dividend policy. She cited that the bill is designed to act as an accelerator for the transition to renewable energy, aligning with the City's Sustainability Plan, and that it was consistent with a recommendation from the Colorado Communities for Climate Action (CC4CA) for

establishing a market-based policy at the federal level. She emphasized that the return of revenue to individuals in an equitable manner would provide for a just transition in the proposed policy.

Ms. Black noted many changes that have been made in the last year in regards to declarations of a climate emergency, including Longmont's, and cited increased support for this legislation. She requested feedback from the Board on information they would like included in a possible presentation later in the year to make a decision on a recommendation to Council.

Doe Kelly, an advocate for Coloradoans for Safe Technology (<https://4safetech.com>), expressed concern about the City's upgrade to Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) to the electric meters for residents. She urged the City and this Board to research seriously the dangers of all kinds of wireless communications, and specifically AMI. She requested that the Board invite an internationally recognized expert on wired and wireless communications to present on the topic, and recommended Timothy Schoechle, an internationally sought speaker. She encouraged establishing a study group to research the advisability of smart meters on the sides of people's homes.

**6. AGENDA REVISIONS AND SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS**

None.

**7. GENERAL BUSINESS**

**A. Boulder's Climate Mobilization Action Plan Presentation**

Staff member Lisa Knoblauch introduced Brett KenCairn, staff member at the City of Boulder, who presented information on Boulder's Climate Mobilization Action Plan. He gave an overview of Boulder's efforts to develop a new Climate Action Plan, updating their goals established in their 2016 Plan. He stated that in their new Climate Mobilization Action Plan, Boulder has transitioned their focus to trying to make changes at systemic levels to broaden the effectiveness of those changes rather than focusing on individual change as before. This would allow for a larger scale of impact.

The October 2018 report issued by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on how we are doing globally around achieving goals set in the Paris Climate Agreement indicated that climate change is continuing to progress even more rather than regress. From the report's results, a new realization that a focus solely on emissions reduction, as it has been in the past, is no longer a sufficient focus. It suggested that additional efforts beyond reducing carbon emissions, including discovering ways to pull carbon back out of the atmosphere, would be necessary. A subsequent report released in the summer of 2019 indicated that a core area of action needed to consider how we interact with the living world and its ecosystems.

Boulder's Climate Mobilization Action Plan includes these ideas in their new approach.

In a July 9, 2019 memo to their City Council, City of Boulder staff introduced the need for a "systems change" rather than "incremental change". For Boulder that means narrowing their focus for every climate action supported to include only those that drive

system change and are scalable in their efforts. Brett stated that making the choice to change either the easiest one or the only one available is necessary at the policy level, where policy and market work together to provide it. Additionally, looking beyond the city’s own boundaries to regional change is key. Exploring higher-level collaboration across communities and counties is essential to driving these changes to that degree. These collaborative efforts are currently underway in Boulder County.

In 2016, Boulder settled on the following domains of action to focus their work to stabilize the climate: energy systems, economy, and ecosystems. In their 2018 update, they added land use and financial systems to their action domains based on community input. Considerations of equity and resiliency are also important components to their plan, which includes a robust, all-inclusive community engagement strategy. Further information on their plan can be found at <https://boulder.earth/>.

Mr. KenCairn finished his presentation by focusing on Boulder’s focus on ecosystems. He stated that previously considering all carbon as a conceptual “problem” has been somewhat misguided because it is the backbone of all living things on the earth. He suggested that the real issue is that we have put too much carbon in the wrong place, namely the atmosphere, rather than learning how to capture and re-carbonize living systems to revitalize and foster their ability to draw down more carbon from the atmosphere. Boulder’s efforts, along with others, include trials of carbon sequestration in some of their open spaces, residential backyard carbon-farming trials in collaboration with EcoCycle, alternative landscape technologies, and bio char production/use.

Further discussion with the Board ensued after the presentation.

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**9. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

**A. Climate Action Task Force Update**

Staff member Knoblauch reported that the Climate Action Task Force (CATF) has had four meetings to date. The CATF is diligently working on six topic areas of focus for recommendation to Council, including building energy use, transportation, renewable energy, adaptation and resiliency, outreach and education, and land use and waste management. They are currently focused on the first three topic areas. It is anticipated that draft recommendations will be brought to the SAB in March before they are finalized and presented to City Council. Their finalized report is due to Council April 8, 2020, and will be presented to them at their April 14, 2020 Regular Session. The final report is scheduled for presentation to the Sustainability Advisory Board at their April meeting.

**UPDATE: All CATF dates and deadlines presented at the February meeting are postponed due to the evolving COVID-19 crisis.**

**B. Sustainability Coalition Update**

Staff member Knoblauch stated that the last meeting of the Sustainability Coalition was held on February 12, 2020. Due to some confusion about the date, time, and location of the meeting, as well as inclement weather, there was lower than expected attendance for that meeting. An update on the CATF was presented to the Coalition at that time. Staff member Knoblauch reported that a survey with CATF draft recommendations would be forthcoming in upcoming weeks to engage community input and feedback on the recommendations.

The next Sustainability Coalition meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 13, 2020, 5:15-7:15 pm, at the Longmont Senior Center.

**C. 2020 Work Plan Topics**

Staff member Knoblauch reviewed topics for the 2020 Work Plan, which had been discussed at the January meeting. She explained that Council direction regarding Climate Action items would necessitate the March and April meetings to focus on those items. She also would like to dedicate the October and November meetings to work on the Sustainability Plan and Envision Longmont Updates that are due at the end of this year. Since the Board is not scheduled to meet in December, the topics listed at January’s meeting would need to be prioritized and narrowed for 2020. Discussion among the Board ensued and the following topics were agreed upon for their 2020 Work Plan.

- Climate Action Task Force (March/April)
- Electrification and Renewable Energy
- Pesticides and Pollinators (after the State Legislative session ends)
- Water Efficiency
- Citizen’s Climate Lobby presentation
- Recycle/Compost
- Update on Sustainability Plan & Envision Longmont (October/November)

A couple of other topics that were discussed, but did not have majority support for the 2020 Work Plan included 5G and Public Education. Staff member Knoblauch stated that public education and outreach is one of the topics the Climate Action Task Force is working on for their recommendations. She suggested that the Board could decide after the CATF recommendations are made if further focus on public education was needed.

**D. Sustainability Plan Overview**

Staff member Knoblauch told the Board that she would give an overview of the Sustainability Plan at the March meeting.

**10. ITEMS FROM BOARD**

Board member Abelkis requested that the Board transition to using the term “pollution” rather than “emissions” when discussing greenhouse gases.

The Board members discussed the idea of creating a 2020 Sustainability Advisory Board meeting with other cities in the area, which was brought up in response to Brett

KenCairn's presentation. Board member Lin volunteered to lead a subcommittee to begin working on organizing this kind of event.

**10. ITEMS FROM COUNCIL LIAISON**

None

**11. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Collardson at 5:05 pm.

The next regular meeting of the Longmont Sustainability Advisory Board is scheduled for Wednesday, March 18, 2020, at 3:30 pm at the Service Center, 1100 South Sherman Street, Longmont, Colorado 80501.

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**Kate Collardson, Chair**

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**Date**

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**Heather McIntyre, Recording Secretary**

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**Date**