

SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

June 17, 2020

This Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting was held remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic

The June 17, 2020 meeting of the Longmont Sustainability Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Kate Collardson at 3:35 pm via remote Zoom meeting connection.

1. ROLL CALL

Board Members Present at roll call: Kate Collardson, Cody Flagg, Violeta Manoukian, Kay Vollmayer, and Jim Metcalf

Board Members Excused: Mary Lin

City Staff Members Present: Lisa Knoblauch, Annie Noble, Francie Jaffe, Berenice Garcia Tellez, Tim Ellis, Susan Bartlett, David Hornbacher, and Tammy Duerksen

Council Liaison Present: Polly Christensen

Non-City Attendees: Sarah Davis and Abby Bohannan

2. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

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

3. CHAIR REMINDER TO THE PUBLIC

Chair Collardson reviewed the procedures for Public Invited to Be Heard. As the Live Stream of the meeting was not functioning properly, the only public comment was received in writing, which was shared in the Public Invited to Be Heard section of the meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 19, 2020

Board member Metcalf moved, seconded by Board member Flagg, to approve the February 19, 2020 minutes. The motion carried 5-0.

5. PUBLIC INVITED TO BE HEARD

Staff member Lisa Knoblauch read the public comment received via email (attached) into the record.

6. AGENDA REVISIONS AND SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS

None.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS**A. Climate Action Task Force Updates**

Staff member Knoblauch reported that much of the work for the Climate Action Task Force (CATF) was delayed beyond the original due date of April 8, 2020, because of the COVID-19 pandemic. After reorganizing their means of communication, the Task Force began meeting remotely and resumed work in early June to finalize their recommendations to Council. Those recommendations are broken into six topic areas, which would be presented to City Council at the June 30, 2020, and July 7, 2020 meetings. Three topic areas would be presented at each meeting. Additionally, the recommendations of the Just Transition Plan Committee were integrated into the CATF Report and would be presented to City Council as part of that report on July 7, 2020.

Staff member Knoblauch stated that the CATF recommendations would be brought to the Sustainability Advisory Board, Transportation Advisory Board, and Water Board at their July meetings, where members would be asked to review the recommendations and provide feedback to City Council.

B. Review 2020 Work Plan

Staff member Knoblauch reviewed the topic areas the Board prioritized for their 2020 Work Plan at their February meeting and presented a revised 2020 schedule for discussion of these topics. The proposed schedule revisions include the following, which had consensus from the Board to approve:

- Climate Action – July
- Update Sustainability Plan – Postponed due to budget constraints from COVID-19
- Education/Outreach – August/September
- Recycling/Composting – August/September
- Citizens Climate Lobby – September
- Water Efficiency – October
- Pesticides and Pollinators – October
- Electrification/Renewables – November
- CANCELLED MEETING - December

C. Sustainability Plan Overview

Staff member Knoblauch noted an email that had been sent to the Board earlier in the year notifying them of Board member Kai Abelkis' resignation due to moving from the area. There is currently one vacancy on the Board.

She then provided an overview to the Board of the Sustainability Plan, highlighting the ten topic areas of air quality; buildings and infrastructure; community cohesion and resilience; economic vitality; energy; food system; natural environment; transportation; waste; and water. This Plan is available on the City's website at <https://www.longmontcolorado.gov/community/sustainability>.

D. Carbon-Free Transportation Roadmap

Staff member Knoblauch introduced Sarah Davis and Abby Bohannon, consultants who worked with staff on the Carbon-Free Transportation Roadmap. Funded from the County’s Sustainability Tax, this project allows a deeper analysis of the greenhouse gas emissions related to transportation – approximately 30% of those emissions.

Sarah Davis provided an overview of the Roadmap Project, sharing the project goals to reduce emissions, increase electrification, reduce single-occupancy vehicle miles travelled, and increase air quality. Though the work was impacted by the onset of the current health pandemic (particularly around community engagement) the final roadmap and presentation to Council is slated for later this summer (2020). Work is currently being done to re-engage with the public for comment and feedback on this project.

Abby Bohannon shared information about how individuals can get involved in the process through responding to an online questionnaire; interviews with key informants are also being conducted for feedback; and an email list is available for those interested in staying up-to-date on the project.

Council Liaison Polly Christensen noted that much of the work in the project seems to center around electric vehicles and asked whether public transportation accessibility was part of the conversation, particularly for lower income residents who cannot afford electric vehicles. Sarah stated that with given data points for what it would take to have an electrified transit system in Longmont, currently there is not sufficient infrastructure to support or power such a system without increasing non-renewable energy sources. She added that focusing on electric vehicles is key to the success of reaching the goal for 100% renewable energy by 2050. Sarah shared that the group is exploring ways to implement a stepped approach to the project to incorporate such options as encouraging residents to consolidate trips, use current public transportation, walk or ride bicycles, etc., that would be short-term solutions along the way to reaching the goal for 2050. Further discussion among the Board ensued.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Budget Update

Staff member Knoblauch reported that revenues for the City are down due to the current pandemic. The Sustainability Program has a little bit more of a buffer than other areas in the City due to its varied budgetary sources, but 2020 expenditures are currently on hold if it was not already underway before COVID-19. Staff is looking at as many grant opportunities as possible to keep the Sustainability work moving forward.

B. Neighborhood Impact Granting Program Overview and Representative Selection

Staff member Knoblauch informed the Board of the Neighborhood Granting Program that is being initiated in partnership with the City’s Community Services department and the Longmont Community Foundation. The program is funded through the Sustainability Tax, the City of Longmont, and business community donations being

sought by the Community Foundation, and is available to neighborhood groups interested in doing neighborhood sustainability projects.

The plan for the program rollout is to start small and expand later. They are currently putting together a selection committee who would review applications for the program and determine to whom and how much the awards would be. She asked for a volunteer from the Board to participate as a member of the selection committee; Jim Metcalf volunteered to be part of the committee and Violeta Manoukian volunteered to be an alternate for the committee.

C. Longmont Sustainability Coalition Update

Staff member Knoblauch reported that the Coalition postponed their May meeting, but held a virtual meeting in early June. The next meeting will be held in August where they will also review the Climate Action Task Force recommendations.

D. Collaboration with Boulder Environmental Advisory Board

This item was tabled until another time due to time constraints.

9. ITEMS FROM STAFF

A. Partners in Energy

Staff member Susan Bartlett, Key Account Manager for Longmont Power & Communications (LPC), presented an update to the Board on the City's work with Xcel Energy on implementing the Partners in Energy program at the City, which began in the fall of 2019. The goal of the program is to make existing buildings in the City as energy-efficient as possible while leveraging available resources. It focuses specifically on the built environment, working to improve energy efficiency in commercial properties and low-income homes.

Since introducing the collaboration for the Partners in Energy program last fall, LPC has worked with Xcel Energy to develop a work plan. Partners in Energy provides the City greater access to community-wide natural gas data and additional resources to increase energy efficiency in City facilities. The work plan developed is specific to Longmont and its sustainability goals and is built on three strategies already underway in the City including the Commercial Building Benchmarking Program, the Low-Income Residential Energy Efficiency Program, and the Sustainable Business Program.

Staff member Bartlett requested that the Board provide a letter of recommendation to City Council to move forward with a non-binding memorandum of understanding between LPC and Xcel Energy to implement the work plan. Benefits of this work plan include access to additional resources to make progress on City initiatives, continued access to community natural gas data, and provision of a forum to learn from other communities in Colorado working to achieve their energy and climate goals.

Board member Vollmayer moved, seconded by Board Member Metcalf, to approve providing a letter of recommendation from the Board to City Council to move

forward with the non-binding memorandum of understanding between LPC and Xcel Energy to implement the work plan. The motion carried 5-0.

10. ITEMS FROM BOARD

None

11. ITEMS FROM COUNCIL LIAISON

Council Liaison Christensen provided some additional comments on the limited budget for 2020 and likely 2021.

11. ADJOURN

Board member Metcalf moved, seconded by Board member Flagg, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Collardson at 5:04 pm.

The next regular meeting of the Longmont Sustainability Advisory Board is scheduled for Wednesday, July 15, 2020, at 3:30 pm. The location will be determined by the pandemic guidelines at that time.

Kate Collardson, Chair

Date

Heather McIntyre, Recording Secretary

Date

Attachment - Public Invited to Be Heard Comments

Heather McIntyre

From: Lisa Knoblauch
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 7:30 PM
To: Heather McIntyre
Subject: FW: [External] Hi Lisa.....this is Doe Kelly, I gave a public comment way back in the days before our local lockdown!

[Here you go!](#)

Lisa Knoblauch

Sustainability Program Manager | she, her, hers
Public Works & Natural Resources | City of Longmont

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OFFICE 303-651-8403

From: Doe Kelly <doekelly108@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 3:06 PM
To: Lisa Knoblauch <Lisa.Knoblauch@longmontcolorado.gov>
Subject: [External] Hi Lisa.....this is Doe Kelly, I gave a public comment way back in the days before our local lockdown!

I only just became aware of your virtual meeting this afternoon which, by circumstances I am unable to attend.....but I wanted to ask if you might voice my opinion that Longmont needs to study the problems with emf specifically regarding the possible implementation of AMI smart metering in this city, mentioned in last January's Longmont newsletter (the one that goes out with the utility bills). Additionally, we have an internationally recognized expert in wired communications in the area, Tim Schoechle, who I am sure would be more than willing to come and give a presentation to this group if asked. He loves the Longmont NextLight and fiber optic system, and is an amazing innovator in his field. I'd be happy to give you his contact info, although you may already have it from some of his books that were left with some committee members (or not!). At any rate.....

I wish I could be there, but, not to be as I received late notice and have an appointment at 3:30; however, would you be able to read or convey the above for me to the group? I would be very grateful to have this message conveyed in my inability to attend...

Yours Very Truly,

Doe Kelly
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Longmont, CO
303-834-8499