

SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

August 19, 2020

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

REGULAR MEETING

The August 19, 2020 meeting of the Longmont Sustainability Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Pro-Tem Jim Metcalf at 3:32 pm via remote Zoom meeting connection.

1. ROLL CALL

Board Members Present at roll call: Jim Metcalf, Cody Flagg, Mary Lin, Charles Musgrave, and Adam Reed

Board Members Excused: Kate Collardson and Violeta Manoukian

City Staff Members Present: Annie Noble, Francie Jaffe, Tim Ellis, Aterah Nusrat, Danielle Levine, and Heather McIntyre

Council Liaison Present: Polly Christensen

2. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 15, 2020

Board member Metcalf moved, Board member Flagg seconded, to approve the July 15, 2020 minutes. The motion carried 5-0.

Board member Lin raised a question about the Board's comments that were submitted to Council as part of the Climate Action Task Force (CATF) recommendations, stating that she felt some of her comments summarized in the July 15, 2020 minutes were inaccurately recorded regarding the discussion. She briefly summarized a couple items, but offered for the sake of time to send her discrepancies separately. Councilmember Christensen suggested that Board member Lin forward her clarified comments to the City Clerk's Office, who could then pass them along to City Council, which she agreed to do.

4. PUBLIC INVITED TO BE HEARD

Doe Kelly, 622 Barberry Drive, spoke regarding her concerns about installation of smart meters in Longmont. She urged the Board to consider deeply studying the health ramifications of wireless smart meters and suggested that they invite Dr. Timothy Schoechle to make a presentation to the Board on the topic. Emailed information with an attachment to some of his work was submitted for the Board's review.

Scott Cunningham, 3771 S. Narcissus Way, Denver, spoke regarding wired-smart meters having greater advantage than proposed wireless smart meters for the City of Longmont. He expressed concern about unsustainability in utilizing radiofrequency transmission for smart meters and advocated for fiber-optic, wired transmission, using NextLight as a prime example of “forward thinking” and cutting-edge technology, which should be considered in automated meter installation.

Recording Secretary Heather McIntyre read additional public comment received via email (attached) into the record.

5. AGENDA REVISIONS AND SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS

None

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Staff member Francie Jaffe presented an update to the Board on the 2019 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory, which was completed this year. As directed in the Sustainability Plan, the baseline for the inventory was established in 2016 with updates scheduled every 3-years thereafter. The international Global Protocols for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories (GPC Protocol, 2014) method was used for conducting the 2019 update.

Three scopes make up the GPC Protocol, which are listed below. The GHG Inventory was taken using the city limits and one agricultural piece of land just outside the City as the defined boundaries for what would be included in each scope.

- Scope 1 - agriculture, forestry, & other land use; industrial processes & product use; in-boundary transportation; stationary fuel combustion; in-boundary waste & wastewater
- Scope 2 - grid supplied energy
- Scope 3 - out-of-boundary waste & wastewater, out-of-boundary transportation, transmission & distribution, and other indirect emissions

The 2019 GHG Inventory Update showed that Longmont’s emissions by sector were due to approximately 80% commercial and residential buildings and 19% transportation. When adjusted to include the City’s additional equity share in Platte River Power Authority (21%), commercial and residential building emissions decreased to approximately 60% and transportation decreased to approximately 15%. This demonstrates the importance of Longmont’s commitment to transition to 100% renewable energy by 2030. This additional equity share is not part of the GPC Protocol, and is only included as an informational items. Other informational items not part of the GPC Protocol include savings from emissions avoided from local renewable energy generation and recycling.

Comparing 2016 to 2019, Longmont had an overall decrease in GHG emissions due increased waste diversion, reduced carbon intensity of the electricity mix, closure of multiple oil and gas

wells, and improved methodology (air travel, particularly). Because estimating emissions is continually evolving, which requires constant improvements in how they are calculated to obtain increased data accuracy.

From the updated Inventory, the City's greatest opportunity to reduce GHG emissions further is to continue the transition to 100% renewable powered energy. When the 2019 Inventory was complete, the City was at a 30% renewable-energy mix, which has increased to 50% now in 2020. The report highlighted a need to focus work on buildings to improve energy efficiency and on-road transportation. Staff is currently working on an equitable carbon-free transportation road-mapping plan, which will be brought to the Board and Council later this year.

Further discussion ensued among the Board about building and energy efficiencies, building biology, and self-test assessment tools.

B. Sustainability Tax Discussion

Staff member Aterah Nusrat introduced herself to the Board as the Sustainability Grant & Program Coordinator. She presented an overview of City programs that were partially funded by the Boulder County Sustainability Tax received by the City in 2020 and discussed opportunities for the 2021 funding request.

In 2020, \$125,000 was received by the City from Boulder County through the Sustainability Tax Funding Program, which was combined with a 25% fund match by the City. Those funds were applied to funding the Sustainability Grant & Program Coordinator position, the carbon-free transportation roadmap project, the WIC Farmer's Market Program, and the Neighborhood Impact Granting Program (also known as the Sustainable Neighborhood Solutions Initiative). The City contributed \$32,000 toward these programs as a cash match to this tax funding.

Staff member Nusrat explained that as the City considers what programs to include in future applications for the tax funding, staff will work to ensure those programs align with the City's sustainability goals and any Climate Action Task Force (CATF) recommendations the Council decides to approve in their upcoming Council meeting. In her discussions with Boulder County, Staff member Nusrat learned that there could be a reduction in available funding for 2021, though the County is aiming to provide the same amount as in 2020. Staff is working to identify program priorities to include in the City's request, assuming that the City could receive approximately \$115,000 to \$125,000.

She shared with the Board suggested priorities that the Sustainability staff brainstormed and requested input from the Board on identifying any gaps within the framework of strengthening equity, accessibility, and supporting immediate needs and impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of those suggested priorities included funding for a community engagement and equity specialist to support sustainability/climate action implementation; an ability to create a climate vulnerability/risk map to understand, identify, and prioritize community vulnerability and needs regarding climate impacts; expanding existing programs; and support climate action-related workforce needs. Staff member Nusrat asked the Board for their input.

Chair Pro-Tem Metcalf noted that the regular meeting time was closing in and asked the members if they felt there was sufficient time to discuss this topic in the time remaining. Members agreed that more time would be appreciated to understand the topic and give thoughtful input. After further deliberation, **Chair Pro-Tem Metcalf moved, seconded by Board member Lin, to call a Special Meeting in the first week of September to discuss the 2020/2021 Sustainability Tax. The motion carried 5-0.**

C. Button Rock Management Plan Update

Staff member Danielle Levine reminded the Board of the Button Rock Preserve Management Plan process that began in February 2019 with anticipated completion in December 2020. As part of the process, staff engaged with the public in two separate meetings held in June and November 2019. A third public meeting is being considered for October 2020, likely in a virtual setting. Staff has worked with the Water Board, the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, and the Sustainability Advisory Board at critical junctures in the process to keep the boards informed and to solicit their input. Additionally, three public surveys were conducted, the last of which was recently completed as an online-only option due to the pandemic. Staff member Levine reviewed the results from the third survey with the Board and engaged in discussion with them. Additional information related to this management plan is available on the Engage Longmont webpage entitled, "Caring for Button Rock Preserve" (<https://engage.longmontcolorado.gov/button-rock-preserve>).

7. OTHER BUSINESS

None

8. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Recording Secretary McIntyre informed the Board of the upcoming Pharmaceutical Takeback Event scheduled for October 24, 2020. This is an annual event held at Longmont United Hospital, which will be done through a drive-thru drop-off this year rather than having people enter the building.

9. ITEMS FROM BOARD

Board member Lin asked if there was a plan for the Board to review the CATF recommendations further. She also asked if there was still a plan to make the SAB a commission versus an advisory board, and if so, whether that would give the Board greater responsibility/oversight for the CATF recommendations that Council is considering for approval.

Staff member Annie Noble shared her intentions for the presentation she would take to Council on August 25, 2020, regarding the feedback received from the advisory boards on the CATF recommendations. She noted that the agenda packet for that meeting had been published and made available to the public; it included her Council Communication along with the comments received from the various boards. She hoped that after the presentation, Council would be able to provide staff with further direction concerning which recommendations they approved, did not approve, or needed further analysis before deciding. Staff's proposed next steps would

then include in-depth analyses of those recommendations to determine the feasibility, cost impacts, greenhouse gas reduction potential, and staff resource needed to implement them. Once those analyses are complete, staff would present a proposed priority list to Council for approval. Staff member Noble stated that advisory board input would be solicited on those priorities as well.

Council Liaison Christensen stated that the Board would need to submit a request to Council to transition to a commission. She further suggested that the Board had a good business case for such a request, citing possible oversight of the approved CATF recommendations, the City’s growing Sustainability Program, and a need for a more robust Sustainability department as examples for that case. She reiterated that it would be a Board decision to make that request.

Board member Lin moved, seconded by Chair Pro-Tem Metcalf, to add a discussion about the potential of becoming a commission to a future agenda. The motion carried 5-0.

10. ITEMS FROM COUNCIL LIAISON

Council Liaison Christensen said she would encourage the rest of Council to watch the recording from this meeting as she felt the discussion was relevant to much of the work currently happening in the City.

11. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Pro-Tem Metcalf at 5:21 pm.

The next regular meeting of the Longmont Sustainability Advisory Board is scheduled for Wednesday, September 16, 2020, at 3:30 pm. The location will be determined by the pandemic guidelines at that time.

Jim Metcalf, Chair Pro-Tem

Date

Heather McIntyre, Recording Secretary

Date