

Citizens Committee on U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement

- Mission:**
1. Encourage citizens to be a part of the solution
 2. Encourage City staff and citizens to conserve current resources
 3. Work with the City Council to implement ideas
 4. Effectively address the future impacts of climate change



Members: Wes Gallagher, Hank Landau, Graham Marmion, Cynthia Pruitt, Josh Thompson, Barbara Tipton

Council Rep: Kristiana Johnson

City Staff: Mayor Dave Earling, Shane Hope, Rob Chave, Steve Fisher, Jen Machuga, Jim Stevens

Meeting Agenda

May 7, 2015 @ 8:45 am

SUBJECT	ACTION/DISC./BRIEF.	TIME	Who
1. Check in & approval of minutes	Action	5 Minutes	Cynthia
2. Co-chair election	Action	5 Minutes	Cynthia
3. Comprehensive Plan	Briefing	5 Minutes	Shane
4. City's Solar Campaign	Briefing	5 Minutes	Rob
5. Mid-year review of committee's work	Discussion	20 Minutes	Cynthia
6. Subcommittee/Top Priority Projects reports <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Green Resource Room b. Zero Waste c. Green Buildings & Sustainable Development (including Sustainable Heroes and Green Business Pledge) 	Informational	20 Minutes	All
7. Announcements	Informational	10 Minutes	All

Meeting Minutes March 5, 2015

Attendees: Mayor Earling, Cynthia Pruitt, Hank Landau, Jim Stevens, Jen Machuga, Mike Cawrse, Steve Fisher, Kristiana Johnson, Mike Nelson, Rob Chave

Meeting called to order at 8:45 am

1. Rain Gardens
 - a. Mike Cawrse, Stormwater Engineering Technician, discussed the City's rain garden program. He explained that not only are rain gardens attractive landscaping features, but they also help reduce the amount of stormwater entering into the City system. Low Impact Development (LID) will soon be a requirement under the City's NPDES permit. The City's rain garden program started in 2013 with a workshop. Mike mentioned that Val Stewart has been a great supporter of the City's program and volunteered to be a rain garden steward. Supporters of the City's rain garden program had hoped for six properties in close proximity to one another to offer to be part of a pilot program where a cluster of rain gardens would be established; however, the City did not get any response.

Mike explained that they are now thinking of ways to change the program in order to get a better response from citizens. They are talking about having events at PCC, canvassing, etc. They are also looking for ideas for incentives to offer to citizens for establishing rain gardens since a rain garden can easily cost a homeowner \$5,000. Any incentives would be focused on non-required systems. The group was supportive of the City's rain garden program and discussed ideas for incentives such as a reduction in stormwater fees and utilizing the green resource center as a way to educate homeowners and builders on the benefits of rain gardens. Mayor Earling suggested that the committee start telling the stories of the City's rain garden program, successful rain gardens in Edmonds, etc. The group discussed getting the word out through My Edmonds News and the Beacon. Also, Steve Fisher mentioned that the Watershed Fun Fair is a great venue for getting the word out. Mike Nelson noted that it is important to educate people on the connection between rain gardens and climate change, as rain gardens help to minimize the effects of extreme weather events which are the effect of climate change. Mike Cawrse also mentioned he is working on a rain garden education program in the schools.

2. Approval of minutes:

- a. The minutes from the January 8, 2015 meeting were approved with the following changes made by Jim Stevens:
 - i. Under Election of Officers/Meeting Format/Member Responsibilities – Howard Chermak and Rebecca Wolfe have also resigned.
 - ii. Under Subcommittee reports – Sustainable Heroes: Jim reported that he and Mike are arranging for another interview.
- b. Mike Nelson made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Hank Landau. The minutes were approved with Mike Nelson and Kristiana Johnson abstaining from the vote.

3. Comprehensive Plan

- a. Rob Chave reported that there was a well-attended open house on the Comprehensive Plan update on February 25th. He said that each element of the Comprehensive Plan is making its way through the Planning Board and City Council for review. The City is on schedule to be completed with the update process this summer.

4. Report on Solarize South County

- a. Steve Fisher reported that the Solarize South County program is finished. There were a total of 24 contracts with 23 installations completed and one installation remaining. Fifteen of the installations were in Edmonds and two in Woodway. Steve Fisher and Hank Landau had solar systems installed at their homes, and both were very happy with the program and with the quality of work done at their homes. For those who signed contracts as part of the program, A&R Solar will give them a monetary incentive for encouraging others to sign up. Hank contacted Northwest SEED to see if the program could be extended, but they cannot extend it. A&R Solar may still be willing to honor the prices offered through the program.

5. Co-Chair

- a. Cynthia Pruitt asked members to think about being co-chair with her since Mike Nelson had to step down as co-chair due to his recent appointment to City Council.

6. Subcommittee/Top Priority Projects Reports

- a. Green Resource Room: Jim Stevens reported that almost all materials have been purchased and the plans have been nearly completed. The green resource center will be open to the public, so anyone can utilize the resources. A previous pavement display has

been purchased. Jim commented that staff tried to use as green of materials as possible within the constraints of the budget.

- b. Zero Waste: Steve Fisher provided everyone with a copy of the draft solid waste portion of the Utilities Element of the Comprehensive Plan. Zero waste is discussed within Goal D. Steve noted that this element has not been approved yet, but pointed out that some Council members are interested in a resolution for a zero waste policy. The committee could provide comments in support of the policy when it goes to City Council for review. Steve also discussed the materials management concept, which looks at the full life cycle of materials. This concept has become more of a focus when looking at greenhouse gas emissions. Steve explained that as a City, we sign onto the County's solid waste Comprehensive Plan since we don't have our own. The County's plan does not discuss zero waste and is currently being reviewed by the Department of Ecology.
- c. Green Buildings: Jim Stevens provided the group with a table that he prepared showing all action items and goals related to green building from the Climate Action Plan and noted what progress we have made to date.
- d. Sustainability Heroes: Jim Stevens reported that the subcommittee met with Jeremy Davis from Landau Associates. The interview was published on My Edmonds News as well as in the City's newsletter.

7. Announcements

- a. Cynthia said she likes the idea of getting stories out every month and will contact Barbara Tipton to see if she would be interested in assisting. Cynthia also suggested having a 15 minute stand-up meeting every other month (the months opposite our regularly scheduled meetings) to check in with the group on our progress.
- b. The group also discussed the need to increase membership on the committee. Hank thought of a person at Edmonds Methodist he would approach.
- c. Hank reported on the Cascade Bicycle Club's education program for children.

NEXT MEETING: May 7, 2015