

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Environmental Board**

6:30 PM
March 10, 2021

Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Board members:

Nancy Davidson, Chair
Jamie Finch, Vice Chair
Dani Madan*
Don McQuilliams
Rishi Hazra*
Cameron Fisher
Lara Lebeiko
Dan Hintz
Anne Newcomb

Administration/Staff:

Megan Curtis Murphy, Senior Sustainability
Coordinator
Liepa Braciulyte, Sustainability Intern

Janet Wall, Alternate
Tom Anderson, Alternate
Surya Bollapragada*, Alternate

*Youth/young adult members.

CALL TO ORDER

DAVIDSON called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Minutes of Feb. 10, 2021

The Chair, DAVIDSON, introduced the minutes, which were included in the agenda materials. The minutes were approved as presented by unanimous consent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. **Leah Missik** (Climate Solutions) – Vehicle electrification is needed to meet climate goals; there's only a decade to halve emissions. Lack of charging at home is a main barrier to EV acquisition. However, single-family and townhomes should be included in the ordinance. There are different legal opinions on single-family requirements, and the requirements are worth the legal risk. Working with the State Building Code Council is a long process, and time is of the essence. Single-family/townhome should not be incentivized but required. Affordable housing should not be excluded from EV infrastructure. Also, EV infrastructure should be included in Transit Oriented Developments.
2. **Ann Fletcher** (People for Climate Action, Resident) – Climate change needs to be reduced within this decade. EV charging is one of over 100 actions recommended by PCA to meet greenhouse gas reduction goals. There are two issues with the current ordinance: affordable housing should have the same EV requirements as market-rate housing. The current Administration's recommendation for affordable housing is much better than before. Single-family/townhomes should require EV charging, but there are legal issues. Remedies to the legal constraints: 1)

03-10-21 Environmental Board Minutes

Page [2]

Require EV charging in single-family buildings in ordinance. Council still has final say. 2) If single-family is not required, then add language that automatically requires it as soon as building code allows it. 3) Request that the State Building Code Council allow single-family requirements. 4) Lobby the state legislature to change the State building code to allow single-family requirements. Perhaps collaborate with other cities.

3. **Connie Marsh** (Resident) – The City should do Title 18 Update all at once. It should not do updates separately, but wait until Title 18 is worked on before working on the EV ordinance.

AGENDA ITEMS

a) **Electric Vehicle Ordinance Recommendation, (A)**

Presented by:

Megan Curtis-Murphy, Senior Sustainability Coordinator

CURTIS-MURPHY presented the Administration's recommended changes to the proposed EV Ordinance. She summarized the feedback from the PPC, Council, and the public from previous meetings. She talked about ordinance changes and options, especially for affordable housing requirements and single-family and townhome requirements.

MCQUILLIAMS makes motion to approve the Recommendation Report on the Electric Vehicle Charging Ordinance as presented.

FISHER seconds the motion.

NEWCOMB makes two motions:

- 1) Motion to get a second opinion from a lawyer regarding requiring EV infrastructure being installed in single-family and townhomes.
- 2) Motion to have EV requirements for SF/townhomes if the second lawyer's opinion is that these requirements are allowed.

LEBEIKO asks if this would delay ordinance.

No second on 1st motion. Both motions do not move forward.

NEWCOMB makes motion: Motion to make EV readiness required for single-family and townhome new construction.

HAZRA seconds the motion.

HAZRA recommends the following friendly amendment: to include language in ordinance that says if whenever in the future, EV requirements are allowed to be applied to SF/townhomes under the state code, then EV requirements will automatically apply to SF/townhomes in the EV ordinance. NEWCOMB agrees to this friendly amendment.

The updated motion is: "EV ready should be required for single-family and townhomes. If this is not legally feasible, in the future, should the Building Code allow for modifications to SF requirements, EV-readiness and EVSE should be required."

Roll call vote on the updated motion:

FINCH – nay

FISHER – nay

HAZRA – yay

HINTZ – yay
 LEBEIKO – yay
 MADAN – yay
 MCQUILLIAMS – yay
 NEWCOMB – yay
 DAVIDSON – yay

Motion passes 7-2.

HAZRA – Introduces motion:

"The Board is concerned that low-income individuals who work across several job sites over the course of the day will be disproportionately affected by lower percentages of EVSE parking spaces available in non-residential areas. To ensure equity, we urge consideration of increased requirements of EVSE and EV-Ready parking spaces for non-residential buildings, new surface parking lots, and parking garages. We suggest a requirement of 10% EVSE parking spaces and 20% EV-Ready parking spaces."

No second on motion; motion dies.

FINCH – Introduces motion:

"I move that we clarify that EV infrastructure substitution would be the last resort for achieving cost-neutrality, and remove the reference to reduce the EV requirements through substitution alternatively to other methods, so that these EV infrastructure substitutions would only be done in addition to other methods to close a cost gap left not covered."

DAVIDSON seconds the motion.

NEWCOMB suggests friendly amendment – TO add language that this motion is only for affordable housing.

FINCH accepts friendly amendment.

Updated motion:

"I move that we clarify that EV infrastructure substitution for affordable housing projects, contained in section d of the current proposed ordinance, would be the last resort for achieving cost-neutrality, and remove the reference to reduce the EV requirements through substitution alternatively to other methods, so that these EV infrastructure substitutions would only be done in addition to other methods to close a cost gap left not covered."

Roll Call Vote for motion for EV infrastructure substitution being last resort:

FINCH – yay
 FISHER – yay
 HAZRA – yay
 HINTZ - yay
 LEBEIKO – yes
 MADAN – yay
 MCQUILLIAMS – yay
 NEWCOMB – yay
 DAVIDSON – yay

Motion passes 9-0.

HAZRA – Introduces motion:

"The Board recommends the City plan to revisit the Electric Vehicle Charging Ordinance every other year as the industry is rapidly advancing, and we need to be prepared to keep up with it."

NEWCOMB and MADAN seconds motion.

Roll Call on motion to revisit ordinance every other year:

FINCH– yay
 FISHER – yay
 HAZRA – yay
 HINTZ– yay
 LEBEIKO – yay
 MADAN – yay
 MCQUILLIAMS – yay
 NEWCOMB – yay
 DAVIDSON – yay

Motion passes 9-0.

DAVIDSON – Introduces motion:

“Motion for the City to work with the state building code council to seek approval of an amendment to the State Building Code Council that allows the City of Issaquah to establish EV requirements for new single-family homes.”

FINCH seconds the motion.

Roll Call vote:

FINCH – yay
 FISHER – yes
 HAZRA – yay
 HINTZ – yay
 LEBEIKO – yay
 MADAN – yay
 MCQUILLIAMS– yay
 NEWCOMB– yay
 DAVIDSON – yay

Motion passes 9-0.

NEWCOMB - Introduces motion:

“Motion to encourage and support the City collaborating with regional cities and the State Building Code Council to work towards a statewide change that would allow cities to establish EV requirements for new single-family homes.”

DAVIDSON seconds motion.

Roll Cal vote:

FINCH– yay
 FISHER – nay
 HAZRA – nay
 HINTZ – yay
 LEBEIKO - yay
 MADAN – yay
 MCQUILLIAMS – yay
 NEWCOMB – yay
 DAVIDSON – yay

Motion passes 7-2.

FINCH introduces motion:

“Motion to encourage the City to explore the option of providing subsidies as one of the methods to achieve cost-neutrality to offset the cost of EV-ready and EVSE infrastructure in new construction affordable housing projects as part of the Title 18 review.”

HAZRA seconds motion.

Roll Call vote:

FINCH – yay

FISHER – yes

HAZRA – yay

HINTZ – nay

LEBEIKO – yes

MADAN – yes

MCQUILLIAMS – nay

NEWCOMB – nay

DAVIDSON – nay

Motion passes 5-4.

No more motions introduced.

Original motion made by Don.

Roll Call vote on original motion to approve the Recommendation Report on the Electric Vehicle Charging Ordinance as presented:

FINCH – yay

FISHER – yay

HAZRA – yay

HINTZ – yay

LEBEIKO – yes

MADAN – yes

MCQUILLIAMS – yes

NEWCOMB – yay

DAVIDSON – yes

Motion passes 9-0.

b) Environmental Sustainability and Climate Background, (D)

Presented by:

Megan Curtis-Murphy, Senior Sustainability Coordinator

CURTIS-MURPHY presented about City of Issaquah’s past and present climate and sustainability actions. She gave an overview of actions pertaining to energy and green building, transportation and land Use, waste and consumption, parks and open space, environmental protection, climate collaboration, and state legislation. In the second part of the presentation, CURTIS-MURPHY explained the city’s most recent greenhouse gas inventory, climate impacts to the local region, and the current efforts to create a citywide climate action plan.

REPORTS

a) People for Climate Action (PCA) Webinars:

Vice Chair FINCH gave a report on the two PCA webinars that were held in the past month.

03-10-21 Environmental Board Minutes

Page [2]

The 2nd session was especially valuable, as it talked about what City of Berkeley and NYC are doing around building code and requirements. Policy efforts in Berkeley seemed more applicable to Issaquah. Key takeaways from the webinars include: we need to reduce Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) in addition to transitioning to EVs, and City of Berkeley implemented their policies early and adjusted them as they learned how they should be improved.

NEWCOMB shared that New York has sustainable roof laws, something Issaquah could do. Also, in California, the utility PG&E is not fighting the electric transition, since they own both the electric and gas business.

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) **2021 Environmental Board Tentative Schedule:**

CURTIS-MURPHY announced the tentative Board schedule for the months of March and April. The next Board meetings are on March 24th, April 19th, and April 28th. Environmental Awards will be given in the April 28th Board meeting. The new Chair and Vice Chair elections will be in May, as current terms will expire on April 30th.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 PM.