

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH  
Environmental Board**

6:30 PM  
July 14, 2021

Virtual Meeting

**MINUTES**

Alternate Meeting Format: On March 6, 2020 the Mayor declared a civil emergency due to the outbreak of novel coronavirus (COVID-19). On March 24, 2020 the Governor issued Proclamation 20-28 relating to the COVID-19 emergency and open public meetings. The proclamation has been extended. Due to these factors, the meeting was held using a remote meeting platform.

**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 (*Excused Absence*)  
Anne Newcomb

*Administration/Staff:*

Megan Curtis Murphy, Senior Sustainability  
Coordinator  
Briana Weekes, Sustainability Intern

Janet Wall, Alternate  
Tom Anderson, Alternate  
Surya Bollapragada\*, Alternate (*Absent*)

\*Youth/young adult members.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a) Minutes of June 9, 2021

The minutes were APPROVED by unanimous consent.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS –**

Ann Fletcher- resident. FLETCHER brought forward suggestions for the Climate Action Plan. She asked the Board as they review materials to focus on the Community Convening recommendations of collaboration, education, and engagement and taking bold steps to reduce emissions. She hopes to see the City taking these steps to reduce their own emissions. She brought concern over resources and if there is adequate staffing to deliver a comprehensive climate plan. She commented that under materials and construction it was not clear what the meaning of zero waste materials with economic value was and suggested adding a definition. She also suggested that the Title 18 changes could support a higher goal for tree canopy to have more trees in residential and commercial sectors. She also suggested the new Equity Commission could help with the plan's focus on Climate Resiliency and Wellbeing. She recommended adding community engagement and education as a strategy to each part of the plan.

Kristi Tripple- business and resident. She said that climate change and management of finite resources is a big endeavor. She can see where conflict of other plans may occur such as the Central Issaquah plan,

redevelopment, and lack of finances. She hopes to see the plan have a strong educational component and incentive component. She urges that the plan does not destroy housing affordability and the ability to run a business in this community. She encourages that this plan first educates, regulates, and then mandates. She suggests that the Multi-criteria section of the plan add two additional considerations: potential unintended consequences and data utilization. She brought attention to the Buildings and Energy section of the plan and brought concern towards the City consistently losing energy. She said that plans need to be consistent with State Building Codes. She hopes for an incremental plan for land use of the valley floor to create a compact and connected community. She hopes that there can be incentives for improving stormwater management and updating stormwater fee policy. In terms of community resilience, she says the community needs help to promote awareness of wildfire risk and how we can modify behavior to manage risks.

LARRY FRANKS- resident. FRANKS emphasized that the Climate Action Plan needs strong Community Education and Collaboration paired with enforceable mandating. He compared it to the efforts of achieving herd immunity with COVID through encouraging but not mandating vaccination. He is glad to see Environmental Board in place.

## AGENDA ITEMS

### a) **Chair and Vice Chair Training Report Out, (I)**

*Presented by:*

*Nancy Davidson, Commission Chair*

*Jamie Finch, Commission Vice Chair*

FINCH- He shared a few items from the Chair Training the Board could benefit from hearing. He said that public commenting is a very important part of our process. He requested to not respond directly to public comments during the public comment section of the meeting. Also, in motions, amendments will need to be approved by vote of all the commission. Just because you feel a certain way about the motion, that does not need to impact how you vote on the amendment. There is a renewed focus on making sure all board members are involved in discussion at all stages of the process.

DAVIDSON- She said that all board members should give input to questions- although sometimes agendas are so packed that equal participation is not possible. She said to expect in the future being called on to solicit opinions if you have not shared input. This is to create an inclusive environment.

### b) **Issaquah Climate Action Plan, (D)**

*Presented by:*

*Megan Curtis-Murphy, Senior Sustainability Coordinator*

*Angela Pietschmann, Cascadia Consulting*

*Addie Bash, Cascadia Consulting*

CURTIS-MURPHY, PIETSCHMANN, and BASH presented on the Issaquah Climate Action Plan. They provided updates on where they are in the CAP process, presented staff feedback on the plan, collected input from the Board on proposed focus areas, goals, targets, and metrics. Reviewed and discussed action types and criteria on what to prioritize and discussed proposed strategies and brainstorm actions. Within this time the Board widely engaged on suggestions and questions throughout the Plan.

## REPORTS—

CURTIS-MURPHY shared the next meeting is next week on Thursday July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30. This meeting will focus on Title 18 updates. This meeting will also include the Planning and Policy Commission.

CURTIS-MURPHY shared The Climate Convening is occurring on Wednesday July 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. This is for the community, there is current outreach to advance attendance, and a notice of the meeting will be sent out on the City's Newsletter this Friday. Encourages people to spread the word of the meeting to community members. There will be a follow-up survey after.

CURTIS-MURPHY said meeting format could move to hybrid approach this fall- with in person and virtual opportunities to meet. This discussion is going to City Council next week.

CURTIS-MURPHY shared that she will be with the city through the end of August and the City is currently recruiting for her position of Sustainability Manager. The position closes later this week and interviews will occur in late July and early August. We plan to have a strong transition and will share info on her replacement down the line.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 PM.