

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH
Sustainability Commission
August 11, 2021
6:31 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Sustainability Commission was held Wednesday, August 11, 2021, in the Mona Lisa Drexler Assembly Chambers of the Juanita Helms Administration Center, 907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks, Alaska.

ROLL CALL

There were present appearing telephonically:

Jimmy Fox	Wyatt Hurlbut
Ariane Glover, Vice-Chair	Brett Parks, Chair

Comprising a quorum of the Commission, and

Alexis Fackeldey, Administrative Assistant III, Clerk
April Trickey, CMC, Borough Clerk
Brittany Smart, Special Assistant to the Mayor

MESSAGES

- 1.a. Citizen's Comments on agenda items not scheduled for public hearing.
NONE
- 1.b. Citizen's Comments on items other than those appearing on the agenda.
NONE
2. Disclosure & Statement of Conflict of Interest
NONE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

GLOVER, moved to approve the agenda and consent
Seconded by FOX agenda as read.

VOTE ON MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA AS READ.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA - continued

Yeses: Glover, Fox, Hurlbut, Parks

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED 4 Yeses, 0 Noes

REPORTS

- 1. Reports from FNSB Technical Staff

Brittany Smart, Special Assistant to the Mayor, provided a report that informed the commission Mr. Sean Huntington, former Recycling Manager, gave his notice at the Fairbanks North Star Borough. Matt Pearson is currently acting Recycling Manager, and he will take on full duties on August 23, 2021.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 1. Sustainability Commission meeting minutes of May 28, 2021.

Without objection this measure was read by title and approved under the consent agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 1. Finalize and approve a memorandum from the Sustainability Commission to Borough Mayor recommending sustainable waste management.

FOX, moved to approve the memorandum.
Seconded by GLOVER

Mr. Fox stated it was good to see everyone, he was grateful this letter was on the agenda, and that the State of Alaska has the Extended Producer Responsibility Taskforce so the State of Alaska is exploring this as well. Ms. Glover wondered if the commission should add support for the state's efforts to the letter. Mr. Fox did not think it was worth the effort at this point in time.

VOTE ON MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEMORANDUM.

Yeses: Hurlbut, Glover, Fox, Parks

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED 4 Yeses, 0 Noes

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and review of the purpose and goals of the Recycling Strategic Plan and Sustainability Plan.

Chair Parks stated he intended this agenda item as an opportunity for the commission to refamiliarize themselves with their goals and the plans the commission is charged with advancing. Ms. Glover wanted an update from the Recycling Manager and the staff at the Fairbanks Central Recycling Facility regarding recent challenges. Ms. Glover also wanted updates on the three-to-five-year objectives and what is and is not working at the recycling facility.

Chair Parks asked how recruiting efforts should work and wondered if there was any way for them to increase commission membership. There was a brief discussion regarding appointments and membership. Applications are available on the Sustainability Commission website and the Mayor's Office handles applications and appointments. Chair Parks clarified that the full capacity of the commission is seven. The recruitment process was discussed by Ms. Smart and the commission.

Ms. Glover discussed the goal of ten percent waste diversion from the landfill and suggested realigning the three-to-five-year objectives of the Recycling Strategic Plan and the Sustainability Plan. Ms. Glover also stated that the goals of having a manned site and education initiatives would help the Central Recycling Facility to achieve its goals. Chair Parks asked whether this conversation should be had with the new Recycling Manager. Ms. Smart reminded the commission of the presentation from Fairbanks Talks Trash that was held and said they also emphasize recycling.

Mr. Hurlbut asked whether recycling posts would be opened at the transfer sites and if it was something that could be pursued. Ms. Smart stated that the Borough had a booth at the local fair and the recycling at transfer sites was discussed. Ms. Smart also said that the transfer stations have been rearranged. There are currently two staff that are charged with helping to address issues arriving at transfer stations. Recycling at transfer stations, including contamination, and the Capital Improvement Plan were also discussed. Chair Parks inquired who the commission would work with to have a meaningful conversation that can move things forward in a timely manner. Ms. Smart stated the commission's role was in an advisory manner and to help move things forward with initiatives. Ms. Smart stated Solid Waste was probably a better point of contact for this goal. Ms. Glover spoke about increasing recycling throughput and how the Capital Improvement Plan proposal would serve as an aid in that goal by giving Fairbanks a facility to increase diversion from the landfill. Ms. Glover thought having a facility to support the strategic goals of the plan would be critical. Ms. Glover also wanted updates on the recycling trends. Ms. Smart stated she was not sure if the facility had all the data, and she was also waiting on an updated report.

NEW BUSINESS - continued

Mr. Fox posited the idea that the commission provide the incoming mayor and assembly members with a letter about the plan and should include any policy recommendations.

Mr. Hurlbut asked whether there would be a new lease and if the commission could better tailor specifications for a new facility. Ms. Smart stated the renewal of the lease agreements are coming up June 2022. Ms. Smart outlined the process for planning and that the current intention is to continue the leases as is.

Ms. Glover asked about the specifics of the letter to the assembly and the mayor.

Mr. Hurlbut asked whether the commission can influence policy changes in departments or make small changes existing code which will create sustainability impacts such as substituting food producing plants instead of flowers. Ms. Smart stated a letter from the commission would be the process to influence departments and that it would not necessarily be a code change. Chair Parks liked the idea as an example of small changes which might have big impacts. Ms. Glover stated focusing on indicators would be helpful in making recommendations to the assembly. Chair Parks wanted an update on the indicators.

Chair Parks asked when the minutes would be available, and Clerk Fackeldey stated it would be by the end of next week or August 19, 2021.

EXCUSE FUTURE ABSENCES

None

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Glover wanted to pass along thanks to Sean Huntington for his work at the Central Recycling Facility. She thinks the positive news from the Central Recycling Facility was due in part to Mr. Huntington. She also stated she would be remote for the next few meetings. Mr. Parks suggested a card and April Trickey, Borough Clerk, stated that was possible.

Ms. Trickey stated there was a conflict with a scheduled assembly meeting in November 2021. Ms. Trickey said there was not many open dates for the commission to meet in the month of November. Ms. Smart interjected that she has travel planned in November. Chair Parks asked the commission's opinion on canceling the meeting for the month of November. Ms. Trickey stated Fridays were available and the date for the meeting was settled on Friday, November 12, 2021.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS - continued

Mr. Hurlbut thanked everyone for starting the meetings again and he is happy to be able to use Zoom. Mr. Hurlbut is also excited about being able to make progress on the commission's goals.

Mr. Fox thanked the staff.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Sustainability Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.