

June 9 CPAC Agenda Working Document with Notes

6:00 pm 1. Icebreaker

Last time we discussed crossroads we have encountered in our lives that have somehow shaped us. Tonight, let us try surprises we have had recently, or realizations and insights.

6:10 pm 2. Approval of minutes – May 12, 2022

- April notes are paired with the jamboard we used to lay out the straw proposal for our role and then explore what elements of our role we view as essential.
- May notes are paired with the draft document with redlines for all the edits we made during the meeting and then, once we turned to membership, the jamboard we used to identify characteristics of the kinds of people, skills, connections, lived and professional experience, etc. we might want to include in the Committee's membership.
- The only change from May at this point is that we are not going to use the acronym CCC since it is already used for something else. We are going to keep it simple and call ourselves the Climate Committee.
- Approved notes from April and May.
- Noted that we did not need to vote on the role document as it was adopted in May.

6:15pm 3. ETP Director Update

Objective: Inform Committee members of relevant news and prompt questions and insights about how that news might affect the City's climate effort

- New City Manager! Comes to us from BU Medical Center. Skilled manager with an MBA. He identified climate change as a priority for him (and as part of BUMC's work). BU was a partner with MIT on the virtual power purchase agreement, which is work we're trying to advance. So we expect that he'll be familiar with the concepts already. Owen will serve as interim until the new CM starts.
 - How can the Committee help? CDD is trying to understand where the opportunities lie. The market is highly volatile, in terms of price. The City will likely be able to move quickly to 100% renewable energy. For the aggregation plan, it is a MUCH bigger purchase, there is great volatility, and uncertainty about what is going to happen, what will be available. We're trying to look for product that is feasible for the consumer (rate increases can't be unacceptable, inequitable) and what's the mechanism, how will it work, what funds need to be available to hedge against price increases given the laws about what the City can and can't use its funds for.
- Leaf Blowers were discussed in the Health and Environment Committee. There is recognition that there may be some situations where gas leaf blowers are necessary (very large pieces of property where lots of power is needed), but there is work that can be done to limit their use. There seems to be general comfort with battery power for

most if not all other devices Leaf blowers are a special case, and only in a few instances do people try to justify the use of gasoline to power them.

- Circular economy: The community development division is working on circular economy on June 15 from 10-noon.
- BEUDO is having another ordinance committee meeting on June 22 from 5:30-7:30. We are hoping for good attendance. There have been quite a few meetings with BEUDO stakeholders held by the council, but the text is in flux. We do not yet know what the final proposal.
 - Any particular concerns/thoughts about us: Mother's Out Front has weighed in on significant reductions in use of Carbon credits.
- June 23, there is a hearing on the Climate Crisis working group's report at 5:30.

6:30pm 4. Membership

Objective: Engage CPAC members in supporting the recruiting effort by discussing the kinds of members we might recruit, how to do so, and specific steps members can take to help.

- What's the process for existing Committee members: reapply if we're interested
 - Seth will inform us of how to do that.
- Recruiting new members:
 - Who are we looking for? Do we want to discuss this further? Here's a copy of last meeting's jamboard where we started to identify the kinds of people we might recruit:
https://jamboard.google.com/d/1mKysl5zBPDNdp-l6bvB2FKx_f1nOwg9LpDcilP1Mftk/viewer?f=0
 - How can we, as committee members, help the City reach out beyond the usual suspects, to new constituents who aren't already part of the City's conversations?
 - There are a few people who can be effective in making change. Electeds, for example. Developers or lawyers, also, and they can work in ways that are counter to what we are trying to do. Can we link to them and be truly representative, across the board, without [overly] compromising the Committee's mission (and advocacy) for climate mitigation and resilience?
 - What actions can the City take to help recruit (e.g., CDD Community Engagement Team)?
 - Who serves the constituents that we would like to see on the committee? People would like to engage in climate in ways that make sense to them?
 - City's own teams
 - CDD
 - Engagement teams can help reach out.
 - Think outside the box

- Lyn: Restarted Boston Green Drinks (a community that met downtown but had people from all over). One of the most active groups was the Harvard Extension school environmental management master program; they showed up reliably. There has to be a way to listen to people in the community and respond with a menu of things they can do to be involved.
- Trisha – reaching out to people who can carry the message since it will be tough to get the people we hoped. What is the benefit? How do we connect? It would be really useful to have the talking points for us to use?
 - Jerrad: By participating on the committee, they can bring the issues that their communities face and bring them up to us. We then can provide a voice for them. So the committee is more of a nexus for pointing out
 - David: The City is trying hard to implement its climate plans, and will need to implement a whole lot more in the years to come. Our policies and programs will be effective only if they affect the actions of the people who live, work, own property, etc. in the city. It's through those people and their actions that change actually happens. By participating on the committee, you can help ensure that the realities faced by the people who will be affected and who we need to act are reflected in our planning. If the policies and plans fit their lives, if they're consistent with their values, and if they understand them, it'll go a long way toward effective implementation.
- Lyn: Talking points – She has heard that city staff cannot use public social media like Nextdoor, for example. Perhaps CPAC members could. We could use social networks. We as individuals maybe are able to do things that that city cannot. It would be useful to have a set communication resources that we can use. I have never had a set of talking points to work with.
- Pasang (member of the public who spoke up): Perhaps break the Committee down into committees with focused topics to which people can relate (e.g. parks). It will be easier to engage people on things they understand and care about rather than abstractions like the climate as a whole.
- Susanne: Transportation plan is a good example. We've been reaching out to many community organizations. The response we're getting is that nobody's ever asked for these groups' input, and they're really happy to be asked. There is something in how we have been asking. Pasang's recommendation is very insightful – we may not engage people broadly in policy issues but may be able to engage if we ask them about things that feel close to their lives.
- (There are several updates to the Jamboard)
- Lyn: There is a pull between open space, density, etc. If the most active group is, say, affordable housing people, then we may need to be communicating to them what our vision and issues are. Outreach to, and representation from, groups that are politically active and vocal (behind the bullhorn) on issues other than climate but that end up intersecting with climate may be a useful way to think about who we might want on the Committee.

7:00pm **5. Decarbonization engagement/technical assistance program (Nikhil)**

Objective: Inform CPAC members of the program and solicit input (TBD) that might be of use to CDD in shaping, justifying, or pitching the program.

- Brief committee about decarbonization engagement/technical assistance programs
- Solicit input on the next iteration of the program, which we hope to begin in the new fiscal year. <<What questions, and how specific, should guide the discussion?>>

- Seth introduced Nikhil. He spends much of his time on decarbonizing buildings. He is going to describe one of our initiatives.
 - We are hoping to use this as one of the first substantive questions that the Committee works on.
 - It is an early stage project. We want feedback from the point of view of community members.
- Nikhil:
 - Cambridge Energy Alliance
 - 8 or 9 different types of programs for Cambridge residents, including Cambridge Clean Heat.
 - Clean Heat Program: Clean heat can provide a supportive environment for...
 - Transaction points
 - Consumer interest
 - Interest in heat pumps, more inquiries from people. It's hard to navigate the installer landscape. How can we support people in navigating their options in adopting clean heat.
 - Initial pilot with EnergySage, now relaunched with Abode Energy Management
 - Show the City's website
 - Info about heat pumps and hot water heating systems
 - A series of educational videos
 - Schedule a consultation
- Uptake
 - 150 household consultations over ~11 months
 - Good attendance at webinars
 - Observations
 - Complexity with sizing, varied quotes, siting
 - Lots of intro conversations
 - Equity questions (nearly half of attendees are single-family homeowners, but only 7 or 8% of our housing is single family homes)
- Questions
 - How to expand on the program given our net zero goals.
 - We want to become a decarbonization advisor – heat pumps, hot water, solar, induction, batteries and resilience measures.
 - What will people be most interested in?
 - Jerrad:
 - Types of people:

- Concerned/aware
 - People who will be hit at transaction points
 - Can I save money? Economics, but don't have the means?
 - People facing failed equipment
 - People who anticipate failed equipment
- Two levels of offering
 - Help people with a single piece of equipment – failure of equipment
 - Whole home thing.
- Lyn: People were having trouble finding installers at MassSave. They're trying to upgrade their programs to work like insulation, which has been smooth.
 - Multi-family home situation has been really complicated, and a barrier.
 - If this were available to me via the state, I'd be directing people to it.

7:45pm 6. Public Comment

Objective: To glean ideas and questions in response to the meeting and thoughts on the Committee's work from the meeting's observers.

- (I missed Eshan's question. NIKHIL, can you flesh it, and your answer out?)
- Eshan asked if the advisor model is providing more general solutions and resources, or if it is more customized advice. Nikhil said that there are information resources, but the advisor service is designed to provide one-on-one consultation to help people make decisions about their own project.

7:50pm 7. Member Updates

Objective: CPAC members will provide updates on activities and issues relevant to CPAC's work.

<We skipped this since we ran over by a few minutes.>

8:00pm 8. Adjournment