CPAC Meeting Notes March 10, 2022

Present: Rosalie Anders, Tom Chase, Peter Crawley, Trisha Montalbo, Steven Nutter, Paula Phipps, Jerrad Pierce, Julie Wormser, Susanne Rasmussen, Seth Federspiel

Susanne Rasmussen, Director's Report:

- BEUDO amendments being discussed and debated in Council Committees. Property owners also participating, including Harvard & MIT. Will be several months before Ordinance Committee can take another vote, due to scheduling.
- NZAP also being discussed and Council requested faster implementation.
- ARPA funds may be available for sustainability initiatives, such as energy efficiency measures but needs COVID nexus to qualify.
- New Transportation group led by Councilor Azeem to explore fare-free transit routes and/or means testing for fare setting.
- Article in today's Globe: MBTA moving to transition bus fleet to battery busses over time. Battery electric busses coming. Due to road construction, Cambridge will have diesel busses for 2 years b/c overhead electric infrastructure coming down and electric busses not ready for 2 years. Need to update the Cambridge garage to accommodate electric busses (equipped with auxiliary diesel fuel heaters for winter use).
- CPAC letters have been considered by Councilors for both BEUDO and NZAP.
- CPAC is being considered as participant at Council meetings.
- David Rabkin asks re: State Straw Net Zero Stretch-Code and opportunity for public comment. City CDD and Council are sending comment letters advocating for stronger requirements to align with Net Zero roadmap, such as "Net Zero code should not allow on-site fossil fuel combustion."

Minutes revision for February meeting notes: Jarred notes that page 2, bullet 2 should change to "...City is interested in adopting the specialized opt-in code."

Conversation about role of CPAC and review of Jam-board comments from last month's CPAC meeting. See additional post-it notes on Jam-board (**appended**)

Group discussion of how to reinvigorate CPAC, stimulated via 2 questions:

- 1. What's in the way?
- 2. What should we be doing?

See Jam-board post-it notes for comments.

Chat comments:

I think the best way for people to get involved is canvassing. Perhaps knocking on doors and if no one answers leave a blurb with a website and/or phone number about what CPAC is and

what CPAC is doing. Consider reaching out to CHA and asking to partner with developments to send flyers in multi languages for outreach to disadvantaged communities. You can even reach out to local churches/community centers to spread the word. More people would be interested if they knew the work you all do and how it effects them.

If you want to reach out to youths, reach out to the youth centers. There's five/six centers that are always looking for ways to participate in Cambridge centered activities.

CDD usually hires students through the Mayors Summer Youth Employment Program to assist in our climate engagement activities. Would be great to talk about what would be priority canvassing and other actions they could engage in.

Group Discussion:

Expand the population of people at the table in CPAC and attending meetings from public. Invite representatives from other City groups, like Mothers Out Front, climate groups, as well as other City departments, like Public Health, DPW, etc. And also

Somerville climate committee meetings often have many guests, including guest presenters.

What time and contribution commitments should be expected of CPAC members?

If have defined role and goals it's easier to stay interested as member versus boiling the ocean.

Homework for Committee: circulate anonymous Google doc and ask each member to answer the questions: (make answers "actionable")

Why are we here on CPAC? And what do we as CPAC want to help the City accomplish? (David will re-state these questions.)

Member event sharing: Biodiversity for a Livable Planet hosting conference on March 19 on Water. Paula will send link to this event and two others.

Appendix: Jamboard Notes



One of CPAC's big successes was making the case successfully for incorporating vulnerability and resilience into the City's climate planning agenda.

We have been valuable at times by bringing expertise and ideas, perspective, and high-trust feedback to staff, particularly when we've avoided getting caught in the weeds.

We have engaged with various City department heads and staff, creating an opportunity for them to focus and articulate their thinking about climate and their departments' roles, and perhaps add to it through discussion with CPAC.

CPAC plays a monitoring role which (e.g., for the NZAP and for the Climate Action Plan as a whole via its annual letters) and its work can serve as useful documentation and institutional memory, too (e.g., its annual letters and documents such as statements of goals and plans). Reports to CPAC can be useful references about the status of programs, actions, work in other cities, etc.

On controversial issues, in particular, CPAC can be supportive of staff and serve as a spokesperson by speaking or writing to the Council or City Manager (we may have lobbied the Commonwealth by letter once or twice).

Engage with Community what's missing? what to change?

Include the broader community on CPAC: Reps from groups that are climate "expert" or advocates... AND others with different expertise and perspectives (housing advocacy, environmental justice, local community). Consider the skills needed given CPAC's developing role, goals, and tasks.

CPAC members participating the community to listen, learn and share, then bring what they learn back. Encourage more formal engagement with CPAC participating in groups or communities' meetings and inviting their representatives to participate and/or present in CPAC meetings. Explore the range of communities CPAC might draw upon and try to reach. Creating two-way meaningful engagement in which the community experiences their opinions mattering and affecting outcomes will take effort.

Feeling that CPAC's role has been narrowed and it has been somewhat marginalized. Although CPAC's role has been focused on working with ETP and advising the City Manager, its charter called for it to advise the City as a whole. CPAC's responsibilities and relationships should re-evaluated, perhaps to interact also with the city council and boards engaged with climate issues.

CPAC help lobby the state, utilities, or other entities on climate issues. CPAC can help communicate with others about positive results and how we achieved them, helping us lead by example.

what's missing? What to change?

when detailed recommendations were made: Around school curriculum, for example. There were others, too. The goals and objectives were good, white papers, plastic bag ban. There was detailed work to ID key topics and develop detailed

Goal setting: Balancing aspirational vs. feasible.

FYI: Next Generation Science Standards have been adopted in MA. and they cover climate change

One way CPAC helps staff: more detail is needed that what staff is producing--identifyin g new areas of wor

Might make sense for CPAC to come to planning board meeting to share climate goals, discuss how they affect the built environment. **Education for** planning board to help them align.

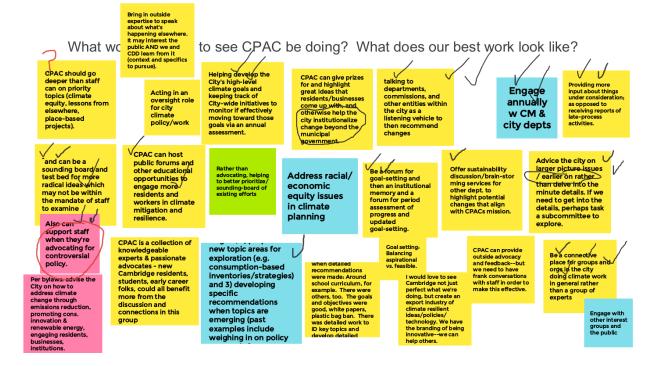
General Reflections

- Broaden scope beyond advising the CM
- Helping think about what's might be next bigger thematic shifts
- How to leverage beyond our climate-focused knowledge, expertise and networks?
- Bring in members embedded differently in the community, not just expert technically.
- Engage with people who might not serve on the committee or participate in its meetings.
- Frame climate issues as larger than just the climate: public health, housing, and pursuing equity in the face of climate change are all part of resilience.
- What do others outside of CPAC's membership think about CPAC's future purpose and role? So far, we have little input from CDD staff and none from other departments, the CM, the council, or the public.
- More sharing of what Cambridge is doing and has done with people from other cities in an effort to inspire and help them.
- CPAC could organize based on interests and allow/encourage/task its members with become a "voice" to the outside world.
- We haven't engaged, or engaged with, youth the people whose lives, health, careers, etc. will be most affected by the programs and policies the City <u>creates</u>, the progress it makes (or doesn't), and its impact beyond our city limits.

What's missing? What to change?



We're very CDD oriented. We're not resilience oriented or talking about public works (what materials they're using).



Current CPAC members signed up for 24 hours/year of predominantly technical feedback. Is this the format and are we the folks	CPAC in its current incarnation doesn't necessarily meet the City's or citizens' needs. If we have higher aspirations, we need to put more effort into it. Maybe that means	What should CPAC do th staff and consultants can't do better?	We have a highly progressive, proficient municipal staff-our usefulness as advocates is limited.	From my perspective as a member, a lack of knowledge of what's in the way of staff who are pursuing climate goals.	Engage with a wider set of stakeholders (who's at the table), builds more buy in, gets more ideas, provides more context. As members of the committee, as
to carry this work forward effectively?	compensation, like	meeting agenda?		goais.	guests, etc.
forward encedvely.	Somerville.				"advisors" is
Should CPAC be a volunteer committee, or a resourced, externally-facing team of professional communicators, marketers, teachers,	Datance or early CF engagement in ide and yet serving as advisors not designers. When ti ideas come from CPAC, it happens naturally. When	S A city manager form of	Lack of diverse representation	Unknown of how we fit in the organizational chart	multi-dimensional things like to bring in of knowledge or a range of [diverse] perspectives, boosters for ambitious (but realistic) goals, institutional memory and assessment of
lobbyists expanding	they're generated i	Late-proce input result			progress,
on what current staff do well?	the administration	in too man			
do weil?	CPAC sometimes is		to engage more and	Climate work is the	To keep meetings
Could we somehow structure our meetings to make them useful to both the city and to Cambridge residents?	The meeting agendas are too repetitive and not high-level enough. CPAC officers should set agendas to align with annual goals for CPAC accomplishments.	e don't yet have nough clarity on hat CPAC should accomplishing! at's part of our sk in this scussion.	participate in a topic area/subcommittee that interests them. And related, all members should be asked to lead discussions in the areas they are involved in. Shared leadership model.	work of every City employee, and our work is tied too tightly to CDDadd in decision making CPS, CPH, and DPW staff plus a health and environment committee staff rep from council	interesting and to attract residents, could have occasional presentations on progressive climate ideas/initiatives. As well as a City Climate Strategy 101 presentation.

What's currently in the way of CPAC doing its best work?

Key ideas on what's next for CPAC

CPAC and staff have been focused on research and planning. Let's mostly close that phase and pivot to implementation.

CPAC can host public forums and other educational opportunities to engage more residents and workers in climate mitigation and resilience. CPAC can give prizes for and highlight great ideas that residents/businesses come up with, and otherwise help the city institutionalize change beyond the municipal government.

I would love to see Cambridge not just perfect what we're doing, but create an export industry of climate resilient ideas/policies/ technology. We have the branding of being innovative--we can help others. talking to departments, commissions, and other entities within the city as a listening vehicle to then recommend changes

Be a connective place for groups and orgs in the city doing climate work in general rather than a group of experts