

CPAC Meeting Minutes: May 14, 2009

Attendees: Amy Meltzer, Betsy Boyle, Brian Reich, David Rabkin, Jan Dillon, Janet Curtis, John Francis, Jon Abe, Kat Potter, Lauren Miller, Mead Wyman, Musa Pam, Quinton Zondervan, Suzanne Shepard, Bill Zamparelli, Jennifer Jones, Rosalie Anders, Susanne Rasmussen, John Bolduc

Guests: Emily Kanter, Joanna Herlihy, Lilah Glick, John MacDougall, Sue Butler, Craig Garvin

Jan Dillon asked for an amendment to the April meeting minutes to reflect the discussion about federal stimulus money and intention to get information about what would be available to Cambridge. Mead Wyman moved the motion to accept the April minutes with the proposed amendment, and none were opposed. John Bolduc mentioned that the meeting minutes would be on the CPAC web site.

Susanne Rasmussen noted that city staff had read the climate report and asked for adjustments before it went to the City Manager. The report would be updated and send out to CPAC members by May 26.

Communications Updates

All initiatives are moving forward. They have begun the survey, starting with a draft and the beginning of one-on-one conversations. They will discuss tabulating the results and next steps. The committee asked that if anyone was available they could use help with surveying.

The committee feels it's not having as broad an impact as it would like. They'd like to work with the City to come up with some kind of statement, allow CPAC to "flex its muscles." They think there is a need for improved transparency and communications on the City's behalf. Reactions/comments to this proposal included:

- There's a lot of information about climate out there, but not from Cambridge. Would be good idea to communicate more.
- Such a communication shouldn't be strongly worded
- From staff: Useful to be specific about communications needs, and specific suggestions for effective communication tools
- Should maybe finish the survey to get ideas for what needs to be communicated, what's been missing
- Don't necessarily have to directly make a statement to the City Manager, staff have a certain amount of leeway and can work directly with the Public Relations Officer to implement a communications strategy.
- Need to be specific about what will be communicated.
- CPAC members shouldn't necessarily be ambassadors, they're too biased.

- CPAC members should not be out there speaking on behalf of the City, we each have our own personal interests that aren't necessarily representative of the City's interests or abilities.

Transportation Update

The team leader wasn't present, so John Bolduc presented. This committee will focus on electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure, which can have a high impact. Will look at New York City's sustainability plan, which has a component on EV. Will also include large businesses, institutions in discussions about EV infrastructure.

Measurement & Goals Update

Need to mine data more effectively, work with the Assessor's database, NStar, CEA. They plan to do a building energy use assessment, also focusing on labs and biotech.

It was noted that the CEA is doing work on this, putting together an in-house GIS analysis. CEA plans to focus on 5000 households of 1-4 units and will provide an aggregate analysis on energy, water, and heating. CEA has a data release form for participants to share data, and is working with Peregrine data to map energy use in blocks of space at the zip code level.

Jan Dillon will coordinate a meeting between Measurement and Building Energy committees to make sure work is not being duplicated. Sue Butler will head the measurement committee going forward.

Building Energy Committee

The committee will be focusing on the stretch code and building energy labels. The stretch code can only be adopted at two points in the year, July 1 and January 1. We can't make the July deadline, so will focus on January – if passed, it would be effective July 2010. John Bolduc will organize a stretch code briefing at the next meeting. Lilah Glick from CEA suggested that we may want to organize community briefings and with business, to build support.

Musa moved to send information to the Committee and address stretch codes in the June CPAC meeting.

CPAC Structure & Process

Challenges: Feeling that we're not doing anything, and difficulty in finding the time or enough people to do the work. Ideas for dealing with these issues:

- Bring more people into the subcommittees
- Create a template for the work with roles, responsibilities, to-do's and deliverables clearly defined so that we can be more clear about what's due when, who's doing it, and what the specific outcomes will be.

The City made a Declaration of Climate Change Emergency. This declaration is for the city manager to act on, not yet the city staff. The CPAC report declares an intention and specific plans to address the emergency.

There are outstanding tasks and issues that need to be addressed, including some committees that were originally proposed but haven't yet been created, like Adaptation. Need to decide if we'll move forward with them or table them for now. This issue will be discussed at the June meeting, with intention on how to advise the city manager. The discussion will also focus on specific ways to add capacity to CPAC.

John Francis made a motion to adjourn the meeting, with no one opposed.