

CPAC Minutes: June 11, 2009

Present: David Rabkin (chair), Amy Meltzer, Betsy Boyle, Brian Reich, Gordon Reynolds, Jan Dillon, Janet Curtis, John Francis, Jon Abe, Kat Potter, Keren Schlomy, Quinton Zondervan, Steve Lanou, Suzanne Shepard, Bill Zamparelli, Bill Trabilcy, Rosalie Anders, Susanne Rasmussen, John Bolduc

Guests: Mark Specht, Eric Porter, Craig Garvin, John Pitkin, Emily Talcott, John MacDougall, Joanna Herlihy

Opening remarks by Chair

Summary spreadsheet to become the standard practice for tracking and recording progress of various activities and sub committees.

The agenda will be used but changes since prior setting of agenda may be made based on new or significant interim changes including those received via email.

Thanks given for the dissemination of materials particularly regarding Stretch Energy Code.

Minutes of May 14, 2009 were moved for acceptance and accepted (J Dillon).

City council plans to move forward regarding an order addressing “climate emergency” via a hearing by the Health and Environment committee. Discussion regarding the value of this and question of the designation of an “emergency”. The definition of emergency mechanisms is unclear. Brian offered to draft an advisory recommendation to the city manager on how implementation should be considered. Keren indicated Green Decade would be working on a proposal for the City Council meeting. David said it isn’t clear what level of effort or advisement to the city should be made in this regard. Susanne noted that individuals are the primary means of addressing the hearing and related issues.

Brian stated two elements are relevant for the hearing and directing the city manager in their role in a climate emergency response. One is to provide a summary of priorities based in current strategies for a short term responses to the emergency; the other is create a ‘wish list’ or creating broader or more imaginative approach for solutions and response.

John Francis said the committee would have lost direction of its mission if direct advisement is not done with the city manager.

Quinton raised whether adaptation should be a priority item of CPAC; it was considered previously but not prioritized. A subcommittee is needed for adaptation relative to a climate emergency status.

Betsy asked if there is a question of status of independence of CPAC relative to the City; question of response or role of CPAC.

On clarification of “emergency”, Keren said it is a response to a lack of progress or delays of CPAC reports or findings being presented

Brian stated that long term and short term response planning is needed and there is a demand for scale of solutions.

Jon Abe noted that CPAC could advise through Keren, who is president of Green Decade/Cambridge.

Susanne said there are many pending and prior items that should be moved forward from existing work areas of the committee.

David said individuals could work within the planned hearing process.

Quinton felt that reactive or short term responses should not be the priority.

Brian said forming a group is OK as long as it is research based and is long term focused. Missing is a quick reaction from the City therefore it should be a CPAC issue and it should address interpretation of climate emergency; to initiate as a continuation of other work including via blog communications.

David requested an action item around adaptation. Quinton volunteered to form a work group on climate adaptation.

John Bolduc noted that the state has formed a climate change adaptation advisory committee and suggested the committee might play a role in the state process. Keren made a request to bring progress of the state committee to CPAC.

Vehicle Share Zoning

Susanne reported a draft zoning amendment has been proposed to the City Council to address car share parking on private property. Currently, many ZipCar spaces do not conform with the zoning ordinance. CPAC could consider how to participate regarding new regulations.

Bill noted that where individuals are aggrieved, there is a strong case against the non conformance of the car sharing spaces. The enforcement process is complaint-driven.

Susanne noted the hearings are schedule driven so there is limited opportunity for action.

Keren said CPAC should prepare by having a statement or policy to submit as needed. A draft of that is needed.

Wind Turbine Zoning

The City Council ordinance committee will hold a hearing on 6/30 regarding zoning amendments to allow wind turbines in Cambridge; it is an opportunity for CPAC to have input to an amendment.

David proposed to draft a letter to support the above and attend the hearing, with which the committee concurred.

Minutes taken by Bill Trabilcy