

CPAC Meeting Notes

May 12, 2022

Present: David Rabkin, Susanne Rasmussen, Seth Federspiel, Jerrad Pierce, Lyn Huckabee, Keith Giamportone, Rosalie Anders, Julie Wormser

6:00 pm **1. Icebreaker:** Talk about a crossroads you've had in your life.

6:10 pm **2. Approval of minutes – April 14, 2022**

- We don't have a quorum, so can't vote
- Meeting Minutes voted on in June when there was a quorum. Notes were approved.
- JamBoard provided below.

6:15pm **3. CPAC Roles and Objectives**

Objective: CPAC will continue the process of considering its role and objectives and how CPAC can function most effectively going forward.

Proposed rename:

- Climate Policy Advisory Committee (People aren't sure about the proposed name (CAC)--maybe Cambridge Climate Committee (CCC) instead?
- RE Vision:
 - Would like more specific verbs that characterize what power/value we have. Engage, for example (in Role #1) is vague. I
- Where does responsibility for education of the people in our community who don't know about climate lie?
 - There are different kinds of education – reaching out to known audiences about specific issues or topics, education to support behavioral change, what Green Cambridge does. The City may be effective about bringing together stakeholders.
- Who are our big targets? The language should express who they are (organizations? institutions?). On the other hand, let's not be too specific in the document as the City's top targets – say large property owners – may be different from where it may be most useful for CCC to place its focus.
- The three roles have interdependencies.
- What shall we name ourselves? Let's use Cambridge Climate Committee as our temporary working name, and have committee members think of new names before/at our next meeting.
- The description should indicate the City's role of participating regionally in addition to serving as role model?
- Those most vulnerable? Or should it be "impacted?" Even impacted in the future? Impacted.
- We took a vote, even though we weren't 100% positive we had a quorum, and everyone

When we shift to next steps (about kinds of people who might round out membership and how to find and recruit them), we can use a jamboard. Here's a link:

- https://jamboard.google.com/d/1NolU8Q169_xlzhEB6TlaxcaRnDU85osx603_CECZik/viewer?f=1

7:15 4. ETP Director Update

(My (David's) hope is that we'll use the discussion to explore (even "brainstorm") the kinds of things CPAC members hope the City will think about in deciding how to use offsets as a BEUDERO compliance mechanism. It's NOT about us making any "decisions;" it's about surfacing things to think about.)

- Susanne presented the changes since CCC last saw BEUDERO (November).
- Meetings of Health & Environment, Ordinance Committees, as well as Councilors Nolan, Zondervan and an interest group from Harvard, MIT, etc.
- There's an open discussion about changes proposed by that interest group. The next meeting will likely not be until June.
- Key changes:
 - Compliance schedule is faster, with a 2035 target for net zero (instead of 2050).
 - Baselines: Now proposing to NOT allow for earlier baselines set before the 2018/19 default. Also, buildings built in 2025 or later will need to meet a zero emission baseline (net zero from the start). Also: There's an interest, but no specific plan yet, to address "big polluters." Perhaps a working group will be formed.
 - Campus Pathway: Broaden the definition of campuses to be owned by the same organization, but don't need to be owner-occupied? The properties do not need to be contiguous.
 - Compliance pathways: Add to the existing pathways (onsite emission reduction, offset renewable electricity and the ACP) two additional paths:
 - Deferred Alternative Compliance Credit: Allows deferring the ACC for up to five years against a planned capital expense and an additional 5 years to complete the capital project. (It's a confusing name since property owners don't pay the ACC and "overcomply" later.)
 - Verified Carbon Credits: Recognized third-party verified credits could be another mechanisms for compliance. What it would look like is under discussion. There might be two kinds of credits – local vs. global – which might have different constraints, timelines, etc. associated with them. These may be limited to offsetting type 1 emissions.
 - Lots of questions. It's a big change.

- Embodied emissions: Councilor Zondervan proposed a “green new deal” that was to be implemented in zoning, but now may end up in zoning and in other ordinances. One aspect – payment for embodied emissions – might end up adding to BEUDERO:
 - All non-residential covered properties receiving a special permit after 1/1//2023 will need to mitigate the total embodied emissions of the building through payments to the City over a period of time (>10 years). A working group will be established.
 - What’s the goal? Is it an incentive to reduce the total embodied emissions in new construction or to reduce certain types of emissions (I think this was the thrust of Jerrad’s question about certain types of insulation)?
- Local vs. global?
 - Credits “aren’t quite what they’re stacked up to be” and there are benefits to local source reduction vs. reductions elsewhere. Perhaps consider a fudge factor – so you get credit for a fraction, but not all, of the “value” of credits.
 - Susanne clarified the concerns expressed around RECs in the past and the difference between RECs and credits: RECs may come from existing sources of renewable energy whereas credits, if properly verified, can be made to be additive.

7:45 5. Public Comment

- <no public present>

7:50 6. Member Updates

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

- Steve announced a new program that they’ll be doing for the next 10 years... students will be managing and running the program.
- Julie: 9 congressional earmarks for support for regional coastal flood resilience in particular.
- MRWA

8:00 7. Adjournment

CPAC Agenda

May 12, 2022

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| 6:00 pm | 1. Icebreaker |
| 6:10 pm | 2. Approval of minutes – April 14, 2022 |
| 6:15pm | 3. CPAC Roles and Objectives |
| 7:15 | 4. ETP Director Update |
| 7:45 | 5. Public Comment |
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| 8:00 | 7. Adjournment |

Next Steps

People with strong networks with residents/workers/students who are harder to reach with mainstream, English-language publications.

The people our plans call upon to take action.

a) Youth org e.g; Boys & Girls Club
b) Students - may need shorter term

If youth, we may appoint them for different/appropriate time frames given who they are.

EV owners

Need to have regular opportunities to participate that don't involve monthly evening meetings--like surveys, focus groups.

Resilience expertise

Someone from the faith community

president high school environmental club

Perhaps the Kids Council

Push for youth: young people, students, maybe boys/girls club staff.

New residents who rent

Someone from the Housing Authority, and someone from a tenants association

Someone involved in public health. We need that expertise.

Resident committee members from subsidized housing

Service providers working with people with fragile health or extreme exposure (e.g., unhoused residents, people with mental illness)

Someone from business community-- Chamber of Commerce, or business association

Cambridge Innovation Center (i.e., incubator for new ideas, creativity. Maybe also places like MIT Media Lab, Kennedy School--people who are trained in thinking up new solutions.

A Cambridge Local First member

Someone in biotech

Ensure we have representation from all 13 neighborhoods, both people who are not part of the neighborhood groups in those areas and those that are

People who have lived in Cambridge all their life