

**CITY OF BOULDER, COLORADO
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MEETING SUMMARY**

NAME OF BOARD/COMMISSION: Environmental Advisory Board

DATE OF MEETING (RETREAT): February 3, 2016

NAME/TELEPHONE OF PERSON PREPARING SUMMARY:
Sandy Briggs, 303-441-1931.

NAMES OF MEMBERS, STAFF AND INVITED GUESTS PRESENT:

Environmental Advisory Board Members Present: Tim Hillman, Brad Queen and Karen Crofton.

Environmental Advisory Board Members Absent: Steve Morgan and Morgan Lommele.
Staff Members Present: David Driskell, Brett KenCairn and Sandy Briggs.

Facilitator: Heather Bergman

1. Welcome & Introductions

2. Meeting Objectives/Desired Outcomes

- ❖ Debrief accomplishments of 2015
- ❖ Board goals and focus areas for 2016

3. Review “Homework” Responses

Review and discuss emailed responses regarding 2015 lessons learned and goals for 2016.

- **What worked? Elements in 2015 that were effective and successful:**
 - ❖ Meeting format and structure are much smoother and more productive now.
 - ❖ Preparation for and passing of the Building Performance Ordinance was touted.
 - ❖ Appreciation for staff consistency and patience with adapting to argumentative situations and internalizing and addressing concerns was expressed.

What didn't work?

- **Lessons from 2015 to be more successful in 2016:**
 - ❖ Be more specific with metrics and measurements to more effectively impact policy development.
 - ❖ Identify and celebrate accomplishments.
 - ❖ Add more to the process by not allowing politics to take precedence over valid data.
 - ❖ Better integration between boards.
 - ❖ Make board feedback more actionable and part of the solution.
 - ❖ Continue with staff proactively providing information to the board with sufficient time for review and more clearly conveying their objectives for board presentations.
 - ❖ Foster Council's greater understanding and interest in EAB's annual letter.
 - ❖ Present feedback differently in order to be received more clearly.

As **H. Bergman** recently facilitated the City Council retreat, she provided some insight regarding Council member conversations around Board & Commission input. She informed the board that they are looking more closely at Boards & Commissions' feedback and suggesting potential Town Hall-style meetings in 2016. She also shared that joint board meetings are desired and encouraged in order to leverage knowledge and expertise across disciplines. She suggested staff and Council shouldn't be the only voices out there and relevant information added by boards and commissions should also get out to the community.

She further mentioned that if she is invited back to facilitate the Council retreat again in 2017, she will share with them that Boards & Commissions aren't 100% satisfied with how their information is being represented. Since this is always an issue and it's difficult for Council to honor Boards & Commissions' feedback while also getting their own work done, Council is considering offering more specific guidance as to how boards should approach writing their annual letters.

4. 2016 City Council Priorities & Staff Work Plan

Executive Director of Planning, Housing + Sustainability, **D. Driskell**, reported on City Council's recent retreat, and reviewed areas of action and major work efforts.

- ❖ Detailed work plan information from three departments was shared:
 - Planning, Housing + Sustainability
 - Human Services
 - Transportation
- ❖ Growth, development, housing and the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan (BVCP) were the main areas of discussion.
- ❖ Net Zero Codes are one of the main goals and energy codes typically need to drive them.
 - Consultants are being brought on to assist with code updates and begin to strategize the path to Net Zero.
- ❖ Discussions regarding redevelopment of the Boulder Community Hospital site that will model sustainability principles are just beginning.
- ❖ The launch of community engagement around the Climate Commitment document will be offered as a conversation, not announcement. And as an all-in effort to do it together.
- ❖ The city has been awarded two grants to assist with Whole Systems Transformation and Thermal Decarbonization strategies.
- ❖ Education and technical assistance around implementation of the Building Performance Ordinance and Universal Zero Waste Ordinance are ramping up.
- ❖ The Boulder Energy Challenge is aiming towards second round later this year.
- ❖ Integrated pest management not having a lot of action right now.
- ❖ Greater use of dashboards and metrics will be utilized to determine if the city is the right path.
 - Two are being developed. One from the City Manager's Office expected to roll out at the end of February, the other from Climate + Sustainability that will include a more detailed drill-down to specific city programs and metrics.
- ❖ Discussions are ongoing regarding the BVCP:
 - It is a 20-year view, not a statement of ultimate destiny.
 - Vision-driven planning.
 - Flexible and malleable.

- Housing options are a large part of it that attempt to strike a balance with what everyone wants and needs.
- There will be open houses and joint board meetings to engage the community and other boards in the discussion and decisions that are more participatory.
- The city is getting better comprehensive planning tools that will quantitatively evaluate and comparatively assess a whole series of different variables, but is still working on figuring out how they will best integrate and evolve to support the vision.

B. KenCairn informed the board that the Climate Commitment Ecosystems piece will take a larger priority in 2016. This will rejuvenate conversations around neonicotinoid, bring forward information regarding climate effects on local species and seek to more closely evaluate the impacts of consumption.

He further noted that the messaging around climate action will begin to emphasize more metrics that are concrete and where the goal is to do more of them—more renewable energy, more energy productivity, more sequestration, etc... while still recognizing an overall emissions reduction goal.

5. 2016 EAB Priorities in Relation to Council Priorities & Work Plan

How does the board want to integrate with and support city work efforts in 2016?

- ❖ Be more involved with dashboard creation and how to help analyze gaps that could potentially lead to policy reevaluation.
 - Have discussions around content and related analytics.
 - Help to review and create more reasonable reporting metrics for the general public.
- ❖ Have greater influence regarding the BVCP.
- ❖ Further incentivize areas of the Zero Waste plan to create similar successes to the bag ordinance.
- ❖ Aggregate impacts across strategic areas to determine if the city is on the right trajectory.
 - Show the community how it all adds up and fits together.

Which project or issue areas should be the board's highest priorities?

- ❖ Climate Commitment engagement with the community and across boards.
- ❖ Dashboard creation.

6. Operation Issues for Board Discussion

EAB mission update:

- ❖ The board determined there was no immediate need to change the mission statement.

Meeting structure/format:

- ❖ There was agreement that meeting rhythm and structure is working more smoothly and effectively now.
- ❖ Feedback and question format will depend on each presenter's preference.
- ❖ The board chair will ensure all members are getting their space to speak and will

maintain regular time checks.

- ❖ A study session format will be conducive to productive discussions when appropriate, as long as there is still some structure.

Board recruitment:

- ❖ Some members have reached out to colleagues to encourage them to apply.
- ❖ The board agrees the EAB would benefit from a member with strong ties to the business community.

7. Review/Create Draft 2016 Board Calendar

The following tentative meeting agenda schedule was outlined:

- ❖ March:
 1. Climate Commitment Community Engagement Process
 2. Climate + Sustainability Dashboard Metrics
 3. Discuss Expectations of Board Members and Ideas for April's Joint Board Meeting
- ❖ April:
 1. Joint Board Meeting – Climate Commitment Convening
- ❖ May:
 1. Engaging Community Conversations Around Climate Commitment
- ❖ June:
 1. Climate Impacts and Ecological Footprint of Consumption
- ❖ 3rd & 4th Quarters:
 1. Ecosystem Management/Impacts of Climate Change

8. Next Steps/Action Items

- ❖ **S. Briggs** will coordinate with other Board Secretaries to schedule a joint meeting in April with available relevant boards.
- ❖ **T. Hillman** and **M. Lommele** will determine and refine ideas to bring to the table for the joint meeting.
- ❖ It was requested the March meeting be postponed from the 2nd to the 9th. **S. Briggs** will check calendars with the absent board members and inform everyone of the meeting date once confirmed.
- ❖ **M. Lommele** will succeed by seniority to the EAB co-chair position.

Approved:

Chair

Date