

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

NAME OF BOARD/COMMISSION: Environmental Advisory Board

DATE OF MEETING: June 1, 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, Karen Crofton and Christina Gosnell.

Environmental Advisory Board Members Absent: Morgan Lommele

Staff Members Present: Lesli Ellis, Kara Mertz, Brett KenCairn and Sandy Briggs

MEETING SUMMARY:

❖ **Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan Update**

- A board member asked about the future of resilience staff at the city and how this might affect plan implementation.
- The board agreed that the energy efficiency references in the land use section are vague and will benefit from the planned restructuring to make them more congruent with the Climate Commitment.
- It was suggested to better incorporate energy efficiency modeling that not only utilizes land use snap shots, but scenarios tracking trends in resource consumption and related emissions.
- The board received clarification that the environmental metrics related to the proposed land use changes will be mostly additive, but will also be measured on a per capita basis when appropriate.
- The board was reminded that implications are not just local since Boulder's programs have regional impacts.
- There was interest in including more detail regarding the Citizens Science Data Collection Program, and how it fits in to the BVCP Update picture.

❖ **Universal Zero Waste Ordinance Update**

- The board received clarification about current city diversion rates by sector and type of material and why the ordinance requires haulers to bring all recyclables to the Boulder County Recycling Center.
- As it has traditionally been challenging for special event organizers to garner volunteers to staff zero waste stations per ordinance requirements, the board suggested offering more incentives and asking other organizations like the CU E Center or the Boy Scouts for help.
- The board suggested obtaining load tracking data and tying compliance to the hauler's billing processes to more formally encourage involvement and compliance.
- The board agreed hosting community forums may not be the best format for maximizing participation to gather community input regarding the effectiveness of UZWO implementation. Instead, they suggested using surveys and webinars, going to where

people already are, meeting during business hours and administering mobile surveys while zero waste advisors and community partners are already on the ground at businesses and in neighborhoods.

- Board members suggested including a line item on the Rental Housing Licensing Application Checklist and a section about UZWO in the model lease to inform the public of the ordinance requirements.

❖ **6400 Arapahoe Development Plan Update**

- One board member feels it is not easy to find the current locations and services in place to properly sort and recycle various recyclable items.
- Smaller “transfer stations” were suggested as a way to make recycling of these items easier. This could be done internally in the Recycle Row area, or by setting up drop off points at places around town like Home Depot (similar to Best Buy for electronics).
- It was suggested a website where users could enter a type of item to find out where to take it and facility availability would be a useful tool.
- Other suggestions, like the ability to return borrowed tools to locations other than the ReSource Tool Library, were offered.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Environmental Advisory Board Chair **T. Hillman** declared a quorum called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by **B. Queen**, seconded by **K. Crofton**, the Environmental Advisory Board voted 4-0 (**M. Lommele** absent) to approve the May 4, 2016 meeting minutes.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

4. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

None.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan Update (Ellis)

- Comprehensive Planning Manager, **L. Ellis**, updated the board of the current stage of the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan with emphasis on the Natural Environment, Climate and Energy, and Resilience policies as well as information about land use scenarios and criteria for evaluation.

The BVCP is an evolving document that is updated every five years and includes undertaking a series of steps to further the understanding of where we are and where we need to go as a community.

The early stages of public engagement began last summer and continue with numerous events planned throughout 2016. The aim is to present a draft plan in the late fall or winter, then start the adoption process in early 2017.

One of the focus areas of the BVCP is addressing changes to the land use plan and the impacts this could have on environmental goals.

There are two chapters of particular interest to the EAB – Chapter 3-Natural Environment

and Chapter 4-Climate, Energy and Resilience. New language has been suggested around these topics, with numerous clarifications and a focus on emerging issues. The BVCP will also be “tightened up” to better align with Boulder’s Climate Commitment. This will include addressing ecosystem management and the wild/urban interface to identify needs across natural areas in addition to creating green infrastructure and biodiversity within city limits.

B. Universal Zero Waste Ordinance Update (Mertz)

Local Environmental Action Manager, **K. Mertz**, updated the board regarding implementation of the Universal Zero Waste Ordinance (UZWO) and asked how the EAB would like to be involved moving forward.

She provided statistics regarding past and current waste diversion rates from different city sectors and explained that the city’s zero waste goal is 85% diversion from landfills by 2025.

There is a two-stage implementation plan for property owners and businesses, including special events requirements, and there are City Manager’s Rules that provide the details for implementation. It was noted that for the first year, the city will manage the ordinance to encourage compliance, not punish noncompliance.

She informed the board about the rebates, grants and exemptions that are available and provided a high-level overview of hauler reporting, compliance tracking and the potential for self-reporting requirements if voluntary compliance proves unsuccessful.

After one year, she will return to City Council with a report on compliance and implementation progress in order to determine if a different approach might be necessary.

C. 6400 Arapahoe Development Plan Update (Mertz)

Local Environmental Action Manager, **K. Mertz**, informed the board of the 6400 Arapahoe site’s history and current status, asked for their feedback on the Phase II Site Review amendment and for ideas for Phase III development. She further requested advice about how to best sequence the process in order to provide City Council with a broad array of options and a robust analysis of these options in advance of Concept Plan submission. Since it is not currently clear how much the nonprofits will be able to contribute to the development, it may be difficult to do a cost-benefit analysis.

While there is currently no funding available for either project, City Council was asked to approve staff’s proposal to allow application for a minor amendment to the originally approved 2011 site review for Phase II and to retain ownership of the subdivided parcel in order to flesh out Phase II options. They voted 6-2 in favor; Mayor Jones abstained as she is the Executive Director of Eco-Cycle.

Since it’s purchase in 2008 as a permanent home for community partners Eco-Cycle and ReSource, the idea has been to provide longevity for zero waste operations and continue the “Recycle Row” concept to include other creative reuse and repair options. The Phase II Site Review includes expansion plans for both current tenants.

The following ideas for potential new activities on the property for Phase III development were presented:

- Art Parts
- Blue Star Recyclers
- Small business incubator space for start-ups wanting to up-cycle materials

- Satellite parking for downtown employees
- Office space
- Maker space, fix-it clinics
- Housing – homeless, on-site employees, second story living quarters

She also noted that using the site for construction and demolition waste processing was specifically prohibited in the annexation agreement.

She will return to the Board to flesh out the options analysis prior to returning to City Council at a Study Session later this year before development of the Phase III concept plan.

6. OLD BUSINESS/UPDATES

A. City/CPW Meeting Attendance by BBC (Briggs)

EAB Secretary **S. Briggs** informed the board that the BBC would not be allowed to attend CPW meetings with the city at this time and that Urban Wildlife Conservation Coordinator, **Valerie Matheson**, had been and would continue to be in contact with the interested parties regarding this issue. Hard copies of **V. Matheson's** written explanation of these answers and her actions were provided to the board members.

7. MATTERS FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD, CITY MANAGER AND CITY ATTORNEY

A. Continued Joint Board Open House Discussion (All)

The board discussed **B. Queen's** initial communication with Planning Board Chair **John Gerstle** and concluded that a different process was necessary to move forward.

The following points were discussed and decisions made to begin and continue collaboration with other boards:

- Schedule a standard annual joint board meeting.
- The objective is to help other boards understand how to consider environmental concerns in their processes and integrate Climate Commitment and environmental issues into their decisions.
- Determine those elements of other boards' charters that are in the EAB's purview and how to share advice about those specific items.
- Start with Planning Board as a "test case" to establish and develop the collaboration and engagement process.
- **B. Queen** will speak with PB Member **Leonard May** about processes and contact PB Chair **John Gerstle** with suggestions that two EAB members attend to speak about EAB collaboration during the public comment period or that a more formal inter-board subcommittee be created.
- **B. Queen** and **C. Gosnell** will attend an upcoming PB meeting and report back.

8. DEBRIEF MEETING/CALENDAR CHECK

S. Briggs reminded the board that Council Members Matt Appelbaum and Jan Burton have been officially invited to attend a meeting in 2016 but which meeting they will choose is still unknown.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Environmental Advisory Board adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Approved:

Chair

Date

DRAFT