

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

NAME OF BOARD/COMMISSION: Environmental Advisory Board

DATE OF MEETING: July 1, 2015

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

NAMES OF MEMBERS, STAFF AND INVITED GUESTS PRESENT:

Environmental Advisory Board Members Present: Steve Morgan, Brad Queen, Karen Crofton, Morgan Lommele and Tim Hillman (via phone).

Staff Members Present: Brett KenCairn and Sandy Briggs.

MEETING SUMMARY:

❖ EAB Rules & Roles

- **B. Queen** stressed transparency in communication as paramount and requested more specificity with the questions posed to the board for consideration. He also suggested the questions be framed as to how they relate to city objectives and why they are being asked of the Environmental Advisory Board.
- **K. Crofton** identified the distinction between necessary general updates being sufficient to simply “check the box” in some situations versus the need to review more detailed and specific information that is relevant to the discussion at hand. She added that specificity with questions can keep tangential points to a minimum.
- **T. Hillman** stated that being asked to “check the check box” as a board is appropriate at times but whenever direct feedback on something is needed it’s good to focus more and target specific areas for discussion.

❖ Climate Commitment

- The board suggests focusing on achievable, shorter term goals upon which longer term goals can be built. Some members find the emphasis on 2050 goals isn’t going to be sufficient while others conditionally accept the longer term goal.
- The board finds that achieving tactical goals will be more effective by emphasizing opportunity rather than the risk posed by climate change.
- The board feels the communication package as now written is not intuitive enough and may not resonate well with the public. It was suggested removing the value statements entirely from the three terms - energy, resources and ecosystems - could make more sense and be more effective in engaging people to think and decide for themselves what it means individually and personally to them. And using simple graphics to illustrate these three focus areas could be effective, as well.
- The board agreed that while a consistent message is important across both the Council and public memos, community engagement should inspire action by tying desired results to specific actions and daily activities.
- Board members offered several suggestions for additional areas of energy reduction.
- **B. Queen** suggested further incorporation of candid descriptions in the communication

plan regarding the evolution of how the city got to where it is now in order to demonstrate how learning has occurred and progress has been made.

- **T. Hillman** suggested that interim goals can be assisted by City Council honing in on why the community needs to pay attention in a real, qualitative way and be measured by an increase in investment in certain areas. He also pointed out that ordinances and codes would need to grow and be created to support the overall strategy.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Environmental Advisory Board Chair **S. Morgan** declared a quorum and the meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by **M. Lommele**, seconded by **B. Queen**, the Environmental Advisory Board voted 5-0 to approve the June 3, 2015 meeting minutes.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

5. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

The board discussed the perceived and real differences between Public Hearing Items and Discussion Items. **B. KenCairn** will seek clarification regarding the protocol and report back to the board and staff at the next meeting.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. EAB Rules & Roles (Morgan/KenCairn)

S. Morgan clarified the role of the Environmental Advisory Board to be more as a board of management or directors with high-level advisory as opposed to policy-making capacity. Diverse group thinking is more beneficial than individual statements and while it may take time, the ideas the board provides are heard and have influence.

B. KenCairn stressed the importance of identifying how staff and the board can be most effective together. Since staff can tend towards the broader questions, it is helpful to be reminded that greater specificity and focus in requests for feedback guide board discussions in a direct sense. He added that there are appropriate times for staff to ask for general feedback from the board as community members without getting into too much detail.

B. Climate Commitment (KenCairn)

B. KenCairn updated the board regarding the status of the City Council Climate Commitment memo and the second document to follow that will focus on more relevant items to the average person. Both documents will present the emission reduction goal and suggest how it will be achieved.

He presented quantified information from a Colorado-specific analysis conducted by Western Water Assessment in 2014 regarding the current state of local climate change. He revealed that climate is changing much faster than most people realize and that climate problems are energy problems. He illustrated that there is an abundant amount of clean energy available that only needs a strategic plan for

capturing it and making its use financially possible.

The strategic framework for plan presentation includes three focus areas: a clean energy future, responsible resource use and restorative ecosystems.

He informed the board of recent grants awarded to the city to determine how entire energy system changes can be designed and how to leverage thermal decarbonization strategies that will reduce the dependence on fossil fuels.

City Council will be asked to ratify the goal of an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, not the strategy behind achieving it yet since substantive action will need to be motivated in the community first.

The board was asked for feedback regarding support of the goal in general, whether some key reduction areas are not represented, if the current three-pronged framework makes sense and how to further engage the community.

7. OLD BUSINESS/UPDATES

None.

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

S. Morgan requested updates on the Bear-Proof Receptacle Ordinance and Boulder Energy Challenge Initiative. **S. Briggs** will coordinate with staff to obtain updates and add these items to the agenda and packet for the next meeting.

M. Lommele reminded the board that meetings are scheduled to end at 8 pm.

She also stated that she had not yet received her mailed municipalization flyer that was a subject of discussion during the last meeting and that she would appreciate more time for comment on items brought to the board such as this flyer.

9. DEBRIEF MEETING/CALENDAR CHECK

10. ADJOURNMENT

Environmental Advisory Board adjourned at 8:21 pm.

Approved:

Chair Date