

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

**NAME OF BOARD/COMMISSION:** Environmental Advisory Board

**DATE OF MEETING:** August 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:** Morgan Lommele, Brad Queen, Karen Crofton and Christina Gosnell.

**Environmental Advisory Board Member Absent:** Tim Hillman

**City Council Member Present:** Jan Burton

**Planning Board Member Present:** Leonard May

**Staff Members Present:** Brett KenCairn and Sandy Briggs

**MEETING SUMMARY:**

❖ **City Council Boards & Commissions Subcommittee Member Attendance**

- The board provided clarification about the process and purpose of April's joint board meeting and agreed it was a beneficial use of everyone's time.
- **L. May's** invitation to speak to the EAB was a direct result of the joint meeting.
- **B. KenCairn's** invitation to speak to the Open Space Board of Trustees was another direct result of this meeting.
- The board reiterated that much of the EAB's purview affects other areas of city planning and would like to see climate initiatives be taken into account with decision-making processes across all relevant topics.
- The board explained that the responses of the attending board members were positive and similar in their desire to be more explicitly allowed to make decisions as relate to climate issues. They would like to get on paper what considerations each board should address as overlap with EAB issues.
- **L. May** noted that nothing in the current Planning Board design criteria, aside from solar panels, allows latitude for members to factor in environmental concerns.
- **B. Queen** added that Landmarks Board members had also voiced similar concerns for some time.
- **C. Gosnell** suggested the end goal of the EAB's collaboration efforts is for council to more explicitly include climate issues in the mandates, and therefore decision making processes, of the other boards.
- The board agreed that there has not yet been visible improvement with communication and public engagement, but the programs in the pipeline are moving in the right direction.
- **J. Burton** agreed that too often the public sees the city as one-sided and strategy

changes are necessary.

- **B. Queen** pointed out that there is a difference between showing interest in a project and being supportive of it and the city should remain cognizant of this.
- The board agreed that misinformation is disseminated via editorials and other sources that aren't wholly factual and that even those who follow the progress of certain projects and programs can get overwhelmed by these opinions.
- **J. Burton** suggested the climate focus group results be shared out to the community.
- **K. Crofton** offered the EAB's assistance to council in order to help streamline and narrow their focus. **B. Queen** offered to participate in community outreach.
- **C. Gosnell** recognized that City Council already brings an environmental focus and suggested the EAB could more effectively advise and offer informed feedback if given more notice of environmentally relevant agenda items.
- **J. Burton** suggested one or more EAB members be at the table with staff and council when climate related issues are presented.

#### ❖ “Planning Board 101”

- **B. KenCairn** reminded the board that one of the larger challenges for staff/board interaction is finding a way for boards to participate in the policy process outside of the topics brought directly to them.
- **L. May** suggested the EAB write and submit policy proposals to council as a proactive way to provide feedback and advice separately from reacting to staff presentations.
- **C. Gosnell** suggested the EAB discuss programs, and include Planning Board in these discussions, for incentivizing developers to factor environmental concerns into their plans.
- **L. May** reminded the board that density measurement is one method among many that helps with the ultimate goal of carbon reduction.
- Everyone recognized and agreed that these policy issues are interconnected and effecting one effects all.

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Environmental Advisory Board Vice-Chair **M. Lommele** declared a quorum called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

#### **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion by **B. Queen**, seconded by **K. Crofton**, the Environmental Advisory Board voted 4-0 (**T. Hillman** absent) to approve the July 6, 2016 meeting minutes.

#### **3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

#### **4. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS**

None.

## 5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### A. City Council Boards & Commissions Subcommittee Member Attendance (Burton)

City Council Member **J. Burton** attended to liaise with the EAB as one of the two members of City Council's Boards & Commissions Subcommittee.

She thanked the board members for their service and explained her purpose for attending was to listen to ideas, create actions and identify ways to improve communication. A wide range of topics was discussed, including April's joint board meeting, other board's desires to see their own written mandates include climate considerations, flagging the CAC to add the EAB to council agendas for climate-related topics, providing specific feedback and recommendations to council and forming small subcommittees to assist with identifying overlapping purviews.

The pending GHG inventory and citywide/Climate + Sustainability dashboards were discussed and updates provided. Both are changing in timeline and process from their originally planned rollouts and in what metrics are tracked.

The topic of community communication was also discussed. **B. KenCairn** described some of the new tools to be utilized by the forming Public Engagement Working Group and mentioned that the city recognizes the need to shift away from the old paradigm of asking the community to come to us.

**B. KenCairn** also shared results from the recently conducted climate focus groups and the city's plans for a Climate Summit in November.

Open discussion with questions and answers ensued throughout. Comments are captured in the Meeting Summary.

### B. "Planning Board 101" (May)

Planning Board Member, **L. May**, informed the board of pending Planning Board topics relevant for EAB input. Most immediately, Planning Board will be discussing the Draft Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan Update during their study session on August 11 and requested feedback from the EAB since environmental issues are key to the proposed policy changes.

He explained there is very explicit language defining how the EAB can interact with Planning Board processes, but that discussing policy issues is wide open for collaboration.

The areas of interest he sees as most relevant for EAB involvement are the inclusion of more explicit environmental guidelines into site review criteria, assisting with the development of a building entitlements point system to inform what the public betterment would be, identification of codes that can improve environmental outcomes and developing policy that is proactive toward environmental concerns.

In addition to suggesting the EAB provide comment on the BVCP update, **L. May** also suggested the EAB's input regarding the Middle Income Housing Policy and density discussions would be valuable.

In addition to watching the council agenda, he suggested keeping an eye on Planning Board's agenda. And also offered to prompt the board when he knows a topic of interest and overlap with the EAB is coming up.

Comments are captured in the Meeting Summary.

## 6. OLD BUSINESS/UPDATES

### A. Report Back on Planning Board Attendance (Queen & Gosnell)

**B. Queen** and **C. Gosnell** attended the July 28, 2016 Planning Board meeting and spoke briefly during Public Comment. There was not much new to report beyond the Discussion Item with **L. May** summarized in these minutes.

Some specific, actionable items to bring forward to the Planning Board were suggested:

- Compile some reasonable and attainable environmental considerations to include in Planning Board criteria,
- Determine what codes can do to improve environmental outcomes, and
- Develop criteria to award “brownie points” to developers for environmental conscientiousness.

EAB members will submit individual comments regarding the draft Energy & Climate section of the BVCP update to Planning Board before next Thursday's meeting.

**S. Briggs** will confirm with the Planning Board Secretary that the posted packet for the August 11, 2016 meeting is current, and the draft BVCP update therein is the most recent version. She will inform the board and provide an accurate link to the packet for EAB review as soon as possible so comments can be made prior to Thursday's Planning Board meeting.

**S. Briggs** will obtain a copy of the Planning Board's 2015-2016 letter to council for review through the “EAB lens” for discussion during the September meeting.

### B. Continue Joint Board Meeting Logistics Planning (Board)

**S. Briggs** reminded the board that some planning was needed in order to choose a date and engage numerous board members to attend a joint board meeting. **K. Crofton** added that the question of which board will facilitate and host is still unanswered. The board agreed they should continue to host and facilitate the meeting(s) in order to set the environmental tone and drive the conversations, and that a date should be selected sooner rather than later.

Creating a joint meeting proposal and looking towards a March 2017 timeframe was suggested. **B. KenCairn** will consult with Planning, Housing + Sustainability Executive Director, **D. Driskell** about this.

**B. KenCairn** informed the board about three planned broad community convenings around climate and energy, climate and ecosystems, and climate and resources, each around a year apart, that may fit well with a joint board meeting schedule.

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

**B. KenCairn** informed the board about the new Climate Action Campaign that will follow adoption of the Climate Commitment document later this year.

The need to catalyze the community around what this is, and bring some clarity to the launch using very specific, measurable targets will be addressed through community convenings around climate and energy.

The next stage is recruitment of a steering group and advisory group, as well as some short term working groups around solar, transportation and natural gas replacement strategies.

A series of outreach meetings are also beginning to take place in order to focus thoughts

around what stakeholders are willing to do, what they would like to do and what they can support others in doing to achieve the targets outlined in the Climate Commitment document.

He requests any feedback and participation in the steering and advisory groups EAB members are able to provide.

There will also be a Climate Summit in November, with the business community as a main focus. It will be structured to ensure diverse representation and a different type of engagement than the historical “city meeting”. Success will be gauged by actions and follow-ups, not by the engagements themselves.

The board agreed there is the need to dispel the image of the city as an entity in itself and replace it with the city as a group of citizens and the administrator of the community. As a result of the current image, there tends to be disassociation and a disconnect between the community and itself. The board suggested the city “loosening the reins” somewhat will be beneficial for more effective engagement.

K23 Media has been contracted to create a hip, interactive platform for the community to be involved with the Climate Action Campaign.

**B. KenCairn** requested suggestions for high-profile speakers to retain for the campaign and will poll board members offline for their level of interest, capability and desired focus for being involved going forward.

#### **8. DEBRIEF MEETING/CALENDAR CHECK**

**C. Gosnell** will not be present for the September 7, 2016 meeting. She might call in, and will confirm with **S. Briggs** prior to the meeting date.

#### **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The Environmental Advisory Board adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Approved:

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Chair

Date