

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

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

**DATE OF MEETING:** November 4, 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, Tim Hillman, Brad Queen, Karen Crofton and Morgan Lommele.

**Staff Members Present:** Jonathan Koehn and Sandy Briggs.

**MEETING SUMMARY:**

❖ **Priorities/ Annual Letter to Council Discussion**

- The board identified the following priorities for inclusion in the Board's annual letter to City Council:
  - Instill a greater sense of urgency and encourage continued aggressive efforts in the attempt to get ahead of climate change trends.
  - Encourage new approaches to communication, implementation and engagement strategies.
  - Proceed with a more integrated approach to different city priorities with greater use of quantitative modeling to assess and analyze program impacts related to emission reductions.
  - Continue pursuing market-based policies and approaches to drive change, as the Disposable Bag fee and Smart Regs programs did.
  - Further the priorities of technology financing innovation, incentive-based guidelines for the commercial sector, time-of-sale efficiency policy and neonicotinoid pesticide use.
- The following techniques for making their letter stand out were also identified:
  - Write a shorter, more concise letter that suggests specific, actionable ideas.
  - Create "aha" ideas to add value as well as pique and maintain interest.
  - Enhance and/or build on things already being done so as to be more likely to get and maintain Council's attention.
  - Request that EAB members be allowed to attend the Council meeting during which their letter will be discussed to enable them to offer any clarifications and answer any questions.

❖ **Energy Future Update: Municipalization**

- The city filed its application for the transfer of assets to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The legal issues at this time are related to Xcel customers located outside City boundaries and Xcel's motion to dismiss the City's application because of the related transfer of assets outside the city limits.
- At its recent meeting, the PUC dismissed one portion of the city's application related to facilities that serve out-of-city customers exclusively.

- The PUC did recognize the city's right to municipalize, and established a process of discovery by which the city can obtain the necessary details and information to fully design the system to be acquired.
- The city will supplement its application based on feedback from the PUC.

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Environmental Advisory Board Member **K. Crofton** declared a quorum and moved to call the meeting to order. **B. Queen** seconded the motion and the meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm.

## 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by **B. Queen**, seconded by **K. Crofton**, the Environmental Advisory Board voted 5-0 to approve the October 7, 2015 meeting minutes.

## 4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

## 5. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

### ❖ **Priorities/Letter to Council Discussion (Board)**

The board began reviewing past, current and future priorities to include in the Board's annual letter to council. The details are captured in the meeting summary. The board also discussed the procedure for writing and completing a final draft.

They reviewed last year's letter as a foundation, started determining what worked or didn't work and assigned priorities to individual board members for review and revision.

**J. Koehn** offered advice and guidance as to how the EAB can be most effective in communicating their priorities to Council. He stressed that the EAB perspective on what is important for people to hear right now is wanted and valued.

It was mentioned that in trying to do too much, the EAB ends up not doing enough.

Therefore, focus and specificity are crucial since the priorities identified will inform council, the City Manager and the Directors about how to feed them into work plans for the various departments.

One board member posited that program evaluation could be better served if Council and the Directors look towards utilizing quantitative modeling instead of analyzing anecdotal and qualitative data.

It was suggested that last year's letter was too vague and the EAB needs to propose concrete ideas and drive them throughout the year.

**J. Koehn** reminded the board that it's important to be specific about what the role and responsibility of the city is versus what can be done by the private sector.

## 6. DISCUSSION ITEMS (Koehn)

### ❖ **Energy Future Update: Municipalization**

Regional Sustainability Coordinator **J. Koehn** provided a brief update regarding municipalization efforts, mostly regarding the most recent PUC decision. These details are captured in the meeting summary.

He also explained how efforts with Council are proceeding and what staff is learning from public perception of the process. He emphasized that the process is moving fairly quickly and any bumps along the way have not been unexpected.

He stressed the importance of keeping focus on the “why we’re doing this”, the opportunities that exist and what that freedom allows us to do.

Public support is paramount in the continued effort and therefore engagement and communication remain crucial, especially if it goes back on the ballot in the future.

He also mentioned the importance of keeping the public informed.

He further stressed that the EAB’s thoughts about a public outreach, feedback and information plan are immensely valuable and provide interesting and welcome perspective to this area of the strategy.

## **7. OLD BUSINESS/UPDATES**

None.

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

**T. Hillman** suggested that the Folsom Green Street Right-Sizing project and others like it could have an effect on carbon emissions and therefore potentially fall under the purview of the EAB. Do the lessons learned from it make sense as a topic area of discussion?

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

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, December 9 instead of Wednesday, December 2.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

Environmental Advisory Board adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Approved:

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Chair

Date