

CRC Climate & Environment Subcommittee Meeting Notes 2/24/21

10:22 Meeting called to order.

(Note-taker was Sharon: Include subject, if discussion & any action taken.)

Attendees: Anne Marie Shanks, Kevin Ranker, Liz Lafferty, Richard Grout, Robert O'Connell, Tom Starr, Kyle Davies, Sharon Abreu

Subject: Should these be public meetings?

Discussion:

We can advertise it once on the website and then people will know that these are public meetings. Must be advertised by legal means, through local papers of record -only needs to be done once.

10 people constitute a quorum.

Anne Marie & Dick: Have one public meeting and limit comments to 3 minutes, and ask people if they have documents they want us to read, give it to us.

Liz: Maybe a standing once a month public meeting.

Kevin: I really like what Dick and Anne Marie are saying - hold a couple special public meetings. I do like the idea of having experts present to our subcommittee.

Tom: Motion to hold public C&E subcommittee meeting until after the first CRC Town Hall, at which we can explain what the CRC can and cannot do, and then we announce how people can participate in some of our C&E subcommittee meetings.

Motion seconded (by who?)

Discussion:

Kevin: Friendly amendment: Still likes public meetings. Announce at the Town Hall that we are meeting as a subcommittee and the public is welcome to participate. Likes Anne Marie's suggestion that we dive in and get to work now, and later we can take public comment.

Friendly amendment adopted.

Motion passed unanimously.

Each person shared about why they joined this subcommittee.

Next Steps:

Kevin: It's clearly within our scope to create agencies, new departments, elected positions, make positions elected/un-elected. The policy side is not within our scope. We can determine whether that person will be full-time, create a department, whether or not to bring in other existing depts. Other counties have created new depts. One reason he ran was to push us to think about what we can do with the charter and to make sure we're realistic. We create the structure that allows policies to take place.

Bob: Has an idea to consider: Amendment to create county advocate for envt - when time is right, would like to present amendment for discussion - a personal to develop policy - an elected position - wants to bring this amendment forward.

Tom: Question for Bob: If we create an advocate for the environment, what would the job description be?

Bob: Job description is somewhat extreme - strong/heavy - elected position - duties would be at minimum: recommend passage of county ordinances/resolutions, review existing ordinances/resolutions and recommend repeal or amendment, to veto any newly passed ordinances/resolutions that would have effect of unnecessarily endangering our environment. Could be vetoed or overridden. Would deal with the unfortunately effect human beings have on the environment. He shared a document with the CRC early on.

Tom: 35 years dealing with environmental ordinances in SJC and his cohort Dick Grout is familiar with them as well.

Kevin: This position is one of the tasks/issues for this subcommittee. For structure, maybe we should list all diff ideas before us, and then dive into them in our meetings. He loves Bob's idea - we don't legally have the ability to create an elected position that would have veto power over the SJCC.

Kyle: Wants to hear from folks with expertise - was moved when Milene spoke about the degree to which the Comp Plan is understood/ utilized - we have some robust things in the county already. Wants to understand how these are used to inform decision-making.

Sharon: Economy vs. Environment - SJCC, Indian Island, ordinances.

Liz: How do people want our communities to look - have doc's reinforce and reflect each other - how can we best do that.

Anne Marie: Get a list together between now and Sunday.

Sharon: Will email the notes on this discussion.

Kyle: We can post notes/minutes/recordings in the file section of Teams - he's offering to do that. Also offering a Teams refresher today at [time?]. This is a way to track our work so that other CRC members can see it.

Kevin: If Kyle or anyone brings someone before this subcommittee, he may want to put them on the full CRC agenda, or maybe they'll do both.

Dick: That decision should be made by Kevin, Olivia and Kathryn. It needs to be a uniform decision.

Kyle: If Kyle wants to put things in Teams, that's okay (though he hates Microsoft products). Wants to see it be uniform.

Tom: Reality check: Overwhelmed at the number of topics. At some point we may need to vote on top number of topics. Narrowed it down to less than 10 on the last CRC.

Dick: When we did our initial CRC brain dump, there was a lot on climate, and only two things have come up today. If you have a specific idea of something you want to see done in the charter related to climate, put it down on the list by Sunday, and then we can look at them at the next meeting.

Kevin: Backs up what Anne Marie & Dick said, and also to what Tom said - we will need to narrow it down - prioritize in our subcommittees.

Kyle: Does Tom's point need to be a motion?

Sharon: Maybe see how much progress the subcommittees have made in a month and go from there.

Liz: Proposes using RCV if/when we vote on what issues we're going to focus in on.

Dick: If you have a name to put forward, do that w/a sentence or two about what value that person brings to what we're trying to do. Then we can decide if that's a priority for us and if we want to hear from them.

Bob: Do we want to do the same thing with topics that we're doing with possible guest speakers?

Anne Marie: We'll probably deal with prioritizing topics at our next subcommittee meeting. We can rank them without disregarding any of them.

Anne Marie:

- Sharon to upload notes to trigger thoughts on topics to prioritize, and see if there's anything we need to include that hasn't already been proposed.

- All of us list who we want to hear from - then we can prioritize those - Let's create our list by email to our subcommittee. Have them submitted by this Sunday, Feb. 27. Submit the names of recommended people with a sentence or two about what we believe their value to be to our subcommittee.

Tom congratulated Anne Marie on her running of this meeting.

Bob appreciated the makeup of this subcommittee.

Tom: Motion to adjourn, seconded by Kevin.

11:48am Meeting adjourned.