

CIC Meeting 10/10/2023

Staff Present: Harmonee, Rheanna

Council Members Present: Susan, Ren, Brian, Diana, Jim, Hannah, Caitlin, Calvin, Jim, Janette

Presenters: Sustainability & Climate Commission (Wing)

SCC comes out of the Planning & Sustainability Commission – too broad, not focusing on climate enough

Final draft proposal in Oct 2023

City Ordinance vote by City Council Dec 2023

~20 members aligned with new districts, including Youth commissioners

Questions for stakeholders/community:

- How to support work already happening?
- Focus areas?
- City Staff Liaison roles?
- What does accountability/transparency look like?

Upcoming Community Conversations: 11/1 at noon and 6pm

Commission Member: Have organizations on the '2nd tier' been contacted already?

Wing: Yes, but not all of them yet. Some of them will be contacted further to make their role with the SCC clear.

CM: How well attended was the event on Sept 6?

Wing: About 50 attendees, response was fairly positive. Most negative response is the concern that the commission won't have any real decision making power. Positive feedback on having potential budget control to give projects historically underfunded to give them some support.

CM: What's the relationship with PCEF?

Wing: Unsure as of yet, but they'll definitely be close as Vivian is the head of both.

Harmonee: One of the unknowns with the city transition is that PCEF was not around when the conversations first started happening. Some of the things need to be ironed out in this transition includes Who has to go to council, when, with who? What commissions can be empowered to designate a decision maker. It's possible that PCEF, instead of going to City Council, it will go to PCEF then SCC then Council. Or maybe SCC will be its own thing unless someone has a veto!

CM: Struggling to understand what the city's policies on sustainability and climate are? There are specific projects, but also can see sustainability/climate being issues that affect everything, so how does the SCC fit in to all of this?

Wing: We're ironing out the logistics! But we can say that the SCC will have fairly far-reaching power.

CM: I'm saying I could see every project needing a sustainability and climate checklist, and having it tiered so that only some of them come to SCC. Is that how it's being set up?

Wing: For lack of a better term, we're talking about setting up a 'report card' for sustainability/climate metrics for all projects. I don't think it's too far fetched of an idea. Great question/comment.

CM: Is there a staff position? There's nothing in the current proposed org structure for Climate or Sustainability.

Harmonee: It definitely has a home in the org chart, part of the debate of what's going on is there's a proposed Chief Equity Officer and there's a decent push to have a Chief Sustainability Officer. We should know more about that in the next few weeks.

CM: I really see climate and sustainability on the same policy level of equity, and I think it really needs to be considered as such.

Wing: I think you really hit the nail on the head and that really needs to be emphasized. There definitely needs to be a Comms person assigned and a Budget person assigned, and the city staff liaisons.

CM: Can you talk more about the community engagement event coming up in November, and how that compares/contrasts to the one in September?

Wing: It's essentially a virtual version of the event in September. Not everyone who wanted to come to the one in person could make it, so this is an attempt at a virtual open house with a presentation and space for questions and answers, getting live input. By that time there should be a draft version of the ordinances and online survey that folks can reference. There won't be elected officials at the online one, it's more to make it accessible to more community members.

CM: Any lessons learned from the Sept event?

Wing: Not really, it was successful, though it will be good to have more time to present on the commission at the online event.

Harmonee: Is there a plan after this passes council to do staff engagement and staff training to say 'hey, this is how this affects your work and this is when you need to come to the commission'?

Wing: Yeees, but there's not specific logistics in place yet for that. Vivian and Elaine have already talked to people in BPS to get this going.

CM: Related to the trainings – methods and tools? Screening tools? Methodologies, etc? Also will there be one or multiple liaisons?

Wing: There will be multiple liaisons. Who those individuals will be, that's an ongoing conversation.