

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA
MONA LISA DREXLER ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS AT THE
JUANITA HELMS ADMINISTRATION CENTER
907 TERMINAL STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

JUNE 12, 2019 at 6:30 PM

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

B. MESSAGES

1. Citizen's Comments – limited to three (3) minutes
 - a. Agenda items not scheduled for public hearing
 - b. Items other than those appearing on the agenda
2. Disclosure & Statement of Conflict of Interest

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of consent agenda passes all routine items indicated by asterisk (*) on agenda. Consent agenda items are not considered separately unless any Commission member or citizen so requests. In the event of such request, the item is returned to the general agenda.

D. *MINUTES

1. *Minutes from May 22, 2019.

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Climate Change Resolution
2. FNSB Staff Energy Handbook update

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. CRF Update

G. EXCUSE FUTURE ABSENCES

H. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

1. Chairperson's Comments
2. Commissioner's Comments
3. Liaison Comments
4. Staff Comments

I. ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES

May 22, 2019

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

**MINUTES
MAY 22, 2019**

A special meeting of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Sustainability Commission was held in the Chizmar Conference Room, Juanita Helms Administration Center, 907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Morgan Hough, Vice Chair.

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Ariane Glover John Davies
Jimmy Fox Morgan Hough
Wyatt Hurlbut

Commissioners Excused: Brett Parks Karl Monetti

Others Present: Brittany Smart, FNSB Mayor's Office
Kielecia Coker, Admin
Allison Wylde, Liaison
Tait Chandler, Liaison (via teleconference)

B. MESSAGES

1. Citizen's Comments – limited to three (3) minutes
None
2. Disclosure & Statement of Conflict of Interest
None

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the agenda and consent agenda by **Commissioner Fox** and seconded by **Commissioner Hurlbut**.

PASSED WITHOUT OBJECTION OR ROLL CALL

D. MINUTES

1. Minutes from May 8, 2019 approved on consent.

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Resolution 2019-19 "A Resolution Supporting HB81 An Act Prohibiting Disposable Plastic Shopping Bags; And Providing For An Effective Date"

Commissioner Davies spoke about the resolution which he drafted.

MAIN MOTION: To approve draft Resolution No. 2019-01 by **Commissioner Fox** and seconded by **Commissioner Glover**.

Commissioner Davies discussed articles and sources used while drafting the resolution and noted several alarming statistics which led him to believe banning plastic bags was necessary. He mentioned alternatives to disposable plastic bags.

Ms. Smart spoke to Commissioners on amending the resolution during the meeting.

Mr. Chandler and Commissioners discussed Greenstar submitting a separate letter to the Assembly.

Commissioners discussed high-level changes to the drafted resolution.

Commissioner Fox expressed his concerns around the specific topic of the resolution, and he believed there were more important topics to address concerning waste reduction and climate change. He discussed food waste, solid waste collection fees, producer responsibility, and ocean pollution from foreign countries as being of higher priority. He mentioned that there could be unintended consequences of banning plastic bags.

MOTION TO AMEND: To amend the draft Resolution No. 2019-01 by **Commissioner Fox** and seconded by **Commissioner Glover**.

Commissioner Davies spoke in favor of the resolution and mentioned this was just one step in the right direction. He mentioned that this could bring attention to the plastic problem.

Discussion ensued among Commissioners regarding the number of plastic bags being created, recycled and reused. Commissioners agreed that there were more important issues, but that the plastic bag ban was one step towards reaching more lofty waste reduction goals.

Commissioner Glover spoke about the impacts of plastic bags on wildlife. She also mentioned other countries' market production was influenced by the United States. She suggested adding information about other single-use plastics into the resolution.

Commissioner Hurlbut spoke in favor of the resolution and believed slowly phasing out plastic bags and positive incentives were necessary.

Discussion ensued among Commissioners and Liaisons on the impacts of phasing out and penalizing the use of plastic bags. There was also discussion on the contents of the HB 81 bill.

Ms. Smart and Commissioners discussed edits to the resolution. There was discussion on further addressing Sustainability Plan goals in the resolution.

MOTION TO AMEND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION TO AMEND: To allow staff to make changes to draft Resolution No. 2019-01 by **Commissioner Davies** and seconded by **Commissioner Glover**.

MOTION TO AMEND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

F. EXCUSE FUTURE ABSENCES

None

Ms. Smart mentioned she would be absent for the June, July and August meetings and that Mr. Huntington would be stepping in.

G. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

1. Chairperson's Comments

Commissioner Hough thanked everyone for coming.

2. Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Fox updated the Commission on his visit with George Washington University regarding dashboards, a website, and a video. He was working on the climate change resolution. He believed the discussion on plastic bags was productive and mentioned drafting resolutions on other topics discussed.

Commissioner Davies believed the discussion and resolution were helpful.

Commissioner Hurlbut thanked Commissioner Hough for stepping in as Chair and believed the discussion was helpful. He wished to work with the Assembly to further Sustainability goals.

Commissioner Glover discussed a presentation on climate change she had attended and would possibly contact the presenter to speak to the Commission.

3. Liaison Comments

None

4. Staff Comments

Ms. Smart mentioned that due to staffing changes, there may be reorganization of the Commission's staff in the near future.

H. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

June 12, 2019

By: Jimmy Fox, Commissioner

Introduced: June 12, 2019

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 2019 – 2

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ACTION ON THE CLIMATE CHANGE CRISIS

WHEREAS, carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide and methane gases released from the Earth's surface are trapped in its atmosphere (thousands of years for CO₂, approximately 100 years for N₂O and about a decade for CH₄)¹ and over the last 150 years these "greenhouse" gases have been released into the atmosphere at an unprecedented rate thereby absorbing heat from the sun and causing rapidly-rising global temperatures;² and

WHEREAS, the greenhouse effect was first described and illustrated by scientists in the 1800s,³ and today approximately 97% of publishing climate scientists agree human activities (predominantly the burning of fossil fuels) are the primary cause of rapidly-rising global temperatures triggering the climate change crisis;⁴ and

WHEREAS, in 2019 scientific confidence in climate change science reached the gold standard of mathematical certainty;⁵ and

¹ Environmental Protection Agency. Accessed on May 28, 2019 at <https://bit.ly/2bQgLd1>.

² National Aeronautical and Space Administration. Accessed on May 26, 2019 at <https://go.nasa.gov/2la2ISR>.

³ *id*

⁴ Cook, J. et al. 2016. Consensus on consensus: a synthesis of consensus estimates on human-caused global warming. Environmental Research Letters. Accessed on April 14, 2019 at <https://bit.ly/2USgxuh>.

⁵ Santer, B.D. et al. 2019. Celebrating the anniversary of three key events in climate change science. Nature Climate Change. Accessed on April 14, 2019 at <https://go.nature.com/2UjAUw6>.

WHEREAS, every U.S. president since John F. Kennedy has been briefed on the threats of climate change,⁶ and since 1990 the U.S. military has declared the consequences a major threat to the safety and security of the nation by destabilizing other governments and directly impacting military readiness;^{7,8} and

WHEREAS, resistance, in general, to addressing the root cause of the climate change crisis can be partially explained by behavioral scientists who find humans are prone to view proposed change as loss rather than gain,⁹ and may be more motivated to address the climate change crisis either through messages of hope or fear¹⁰ and how they will personally benefit;¹¹ and

WHEREAS, there is resistance to addressing the runaway climate crisis by sowing seeds of cultural and political polarization to avoid legislative solutions, e.g., internal company and trade association documents show fossil fuel corporate executives direct the spending of hundreds of millions of dollars¹² per year on extensive, professional marketing to publicly-discount scientific evidence, spread scientific misinformation, and stall evidence-based policymaking while privately acknowledging the role of burning fossil fuels in climate change;¹³ and

⁶ Juliana v. United States. 2018. United States Supreme Court documents in Case No. 6:15-CV-01517-TC. Accessed on May 27, 2019 at <https://bit.ly/2Qptwiq>.

⁷ U.S. Navy War College. 1990. Global climate change: implications for the United States. Accessed on April 14, 2019 at <https://bit.ly/2DhgVbY>.

⁸ Department of Defense. 2019. Report on effects of a changing climate to the Department of Defense. Accessed on April 14, 2019 at <https://bit.ly/2Fzk5uk>.

⁹ Kahneman, D. et al. 1991. The endowment effect, loss aversion, and status quo bias. Journal of Economic Perspectives. Accessed on April 14, 2019 at <https://bit.ly/2X9BBdp>.

¹⁰ Smith, N. and A. Leiserowitz. 2013. The role of emotion in global warming policy support and opposition. Risk Analysis. Accessed on April 14, 2019 at <https://bit.ly/2Pa10kb>.

¹¹ Helm, S.V. 2017. Differentiating environmental concern in the context of psychological adaption to climate change. Global Environmental Change. Accessed on April 14, 2019 at <https://bit.ly/2UFuGvB>.

¹² Influence Map. 2019. Big oil's real agenda on climate change: How the oil majors have spent \$1bn since Paris on narrative capture and lobbying on climate. Accessed on May 27, 2019 at <https://bit.ly/2HFUpML>.

¹³ Union of Concerned Scientists. 2015. The climate deception dossiers: internal fossil fuel industry memos reveal decades of corporate disinformation. Accessed on April 14, 2019 at <https://bit.ly/2UkV6Ot>.

WHEREAS, consequences of the climate change crisis are disproportionately impacting American values of family, freedom, opportunity, prosperity, security, etc. by increasing economic instability, extreme heat and precipitation, droughts, sea level rise, biodiversity loss and extinction, permafrost melting, ocean acidity, and vector-borne diseases;¹⁴ and

WHEREAS, Alaska is warming faster than any other U.S. state and increasingly effects borough residents and their economy directly by: 1) damaging buildings and roads as permafrost and snowfall melts, summer rainfall increases and floodwaters rise, 2) destroying buildings and harming health as more forests burn, 3) stressing fish and wildlife species as habitats change, 4) increasing temperatures that bring new infectious diseases, pests, more intense algal and pollen blooms and mold counts, 5) disrupting travel for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation, 6) increasing feelings of depression leading to decreased mental health, 7) decreasing building heat demands, and 8) increasing vegetation growing season;^{15,16} and

WHEREAS, the direct economic impacts from damage to infrastructure just from permafrost melting, coastal erosion and sea level rise is estimated at \$340 to \$700 million per year in Alaska¹⁷ while the largest economic impacts are expected from increased precipitation and road flooding in the interior and southcentral;¹⁸ and

¹⁴ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. 2018. Projected climate change, potential impacts and associated risks. Accessed on April 14, 2019 at <https://bit.ly/2UDbWNI>.

¹⁵ U.S. Global Change Research Program. 2018. National Climate Assessment, Chapter 26: Alaska. Accessed on April 14, 2019 at <https://bit.ly/2DF04kg>.

¹⁶ Berman, M and J.I. Schmidt. 2018. Economic effects of climate change in Alaska. Weather, Climate and Society. Accessed on April 14, 2019 at <https://bit.ly/2XiswiD>.

¹⁷ *id*

¹⁸ Melvin, A.M. et al. 2016. Climate change damages to Alaska public infrastructure and the economics of proactive adaptation. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the U.S.A. Accessed on April 14, 2019 at <https://bit.ly/2KEc5eL>.

WHEREAS, in 2007 the Alaska Center for Energy and Power estimated annual CO₂-equivalent emissions (CO₂, N₂O, CH₄) from human activities in the Fairbanks North Star Borough determining that, likely due to colder temperatures and reduced solar energy in winter, emissions were 64% higher per capita than the U.S. average,¹⁹ which ranks near the top in the world for all countries and economies;²⁰ and

WHEREAS, Fairbanks North Star Borough residents, businesses and governments should fear unfolding and future impacts of the climate change crisis but should have hope because they possess the natural environment, technology and tools to adapt to and mitigate this crisis while simultaneously eliminating above-average, cost-burdens on homeowners and businesses via access to world-class winter wind energy and plentiful solar energy in summer, high-efficiency building designs and retrofits, high-efficiency lighting, electric heating and transportation, indoor hydroponic agriculture, minerals needed for renewable energy manufacturing, etc. Ironically climate change solutions can also solve the local human health problem caused by air pollution.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that after several public meetings in 2018, the Fairbanks North Star Borough Sustainability Commission adopted a community-driven goal to reduce CO₂e emissions recognizing that climate change is an imminent economic and health threat to borough residents, directly and indirectly, requiring responses at the local, state, national and international levels that are not only urgently needed but thankfully present opportunities to improve personal freedoms, health, and wealth for current and future generations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission requests the Administration and Assembly give residents hope for the future by adopting, supporting and implementing

¹⁹ Alaska Center for Energy and Power. 2008. Fairbanks North Star Borough Baseline Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Base Year 2007. Accessed on May 27, 2019 at <https://bit.ly/2yjr0IX>.

²⁰ The World Bank. 2018. CO₂ Emissions in 2014 (metric tons per capita). Accessed on May 28, 2018 at <https://bit.ly/2PnL54C>.

citizen engagement, code, communications, planning, policies, and projects that assess, adapt and mitigate physical, economic and social impacts from the climate change crisis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission respectfully requests the Administration and Assembly boldly advocate for state and national legislation to make rapid and substantive progress on the climate change crisis.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2019.

Brett Parks
Chair