

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.