

**MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD
December 19, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER

Hannah-Hunt Moeller called the in-person/virtual Environmental Board meeting to order at 6:02 pm on December 19, 2022.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present for roll call:

E-Board Members: Hannah-Hunt Moeller, Chair
Fred Malo, Member
Jane Hendricks, Member
Quinn Donnelly, Member
Michael Port, Member
Pat Hunter, Alternate

Town Staff Present: Chris Hassig, Board of Trustees Liaison
Mark O' Meara, Town of Carbondale Staff Liaison
Kae McDona,d Boards and Commissions Clerk

Guests: Martín Bonzi, CLEER Representative
Quinn Port, Dandelion Days Coordinator

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion Passed: Jane ***moved*** to approve Environmental Board meeting minutes from the November 21, 2022, meeting. Quinn Donnelly ***seconded*** the motion, and the minutes were ***unanimously approved***.

PERSONS PRESENT NOT ON THE AGENDA

Martín Bonzi ontroduced himself – he is the Transportation Manager for CLEER, which includes overseeing the RECHARGE Program.

Hannah-Hunt announced that because the regularly scheduled Environmental Board meetings in January and February fall on Federal Holidays, the January meeting has been rescheduled for Wednesday, January 18th and the February meeting has been rescheduled for Wednesday, February 15th; the meeting location will remain Room 1 at Town Hall and the meeting time will also remain at 6:00 pm.

BOARD OF TRUSTEE UPDATE

Chris commented that the Board of Trustees approved the 2023 budget, but that funding for a Sustainability Coordinator was not included. He noted that the idea of funding a grant writer hasn't been eliminated but isn't sure where that line item is in the budget. Chris explained that an accounting of all energy efficiency and environmental expenditures was also included in the Board of Trustee's packet – most of the expenditures were for transportation-related projects and he wondered if they should be counted. He thought this summary was beneficial for accountability and acknowledged the effort.

Chris noted that in other business, the Board of Trustees entertained a check-in with the Tree Board, approved a conceptual plan for townhomes along 12th Street, and reviewed and approved the salary survey for Town staff. He added that the Tree Board will be undertaking another tree inventory in the coming year and the approved townhomes do have gas lines because they are allowed in the current code. He pointed out that an increase in Town staff salaries will make Carbondale competitive with other peer towns and will improve staff retention. He noted that although the Town Center project is in a lull while Art Space prepares the initial documents, the consultants have gotten a clear message that net zero is a high priority.

Mark commented that the Board of Trustees also approved the Garfield County Hazard Mitigation Plan. He explained that it is a cooperative agreement among local counties and municipalities that covers anticipated hazards for the region including (but not limited to) floods, landslides, fire, and resource outages. He added that it is an iteration of the previous document with some adjustments and lays out how the parties can work in unison during a crisis.

Quinn Donnelly asked if the hazard mitigation plan provides specific information for community members on steps they can take during a crisis or is the document more of a regional action plan.

Chris replied that it is more technical is more agency-oriented than public facing but thought there may be some direction to develop that public-facing facet. He pointed out that none of Carbondale's critical evacuation facilities except for the wastewater treatment plant that have a back-up generator. He thought there might be opportunity to support at least one facility gaining a battery-operated back-up generator.

Pat thought that Roaring Fork High School could be the most logical location for a community gathering space and pointed out that batteries and a generator could be added to their solar array.

Hannah-Hunt asked if this was the final agreement or if it would be rolled out in the coming year.

Chris explained that this was a Memorandum of Understanding between the jurisdictions – ending one process and leading to more specific action.

Hannah-Hunt wondered about the public-facing aspect of the process, noting that as a group the EBoard had identified emergency preparedness and knowing what resources are available was important. She was encouraged that agencies are thinking in these terms, but thought it was important to connect to the household level.

Pat pointed out that he visited a government website that lists flood zones in the area and surprisingly there are flood zones located in Basalt and Redstone.

TOWN OF CARBONDALE STAFF UPDATE

Mark explained that the Town is still lacking a Building Official and Planner. He added that the Utilities Department is actively recruiting for one position, but they still have two open positions. He noted that they are still waiting for parts and pieces needed to complete a variety of projects including the pump-back system and hydroplanner – which will probably

be delayed until next summer -- but they continue to work on other projects and proposed developments.

Pat asked if they were adding buildings at the Water Treatment Plant.

Mark replied that none are planned, but they completed a property exchange with the Roaring Fork Transportation Authority along the western boundary. He added that work on project funding from the American Recovery Act for telemetry and essential services is ongoing. He noted that they are researching how to achieve a more efficient aeration system and another improvement may be a variable frequency blower.

EV UPDATE: GO EV CITY ORDINANCE DRAFT AND NEXT STEPS

Hannah-Hunt explained that Quinn Donnelly has been working with Martín on the GO EV City draft ordinance, noting that it is an adaptation of the Glenwood Springs ordinance. She requested that board members review the attached ordinance so they can continue to refine the verbiage.

Quinn Donnelly also encouraged board members to review the draft ordinance included in the packet. He added that while the Glenwood Springs ordinance was the primary instrument guiding their proposed ordinance, they also used language from other municipalities, as well. He explained that based on feedback at last month's meeting, the draft ordinance focuses more on specifics than generalities and it is geared toward transportation-related requirements. He explained that he is planning to meet with the Parks and Recreation and Public Works Directors for approval and looking to submit a draft ordinance to the Board of Trustees for review by February or March.

Mark asked if they are considering additional charging stations for electric vehicles.

Quinn Donnelly that Objectives #2 and #5 itemize specific objectives for the Town of Carbondale fleet vehicles and adding charging infrastructure is included in that plan.

Hannah-Hunt pointed out that because there is effort being expended towards a mobility plan, the Go EV ordinance could be connected to that as part of a mobility strategy.

Martín noted that he joined CLEER in July and that his predecessor Stefan Johnson worked with other communities and Glenwood Springs and Aspen are the latest communities to adopt such an ordinance. He explained that it was a great way to create a road map for electrifying vehicles and reducing emissions from transportation. He pointed out that the ordinance is not enforceable, but it creates the framework for municipal fleets to transition to electric vehicles. He explained that the benefit of passing the ordinance was that it allowed Carbondale to join a network of communities and it allows access to funding opportunities.

Michael asked what Carbondale's current fleet is comprised of.

Mark replied that he doesn't have a specific answer but noted that the Town is considering hybrid and EV technologies in the 2023 budget. He pointed out that while the Town is open to transitioning to hybrid and EV technologies, procuring that equipment is very difficult.

Hannah-Hunt commented that while the ordinance is a good first step, it shouldn't be the last step. She was interested to learn if other communities have gotten funding and what resources Go EV City can lend to Carbondale.

Martín explained that Go EV City provides resources including the equipment and operating costs of various equipment and vehicles, as well as to help connect with funding programs. He pointed out that these funding programs are still in the works, but should be finalized by the end of March 2023.

Hannah-Hunt asked if the Town of Carbondale applied to the funding or if CLEER applies for the funding on behalf of the Town.

Martín explained that the Town applies, but that CLEER provides coaching for the applicants.

Quinn Donnelly added that Aspen has been digging into the detail of vehicle requirements and thought Tessa would share that information with the group.

Hannah-Hunt suggested reading through the ordinance against the lens of the objectives and goals in the Comprehensive Plan. She asked the board members to come prepared at the January meeting with any suggestions or corrections.

Mark expressed his concern regarding charging stations for Town equipment, explaining that while buildings may have enough capacity recharging the entire fleet may overwhelm the grid. He also pointed out that upgrading the infrastructure would come at a sizeable cost to the Town.

Quinn Donnelly acknowledged that planning that upgrade would be crucial. He noted that Glenwood Springs works with Roaring Fork Transportation Authority and the Roaring Fork School District on electrifying their vehicles and wasn't sure how much of that language should be included in Carbondale's ordinance – maybe it is merely including language to show support of these valley-wide is region-wide transportation aspects moving toward electrification.

Hannah-Hunt added that the RFTA is working on their Climate Action Plan and was engaging in outreach for that project. She thought it would be worthwhile to get in touch with them, noting that transportation by its very nature is a connector.

Pat asked if the Town was going to purchase any new vehicles.

Mark explained that they are considering hybrids and considering smaller electric equipment.

Hannah-Hunt commented that it would be helpful to tap into that network to see how other municipalities have solved challenges.

Martín agreed that that was the idea behind the coalition – that larger communities can share lessons learned with smaller communities. He thought Quinn did a good job pulling together the draft ordinance and noted that there are some minor details to address such as dates that are reasonable. He pointed out that it isn't necessary to reinvent the wheel

for the resolution, to keep it simple and reiterated that while it is a guiding document, it is not enforced.

Chris listed out line items for equipment and fleet vehicles in the adopted 2023 budget: \$20,500.00 for battery packs and \$328,000.00 for police department fleet.

Hannah-Hunt asked which Town staff they should meet with.

Mark replied that the Parks & Recreation Department Director and the Public Works Director would be the most appropriate.

Quinn Donnelly asked for feedback from board members by the first week in January and he committed to meet with town staff.

DANDELION DAY: ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD PROGRAMMING AND EDUCATION

Hannah-Hunt welcomed Quinn Port. She noted that she had tasked the group to think about education and programming they would like to see at Dandelion Day and pointed out that she had circulated a list from Sue Gray that details the schedule of events for the 2012-2016 Learning Tent.

Quinn Port explained that she while has lived in Carbondale for a few years, her first experience at Dandelion Days was in 2022. She added that she has experience in events and fundraising, and she is happy to be able to use her experience for this event. She noted that she attended the Special Event Task Force meetings, and she has met with people at Carbondale Arts and KDNK that are interwoven with Dandelion Day; in addition, she has spoken with Natalie Rae and she was willing to help where needed. Quinn also pointed out that she has recruited two additional people to help, and the theme is “Save the Bees.”

Hannah-Hunt related that Natalie Rae compiled a document that memorializes the responsibility matrix for Dandelion Days. She noted that the EBoard plays a role from a financial standpoint, volunteering, organizing, and selecting the t-shirt, while Carbondale Arts manages the bookkeeping and KDNK assists with music and the beer tent. She suggested that the EBoard could also take on staffing the learning tent the day of the event. She was willing to circulate the responsibility matrix for those that are interested and thought it would clarify each group’s role for the event. Hannah-Hunt asked that board members consider ideas for educational outreach and noted that the Landscape/Low Water Subcommittee have been talking about Dandelion Days and have a variety of thoughts for the learning tent.

Quinn Donnelly agreed that having an educational component was important and was willing to help if there was opportunity to do so.

Quinn Port commented that they have had responses from many people. She preferred keeping it a smaller event rather than creating a “mini Mountain Fair.”

Fred pointed out that the 2016 Learning Tent sponsored Jerome Ostenskowski and Central Rocky Mountain Permaculture Institute. He suggested including them again.

Chris thought Dandelion Day would be a good showcase for the landscape side of the Environmental Board, particularly regarding pesticide use.

Quinn Port wondered if a xeriscaping plot could be created for the day. She also noted that this will be the 25th year for Dandelion Days.

Chris suggested checking with the Tree Board to see if they might plant a tree in Sopris Park that day.

Michael Port suggested following up with past learning event sponsors. He also suggested checking with Evergreen Zero Waste on their willingness to lead a composting session.

Hannah-Hunt pointed out that in 2015 and 2016 there were two learning tents. She thought it best to have one tent and suggested five learning events through the day. She noted that Sue Gray was also willing to help and asked for volunteers to develop the programming. She suggested circulating other ideas until the next meeting, at which point they can short-list the proffered ideas.

Quinn Port added that Dandelion Days is scheduled for Saturday, May 13th. She suggested the Environmental Board also sponsor an information booth to advertise what the Board is doing for the Town of Carbondale. She noted that because “Community” is one of the pillars for Dandelion Days that they might try to organize a volunteer fair in the park across from Beer Works. She asked what the “Order of the Dandelion” was.

Chris replied that it was an annual award to an environmentally conscious person.

Quinn Port commented that in 2023 all events hosting more than 500 people will be required to engage professional security, which will be an added cost.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Landscape/Low Water

Jane reported that their subcommittee has expanded to include additional master gardeners and beekeepers. She thought it was important to distribute the plant list that is being developed to local gardeners. She explained that she is concerned about the initial work and maintenance required to transform right-of-way turf strips into xeriscape.

Hannah-Hunt added that they are planning to filter the proposed plant list based on plant accessibility and growing requirements. She noted that Glenwood Springs has just adopted xeric/low water standards. She explained that the next step will be to follow-up on House Bill 22-1151 that will fund a voluntary program to replace turf grass. She plans to approach Parks staff and share the funding ideas and identify appropriate locations. She also noted that she spoke with Jeff Dickinson about avenues to get the information codified. She expressed her goal to roll out the plant list for Dandelion Day.

Mark thought it would be a good idea to consider methodologies that could help community members transition to xeric landscapes, noting that grass can be very aggressive. He thought it might also be helpful to provide more information about leaf days and the benefits of allowing leaves to compost in place rather than hauling them off for composting elsewhere.

Pat wondered how to address subdivision and planned unit developments that have specific covenants regarding landscaping.

Chris thought there was a likelihood of success if efforts center on private property, noting the lack of Town staff for right-of-way maintenance. He thought an alternate stopgap would be to stop watering turf in drought situations.

Climate Action Plan

Michael commented that they are waiting to meet with CLEER in January to coordinate on their 2023 agenda. He noted that in October, the EBoard met with the Board of Trustees and at that same meeting there was a presentation from CLEER regarding proposed updates to the Green Code and Path to Net Zero. He sensed that that was where the most energy is, and the CAP subcommittee will support that process. He added that they have expanded their group to include Quinn Donnelly and the Go EV City ordinance and was willing to share Aspen's recently adopted ordinance.

Fred explained that he obtained CLEER's action plan and pointed out that there is no specific reference to a natural gas ban. He expressed his disappointment that in the "Road Map to Net Zero" the goal for a natural gas ban for new construction isn't until 2030.

Michael explained that there are incremental guidelines building up to no natural gas with disincentives if it is installed. He reported that he and Tessa developed three distinct job descriptions for a Sustainability Coordinator including one that is exclusively sustainable, one that combines sustainability and grants, and one that combines sustainability and special projects. He acknowledged that although such a position isn't included in the 2023 budget, they can continue to advocate for that position and can also pass along the proposed job descriptions. He pointed out that the Town of Mountain Village does have a sustainability coordinator so the position must pay for itself.

Chris replied that there is some appetite for creating such a position if grants are involved, especially with Town Center coming online.

Pat suggested contacting Colorado's Energy Office for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hannah-Hunt asked for field trip suggestions in the coming warmer months.

Fred suggested going door-to-door and talk with community members about heat pumps. He also noted that 350.Org is advocating against the Uinta Basin Railroad and urged board members to sign a petition to be submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture. He pointed out that many local communities have joined in the lawsuit against the United States Forest Service approvals for the project.

Pat suggested submitting a letter of support from the EBoard to 350.Org.

Chris thought the Board of Trustees might also be willing support the lawsuit.

Quinn Donnelly asked if there were key dates they needed to be aware of.

Fred thought the earliest any action would be taken would be in May.

ADJOURNMENT

The December 19, 2022, regular meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 18**, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kae McDonald