City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

City Council

Monday, June 4, 2018 6:00 PM	Pre-Council	Conference Room 1A/1B Columbia City Hall 701 E. Broadway

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:02 pm.

Present: 7 - Ruffin, Trapp, Thomas, Peters, Treece, Skala, and PItzer

Climate Action & Adaptation Planning Process

Attachments: Climate Action & Adaptation Planning Presentation

Sustainability Manager Barbara Buffaloe provided a brief history of the establishment of the Mayor's Task Force on Climate Action and Adaptation Planning (CAAP) and reviewed their planning process timeline noting that they have held a well attended community workshop in May, where priorities, concerns and visions were shared. They are in the process of taking inventory, setting reduction targets, and will ultimately create a CAAP plan to reduce the carbon footprint for a more resilient and lower-emission community. There will be additional community workshops, a public comment period and plan rollout event prior to the final plan presentation to City Council in May 2019.

Ms. Buffaloe reviewed climate changes to date noting that annual temperatures in the Midwest are now 1.3°F warmer on average, and the coldest day of the year is now 2.9°F warmer, compared to the 1900-1950 average. In Columbia, winters and springs have had the most warming, with fewer cold waves since the mid-1980s. Meanwhile, summer nights in Columbia have been getting warmer and more humid. Columbia is getting about 10 percent more precipitation, with more of that increase coming in the winter and spring. The biggest storms are bringing more rain than they used to. Heavy rain events are also happening more often-twice as often now as compared to 1890-1984. Increased rainfall has meant more frequent flooding. Scientists use climate models to look into the future. We can’t predict what will happen in the future, in regards to the amount of fossil fuels we emit or the mitigation practices that we implement. That’s why we use different scenarios to show a range of possible futures, but we can say with confidence that the direction is toward warming. By the late century, temperatures in Columbia will regularly be outside what has been considered normal since 1970. Extreme temperatures are also projected to change in the Midwest. The coldest day of the year could be 9.5°F warmer and the hottest day of the year could be 6.7°F warmer by mid-century. Columbia could have over 50 days each year when the temperature is above 95°F, compared to fewer than 5 days that we currently experience on average. Across the Midwest, annual precipitation is expected to increase. By mid-century, Columbia’s annual average rainfall could be 7 percent more than the average in the last century. Heavier rain events are expected as well. On a seasonal basis, spring and fall will experience the greatest increases in precipitation, while summertime precipitation is expected to decrease. So summer drought will likely be more common in Missouri in the future. Columbia will still have extremely wet and dry years, but they will overall be slightly wetter than before. Seasonal

precipitation will still vary, meaning that even in the wetter years, summers can be dry.

These changes mean that we need to think about more days of poor air quality, smog, more rain events, heat related illnesses, surface water quality, increases in energy bills, heat waves, agriculture impacts, street trees and water availability, trees will be more prone to pests and diseases.

Ms. Buffaloe explained that our greenhouse gas emissions come from commercial energy (36%), transportation and mobile sources (27%), residential energy (25%), solid waste (2%), and water and wastewater (1%). Between 2010 and 2015 total greenhouse gas emissions increased by 10%. Per capita emissions increased from 20.3 to 21.1 metric tons of CO2 per person. Councilman Thomas asked if we track COU airport emissions. Ms. Buffaloe will need to confirm, but she recalls that we only track fuel. Ms. Buffaloe stated that per capital emissions in Columbia is 20.5 compared to 16.5 for the United States and 5.9 for the world. The next thing to think about is what our emissions will look like in the future. Without renewable energy portfolio standard we would see a 12% increase in emissions.

Ms. Buffaloe reviewed some of the items the community mentioned at the May 22nd workshop as things they want to see included in the plan including outstanding public transit, bike-friendly, walkable, clean air and water, energy-efficient buildings, carbon neutral, healthy, green space, sustainable, compact, and zero waste among others. She explained that they will have a plan to Council by June of 2019. The next step is to identify, evaluate and prioritize strategies. She would like Council to help set reduction targets.

Jay Hasheider, CAAP Chair, stated that this plan will take the entire community to complete. Other members of the Task Force in attendance introduced themselves. Carolyn Amparan, CAAP member, stated that we are looking to set goals for Columbia, but we need to do more than what was agreed to in Paris. She reviewed greenhouse gas reductions targets noting that many cities have broken their goals into two parts: interim and long term goals. Many cities have based their goals around the year 2050. Mr. Thomas asked if carbon neutrality includes sequestration programs. Ms. Amparan replied yes. She reviewed emission reduction targets for comparable cities to Columbia. This includes a community goal (many of which were 80%, a few higher) and community interim goals (most around 20% or so).

She reviewed some potential reduction targets to consider including an 80x50, carbon neutral, or per-capital goals. She reviewed some of the pros and cons of the target reduction options. The Task Force discussed these options and recommend a goal of 80% reduction by 2050, an interim year goal of 35% by 2035 and carbon neutrality by 2060. They recommended more aggressive goals for municipal operations with 50% reduction by 2035 and 100% carbon neutralist by 2050.

Aimee Davenport, CAAP member, stated that the Task Force will be looking at various strategies and ranking them. Council can create their own set of goals or adopt what the Task Force has recommended. In a few months, this will come to Council for a vote that will include a goal, specific strategies to get there, and an implementation plan of how to get there. Councilman Skala would like to see scenarios based on priority. The group briefly discussed goal setting. Mayor Treece felt that an achievable goal and reach goal would be helpful and felt that for community discussion purposes, a per capital measure would be helpful too.

Ms. Buffaloe stated that they will come back with a resolution including goals and that

will be brought forth in the next few months. Mr. Thomas suggested keeping the Task Force a permanent board to continue implementation. Mayor Treece also recommended we ensure our steps are in sync with the university and other local leaders. Mr. Raghavan stated that the University of Missouri is already doing very well on reductions and they have plans to be carbon neutral by 2050.

II. ALL OTHER ITEMS THE COUNCIL MAY WISH TO DISCUSS

None.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:01 pm.