



Meeting Minutes

Utility Advisory Committee

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Contact: Andy Haub
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Thursday, March 5, 2015

5:40 PM

City Hall, Room 207

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Curtz called the meeting to order at 5:41 p.m.

1.A ROLL CALL

Present: 9 - Chair Thad Curtz, Vice Chair Margaret Drennan, Committee Member Michelle Barnett, Committee Member David Dunn, Committee Member Steve Fossum, Committee Member Dever Kuni, Committee Member Carol Law, Committee Member Carole Richmond, and Committee Member Chris Ward

Absent: 2 - Committee Member Jennifer Sievert, and Committee Member Lorelei Walker

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[15-0201](#) Approval of February 5, 2015 UAC Meeting Minutes

Chair Curtz suggested an edit to the minutes regarding the utility green power item.

The minutes were approved as amended.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

UAC Staff Liaison Andy Haub announced three UAC member terms are expired (at the end of March) and they are not considering re-appointment. Those members that will not continue are: Carol Law, Jennifer Sievert and Lorelei Walker. He presented certificates of appreciation to those members.

Committee Member Barnett asked if staff plans to continue with the proposal for wastewater volume-based rates. Mr. Haub said yes; staff plans to bring this item forward to Council in 2015. He said staff are having discussions with utility billing staff to possibly "package" the new wastewater rate proposal with a proposed conversion to monthly utility billing (instead of bi-monthly).

Chair Curtz gave an update on the urban forestry subcommittee that involves UAC and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee members. He reported a consultant was hired by Community Planning and Development (CP&D) to write an urban forestry plan. The subcommittee asked how they could participate in the process to draft the urban forestry plan. The subcommittee wrote a letter to CP&D staff asking to be involved. The draft urban forestry plan is now complete and will be presented to the Council's Land Use and Environment Committee (LUEC) soon. The subcommittee has not received a response from CP&D staff on how they can participate, so they plan to attend the meeting of the LUEC (and later to Council) when the urban forestry plan is on their respective agendas.

6.A. PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE

Planning Commissioner Carole Richmond gave an update on the Olympia Planning Commission (OPC) meetings.

The OPC has been working to finalize their 2015 work plan. The plan this year mainly focuses on the Downtown Strategy and the Action Plan, among other items. The OPC's role has not yet been defined in regards to the Downtown Strategy. CP&D staff will hire a urban design consultant to assist with the Downtown Strategy, with a budget of \$250,000. There will be a public process, but a visioning process will not occur. Chair Curtz asked what the consultant will focus on for the Downtown strategy. Commissioner Richmond said the focus will be housing, transportation, urban design guidelines and other topics.

The deadline for suggested amendments to the newly adopted Comprehensive Plan was March 2.

The Council's General Government Committee is considering decreasing the number of members on each advisory committee. Ms. Richmond reported the OPC liaison position to the UAC will be a non-voting member.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

[15-0202](#) Presentation on Climate Change from Thurston County Climate Action Council

Thurston Climate Action Team (TCAT) representatives Rhonda Hunter and Tom Crawford presented information on climate change. The presentation was educational/information only. TCAT is a local non-profit dedicated to creating a healthy and sustainable future for Thurston County by encouraging, coordinating and taking action on climate change. The presentation covered global as well as local trends related to climate change. It also covered energy efficiency, transportation, green house gas inventory and a climate action plan for Thurston county.

Chair Curtz asked Mr. Haub if there are plans to have a citizen's environmental advisory committee for the City of Olympia. Mr. Haub said this has come up at the staff and Council level, but he doesn't think there's a trend towards creating this type

of committee.

The information was provided.

[15-0203](#) NPDES Annual Report

Storm and Surface Water Utility Associate Planner Jeremy Graham provided an introduction to the federal Clean Water Act's National Pollution Discharge and Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The Department of Ecology (DOE) is the state agency that oversees compliance with the permit. The annual reporting for the permit incorporates and documents City work to be in compliance with the permit. The UAC reviews the permit report prior to submittal to WA Department of Ecology. The UAC also reviewed the City's Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) which is required by the permit.

The UAC approved the NPDES Annual report for submittal to DOE.

[15-0204](#) 2015-2020 Water System Plan Update- Review Draft

Water Resources Senior Planner Laura Keehan the City's draft Water System Plan (WSP). Staff requests the UAC's input on the draft WSP Update, which sets the strategic direction for the Drinking Water Utility for 2015-2020.

After the presentation, the UAC engaged in discussions/questions about the drinking water utility, water rights and general drinking water planning in Olympia.

The UAC had no specific concerns or feedback on the plan and no recommendation was needed at this time. Staff will return to the UAC in June 2015 and will ask for a recommendation to the City Council.

The information was provided.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.