



City of Medford
Medford Energy Committee
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**Medford Energy & Environment Committee Minutes
July 24th, 2017, 6PM
City Hall Room 201**

1. Administration

- Approved minutes from June 5th, 2017 6:03-6:10
minutes are approved
- Attendance and administrative updates 6:10-6:15
Committee Members: Curtis Tuden, Luke McKneally, Nicole Morell, Bob Paine, Matt Drapeau, Laretta James, Lauren Laskey,
Staff: Charlotte Leis, Darya Mattes, Alicia Hunt

2. Presentation of Medford Climate Vulnerabilities (Darya) 6:15-6:55

- Presentation -- preparing for climate change in medford
 - Practice for presentation to be given to various groups in Medford (ie. Senior center, church groups)
 - This version is probably best for groups who acknowledge climate change
 - Goal of today's presentation is less to educate and more to receive feedback on how to make presentation more accessible to others
- Content of presentation
 - Goals for presentation meeting -- talk to community members; build a base who can take action; gather feedback
 - Local impacts
 - Warmer temperatures
 - Increase in the number of days over 90* expected in the future
 - Increased precipitation
 - More intense storms -- already been observed (2014-15 winter)
 - Flooding -- due to sea level rise OR more precipitation OR both
 - Harvard street flooded last week
 - Committee comments
 - Laretta -- drought last year is also a big issue
 - Curtis -- baseball seasons are shorter

- 10/50/100 year storms are happening more often
 - What was a 100 year flood is becoming a 25 Year flood
- Laurretta -- Lack of catch-basins for rain -- leads to more flooding in streets
- Luke -- worried about people not knowing how to deal with major disruptions to life/area
 - The areas that are more prepared are those that will have calmer residents
- Curtis -- Medford does not have specific emergency action plan for various scenarios
 - Neither does Boston, E&E could be out in front of that and come up with ideas
- Reducing impacts
 - The actions we take now will affect how powerful the impacts are
 - Medford has measured carbon footprint -- working on ways to reduce it
 - City is trying to reduce dependence on fossil fuels
 - Encourage solar, wind, energy efficiency
 - Encourage alternatives to driving
 - Part of regional initiatives – US Climate Mayors + Metro Mayors Climate Commitment
 - Individuals can also work to reduce impacts
 - Take public transit; reduce household waste; do home energy audit
- Planning for unavoidable impacts
 - Climate change vulnerability assessment
 - Report looks at impacts (heat/sea level/precipitation) and model how that might play out in Medford -- flooding, heat islands
 - Identify vulnerable residents/infrastructure
 - Potential impacts on local economy?
 - 40% of businesses in NYC Times Square left after Sandy
- No exact date for when report will be done -- definitely not until after fall 2017
 - Still need modeling of storm-water infrastructure
 - Working with stakeholders (residents) to do community outreach
 - Need to visually clean up the content -- make it look more like the reports Cambridge, Somerville, Boston
- Next step = identify highest priority projects
 - Highest priority = soon, or affect lots of people

- Later-term projects = important, but not as urgent
 - Amelia Earhart dam is an example – sea level rise threatens its operation and protection
 - The climate change storm surge issues are in the same places as Medford used to flood before the dam went in
- Integrate what we have learned into everything the city does
- Feedback from committee
 - Luke – maps are great (flood map)
 - Curtis – frame as cost-benefit for climate deniers
 - Lauren – frame as mitigation, adaptation, etc.
 - Alicia – website with info on next steps for residents; Cambridge is finishing up study similar to Medford's
 - Luke – should support initiatives in neighboring cities that help Medford
 - Alicia – working with neighboring cities to work on Amelia Earhart dam

3. Energy and Environment Priorities: 6:55-8:00

Policy

- Municipal Energy Aggregation – next steps
 - no significant update; want to wait until after next City Council election
 - Council is open to pursuing it
- Other Go Green Medford policy items
 - Curtis -- get more involved in response to climate change plans
 - What will Medford do about heat vulnerability? flooding/precipitation?
 - Closer knit communities have better outcomes after disaster events
 - Could vulnerable populations self-identify? (ie elderly needing help shoveling snow)
 - KeepCool app by MAPC -- Should have more places in Medford
 - Committee could put together list of scenarios and come up with ideas to respond to them – no one in City Hall currently plays that role
 - Ice storms; heat waves; flooding
 - hopefully planning for emergencies will let us not have as many of them – we have adapted to reduce the likelihood of them happening
 - Luke -- where do residents of Medford go if they have to get out of the house? Where are the relief centers during the summer/winter?
 - Alicia – possibility for another push for residential solar – i.e. SmartFlower Solar

- would need a committee and a point person to have another solarize campaign
- Curtis asked if we have any ideas/projects to consider
 - Laretta – lots of ideas, pending interest and ideas we have
 - airplane pollution problem – consider helping with airplane particulate/pollution detectors
 - noise monitor; carbon dioxide detection on top of properties.
 - Milton got gov't support to challenge flight paths over city by complaining to MassPort – those planes may come over Medford; future could be much worse here.
 - how do you reach out to the people who are actually affected by the airplane tracks? they're the ones who need to complain
 - but the more that the gov't hears from constituents, the better
 - pollution, not noise – affects everyone, not just the people in the flight path: Laretta and Nicole to research air pollution monitors
 - Laretta – ask Medfords, Massport, and Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC), and report back
 - DPW solar – good job, but just a step; needs to do more

Building

- Update on streetlight program, local building projects, etc were sent via email

Event Planning

- HYEAF and Green Awards update
 - Curtis - E&E committee could have table dedicated to airplane noise/emissions at festival – Laretta contact Luke Preisner, CAC if interested
 - Possibly send out flyers before the festival about the airplanes; address it from a public health perspective; maybe as an insert with water bills
 - Green Awards – deadline is sept. 1; vote at sept. 11 meeting – can reevaluate deadline on sept. 1
 - Michael Bloomberg – Medford native
 - write letter saying he has been nominated for his stepping up in light of Pres. Trump and UN Climate; wanted to recognize him for effort and remind him that Medford is working hard
 - Luke willing to draft letter
 - looking for worthy candidates in school system, community
 - send blurb to Transcript – ask for people to apply
 - if it's a food truck, can definitely waive fee -- #1 feedback is to have more food vendors

Communication

– Discussion of Go Green Medford forum and coalition information sharing

- did well to alert people to City Council meeting
- could be used for phone calls to MassPort about airplanes

4. New Business 8:00-8:00

- Medford Civic Participation day on Sat. 7/29 from 12-2:30pm
 - chance to talk to people running for city council

5. Adjourn 8:00

For **accommodations** please call in advance: 781--393--2137 or TTY: 781--393--2516

MEEC Mission: To promote policies and actions that make Medford more sustainable by encouraging resource conservation, improving climate resiliency, and increasing the use of renewables to meet present and future needs of the Medford community.