



**MINUTES OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

PRESENT: Andrea Smith
Matthew Mauer
Rosie Ayala
REMOTE: Tim Reid
Aaron Pointer

IN THE CHAIR: Andrea Smith

PLACE: MPT Headquarters 4702 S. 19th St.

The meeting was called to order by President Smith at 5:30pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

August 19, 2024 COW Minutes

It was moved and seconded that the minutes be approved as presented; seconded and passed unanimously.

DISTRICT CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Marty Stump opened the presentation noting that this plan has been a primary work plan item for this biennium. Mr. Stump commented that the plan is informed by science, data and community engagement.

There was brief conversation amongst Board and staff about providing a sufficient public comment period and inviting advisory council members to give feedback on the plan.

Board members also encouraged staff to be sure that the District plan supports and is in alignment with City and County Climate Plans.

Wayne Warrington representing the Verdis Group commend on the Climate Plan goals outlined in the plan and highlighted the most significant areas that need to be addressed to reach the following goals:

- CHG Emissions: 35% reduction of Scope 1 & Scope 2 emissions from 2019 baseline by 2035

- Net-Zero emissions by 2050
- Internal Engagement: SES score of 73 by 2030
- External Engagement: 20% of surveyed visitor and community members identify MPT as a regional leader for Climate Action by 2030
- Employee Commute: Mode split of 44% active transportation modes by 2030
- Water: 15% reduction in water consumption by 2030
- Waste: 45% diversion rate by 2030

Mr. Warrington then reviewed the process and associated timeline in which the plan was built that included phases of discovery, vision & barriers, strategic direction, focus implementation & goal setting, and preparation of the final report.

Staff and the Board then reviewed emission data noting the the largest percentage was attributed to procurement activities followed by employee commute. There was follow up dialogue about possibly revising policy in the future as it relates to procurement of local goods.

Commissioner Mauer urged staff to adopt a more ambitious approach in the plan, advocating for a carbon emissions reduction target of 90%, rather than the 88% outlined in the current draft.

Mr. Warrington commented that MPT aims to enhance sustainability through several strategic initiatives. He noted that MPT has outlined several key strategies to further enhance its sustainability efforts, with a focus on energy efficiency, renewable energy, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions across operations in the following areas:

Efficiencies

To improve operational efficiency, ongoing equipment upgrades and system tuning will need to continue, ensuring optimal performance and reduced energy use across facilities.

Solar Energy

As part of the District's commitment to renewable energy, solar panel installations could be planned for Northwest Trek. This initiative will contribute to reducing our carbon footprint and increase use of clean energy sources.

Renewable Energy Procurement

In the area of renewable energy procurement, the suggested strategy is to participate in the Green Power Program through Puget Sound Energy and the Evergreen Options Program from Tacoma Public Utilities. Additionally, the organization should explore a Virtual Power Purchase Agreement (VPPA), which would secure a long-term contract at fixed electricity rates while obtaining Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs). This approach not only stabilizes energy costs but also demonstrates commitment to supporting the growth of renewable energy.

Commissioner Mauer remarked on the need to reduce the District's reliance on renewable energy credits to meet its targeted goals. He suggested that the District explore reallocating its financial resources to other initiatives that could accelerate decarbonization and directly reduce the District's emissions.

Fleet Electrification

To further support sustainability goals, fleet electrification should be implemented in line with vehicle replacement schedules. As older vehicles are phased out, they should be replaced with electric vehicles (EVs), reducing emissions associated with company transportation.

Commissioner Mauer recommended that the plan take a more proactive approach in providing clear direction to accelerate fleet decarbonization efforts. Commissioner Mauer and staff briefly discussed the various types of electric vehicles (EVs) available for the fleet and their operational capacities. A discussion followed among staff and Board members regarding the infrastructure required to support an electric fleet. Mr. Sylvia highlighted ongoing collaborative efforts with the City, TPS, and public utilities to plan and implement the necessary infrastructure.

Employee Commute

In terms of employee commuting, the District will need to develop programs to increase the use of carpooling and promote flexible, active commute options, such as biking or walking to work. Additionally, the District will need to establish a system of EV charging stations to support employees who are making the transition to electric vehicles.

Sustainable Procurement

To ensure environmentally responsible procurement, new purchasing guidelines need to be developed that focus on green purchasing methods. Furthermore, a tracking system should be implemented to request and manage greenhouse gas (GHG) information from vendors, allowing the District to better understand and reduce the environmental impact of its supply chain.

Commissioner Mauer requested that after the plan is adopted that Board receive an annual update on the progression of the goals. Commissioner Ayala suggested creating a dashboard that would be available for the public to track the plans goals. Commissioner Ayala also noted there could be multi-cultural barriers in communicating the goals and suggested that staff share this plan with all agency partners working.

Board members requested that they have an opportunity to review a final draft of the plan prior to the first reading for adoption.

OTHER

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, Commissioner Smith adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVED:

President

Clerk

Submitted by:

Jennifer Bowman, Secretary