

REAC Meeting May 2, 2019 Minutes

Attendance: Donna Lee Cheney, Pete LaFond, Alan Solander, Dick Klain, Lynn Breckinridge, Rich Bicknell, Councilor Hope Cahan

Absent: Dave Low

Agenda items:

Minutes from April, amend to read, “also a report was given regarding Seattle’s waste reduction/food packaging requirements”. With that change, the minutes are approved unanimously.

1. Legislative solar update

There are several solar bills. One would be for a bond of \$150M to give matching-grants to municipalities; if this would be to pass it would likely be far less but would include other provisions that would assist towns.

The Dow Bill—Comprehensive bill that would address almost all aspects of solar policy, including community solar. This is still being drafted and expected to have an LD number in the next few weeks.

2. Report on waste reduction proposals

The foam bill LD 289 was signed by the governor and will be enacted into law beginning January 1, 2021. Discussed preemptions within the plastic shopping bag bill LD 1532.

a. Testimony update from Rich Bicknell

Rich presented a testimony in favor of the ban from Falmouth. He reported that there was general support to move this bill forward from what he heard in Augusta.

b. Working with 8th grade class and teacher Eli Wilson

The focus of collaboration with the 8th grade students will be on single-use straws in light of the momentum that is happening at the state level regarding Styrofoam and plastic shopping bags.

Next steps: the committee is not going to pursue a local ordinance on Styrofoam, and will contact local representatives regarding the plastic shopping bag bill and watch how it continues to develop in Augusta. Kimberly will be working with Donna and Hope on a memorandum regarding the research on single-use straws and will continue to work on collaborating with the 8th grade class.

3. Green vehicle policy

Pete has worked with Kimberly to get information regarding the current vehicle fleet, the purchasing policies and schedule for replacement. Councilor Cahan has also provided some research on the policies in California.

Kimberly will follow up with the School Dept. on VW settlement grants. Will also invite the chief of police to REAC to discuss their vehicle fleet upgrade plans, which is on June 6th.

Kimberly will send the vehicle data to the entire committee.

4. Business waste survey discussion and timeline

Councilor Cahan recommended working with the Economic Improvement Committee on executing the survey, and to gather insight from the Long Range Planner on how to conduct the survey. It was determined that an initial online survey would be a good first step, possibly with in-person follow up. Kimberly will report back to the committee at the June meeting on what she learns.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.