

**AIR QUALITY ADVISORY BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 2012**

**DATE:** Monday, August 15, 2012  
**LOCATION:** 215 N. Mason Conference Room 1-A  
**TIME:** 5:30 – 8:30 pm

**For Reference** Greg McMaster, Chair - 484-3348  
Ben Manvel, Council Liaison - 217-1932  
Lucinda Smith, Staff Liaison - 224-6085

**Present:** Greg McMaster, Scott Groen, Hugh Mackay, John Schroeer, Nancy York, Dennis Georg, Michael Lynn, Rich Fisher, Dave Dietrich

**Absent:**

**Staff present** –Alexis Hmielak, Brian Woodruff, Kathy Collier, Randy Hensley, Timothy Wilder

**Guests:** Citizen John Schenot

**Call meeting to order:**

Greg McMaster called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

**Agenda Review** - none

**Public Comments** –none

**Review and Approval of July 16, 2012 minutes**

Greg McMaster made a small grammatical change on the top of page 3.

Dennis Georg moved and Nancy York seconded a motion to approve the minutes as amended

Motion passed 8 – 0 – 1

Scott Groen abstained because he was not present at the July meeting.

**Climate Wise Program Update**

Kathy Collier, Climate Wise Program Manager, provided an update on progress of the Climate Wise program and showed a short video showcasing the ClimateWise program.

**Overview**

- The ClimateWise program began in 2000.
- It is a free and voluntary program helping local businesses reduce carbon emissions and increase efficiency and tracks 23 metrics. The program includes low and no-cost recommendations in waste reduction, energy savings, transportation, water conservation, and employee education.
- There are more than 300 ClimateWise partners participating in four tiers of performance: bronze; silver; gold; and platinum. The City of Fort Collins is also a ClimateWise member.
- Over 1200 projects were established and tracked by partners. They used a new database “My ClimateWise” established with Keep Fort Collins Great money.

- 49,000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub><sup>e</sup> were reduced in 2011. That is comparable to planting 13 million trees; 2 million round-trip car trips from Fort Collins to Denver and 176,000 round trip flights from Denver to New York City.
- ClimateWise partners' cumulative savings through 2011 were 9 billion gallons of water, 586 million kWh of electricity, 14.6 million therms of natural gas, and 54,000 tons diverted from the landfill.
- Businesses begin with an initial assessment. Partner advisory committees of staff and groups in the community offer continuous feedback and input to partners in the following categories: infrastructure; ambassador; mentoring; corporate social responsibility.
- There were 49 sanctioned peer-networking Climate Wise events in 2011 that included: Talk and Tours, Innovation and Envirovation fairs to showcase partner accomplishments.
- The ClimateWise program has had a ripple effect in the community and affected homes as well.

#### Discussion

- To answer Hugh Mackay who wondered why a business would not want to join ClimateWise, Kathy Collier stated the time commitment to be a ClimateWise partner might be one reason and big box stores have many corporate issues to deal with.
- Dennis Georg suggested professional offices such as dentists, doctors, etc. are good candidates for ClimateWise, because he has not seen recycling at the ones he has visited.
- Dave Dietrich asked if landowners in charge of lighting for businesses are joining ClimateWise. Kathy Collier stated they have a few but need more.
  - Greg McMaster stated he works for the USDA in a building at CSU. The only way they could get the building assessed is that the building is owned by CSU and the CSU Facilities Manager approved the assessment.

#### Parking Plan Update

Timothy Wilder, Senior City Planner made a brief update of the Parking Plan Fort Collins, presented the August 8, 2012, Public Review Draft and asked the AQAB for their comments and support. Randy Hensley, Parking Services Manager, also attended.

#### Background

- Timothy Wilder stated this is the 4<sup>th</sup> round of public outreach on the Parking Plan. It will be going to Council on October 2, for their consideration. Council is mostly comfortable with the plan, but there are some areas to fine tune. If approved, it will become an element of the Transportation Master Plan.
- The revamped Parking Plan's purpose is to:
  - Address key parking issues
  - Provide direction for downtown parking decisions
  - Align parking management with community goals
  - Integrate sustainability into parking practices
  - Identify actions for improving the City's parking system
- Key Recommendations in the plan:
  - The two-hour parking limit will be the primary parking management tool. On-street paid parking will is not recommended by the parking plan. A new technology to be able to pay parking over 2 hours by cellphone is being investigated.
  - More involvement by downtown business in parking decisions

- They are not recommending a parking authority or district to make parking decisions but instead that Parking Services work closely with the downtown business community on an informal basis.
  - Employee parking
    - Engage with downtown businesses to have innovative ways to incentivize employee parkers to park off the street to create a healthier environment for the downtown economy.
  - Parking in neighborhoods
    - This is one of the key issues in light of the stadium discussion even though they have been dealing with this for years.
    - Recommendation is to request Council to authorize a residential parking permit program implemented by Parking Services.
    - Funding of program is suggested to be paid in BFO offer. Another possibility is to share costs between the City and permit holders.
    - They are having conversations with CSU to work cooperatively with CSU on details how to implement this in their area.
  - Electric vehicle charging stations
    - The recommendation is to place electric vehicle charging stations in strategic public locations around the city in order to support city's sustainability goals.
    - They are also considering reserving spaces next to the charging spaces for vehicles to charge up.
  - Infrastructure needs for the future
    - Recommendation is to create public-private partnerships with developers of new businesses. This would enable a way to distribute parking downtown in smaller facilities.
    - Park and Ride facilities are also being considered.
  - Financing
    - Recommendation is to create a parking enterprise fund with revenues from current parking.
      - Another recommendation is to create a parking infrastructure fund among the downtown businesses and community.
  - Parking for new development
    - Recommendation is to create a parking impact fee as a revenue source to offset the impacts of new development.
- Next steps
  - Public open house August 23.
  - Meet with Downtown Business Association September 12.
  - Submission to Council October 2.

#### Discussion

- John Schroeder stated he liked the neighborhood parking permit and wondered if other cities are doing this. Randy Hensley stated Boulder doing it effectively and he has been talking to other cities and has learned how to avoid some pitfalls.
- To answer Nancy York, Randy Hensley stated the City is not ready to lobby CSU to prohibit freshmen from having cars.
- To answer Greg McMaster, Randy Hensley stated a 2 hour time limit is not a solution to parking in neighborhoods.

- Greg McMaster asked if they can get 60%-70% agreement in neighborhoods for permit parking. Randy Hensley stated they have had many open houses over many years, and have never gotten 50% agreement. Since the impacts to neighborhoods are increasing, there needs to be a tool in place if the neighborhoods determine they need help with neighborhood parking.
- John Schroeer asked, since we have an aging population, is there any consideration to provide more handicap parking. Randy Hensley stated yes, that program is already in place. They have been adding 6 – 10 new handicap spaces per year until every block downtown is up to standard.
- John Schroeer suggested there be designated part-time handicap parking spaces in the evening. Randy was not familiar with this concept and stated enforcement could be difficult. If this is necessary, the handicapped community should contact Parking Services.
- Dennis Georg asked what mechanisms can the City use to require established development pay for more parking. Timothy Wilder stated they do not want to burden any one sector, but use a distributed approach. There are some districts that are paying a mil levy to support parking for their business area. To increase this levy would take a vote of the businesses affected. To answer Dennis Georg, Timothy Wilder stated the City is not looking at on-street paid parking at this time, so revenue will have to come from other sources.
- Hugh Mackay stated he thought permit parking would help alleviate traffic congestion from parties in neighborhoods. Randy Hensley stated the permits would not be effective at night unless the neighborhoods request it and Council gives permission because it is a rights issue.
- Nancy York suggested having a “special occasions” permit. Randy Hensley stated he knows of other communities that do this and there are a variety of mechanisms to implement this, however, no process is perfect.
- Nancy York thought a business should be assessed to provide parking for their employees according to the size and income of the business so it does not penalize smaller businesses.
- To answer Hugh Mackay, Randy Hensley stated the City parking garages are regularly not full because there is not enough demand to fill the parking garages. People usually don’t want to walk more than 2 blocks. Therefore, the City subsidizes the parking garages. Hugh also suggested giving a business and employee a discounted parking fee in the parking garages as an incentive to park there. Randy Hensley stated he is already in conversations with business owners about this.
- Dennis Georg stated he did not think this parking plan goes far enough to reduce the impact on air quality of vehicles driving around looking for parking places. He thought the triggers indicate it is time to implement on-street paid parking. He also liked the idea of neighborhood permits. Timothy Wilder stated harder choices are dependent on a cooperative approach with downtown businesses.
  - Brian Woodruff stated if on-street paid parking is not implemented now, what does Parking Services expect downtown businesses to say when this issue comes up in the future. Randy Hensley pointed out the business community is not necessarily opposed to paid parking. They first want to be involved in the decision making process because it affects their livelihoods.
- Dave Dietrich was not sure there is adequate signage to indicate where public parking is downtown. Randy Hensley stated there are about 50 parking signs. Currently they are upgrading and repositioning the signs and are working with a company to have a parking app for phones.
- Nancy York did not think it would be practical to have electric vehicle charging stations in parking garages because charges take a long time. She also didn’t think the technology was

advanced enough to spend a lot of money on them now. Randy Hensley stated the purpose of the charging stations is to give a 2 hour booster charge to get you home.

- To answer Rich Fisher, Randy Hensley stated the parking plan is scheduled to be updated every 5 years. The plan being presented is an incremental improvement and there is more to be done. This plan is a good start.
  - Hugh Mackay asked if they can add on-street paid parking before the next plan review in 5-8 years. Randy stated they could if the downtown business community agrees it is time to install them.
- Dennis Georg stated at the September AQAB board meeting he plans to make a motion to advise Council to support the Parking Plan, accelerate paid parking and implement clear requirements for new development to address parking requirements.
- Greg McMaster asked if bicycle parking is adequate downtown. Timothy Wilder stated a lot of bicycle parking is currently unused in areas of low demand. However, long-term, safe, secure bike parking is a need. They are talking about new development being required to provide bike parking, bike parking monitoring and maintenance, and a longer-term storage at a bike station.

### **Budgeting for Outcomes**

- Greg McMaster stated he was not happy with the BFO process because the boards were not afforded appropriate time to weigh in on the budget. He was concerned the AQAB has not seen the City Manager's budget yet and would like the AQAB to be able to give input on air quality items before it is finalized by Council.
- Brian Woodruff pointed out the budget will be presented to the public August 30, to Council September 11 and a public hearing on September 18.
- The group agreed to convene a special board meeting on September 4, at 5:30 pm. to discuss their formal recommendation to council.

### **Oil and Gas Air Quality Impacts Discussion**

Board members Rich Fisher and Dave Dietrich attended the Citizen Oil and Gas Advisory Committee on August 1, and provided a brief update. If the AQAB has any comments for this group, they can take them back to the next meeting.

- The Colorado Oil and Gas Commission has a lot of power and legal rights. The City of Fort Collins cannot stop oil and gas development even though Colorado has more regulations than most states about oil and gas regulations.
- The only possible action the City can take is to devise ways to mitigate the impact of oil and gas development.
- Regarding air quality, some possible suggestions the City could do were:
  - To require baseline emission and ambient concentration information for the complete emissions inventory to see what will be emitted from these sources.
  - Establish a not-to-exceed air quality concentration limit.
  - Add additional inspectors provided by the City.

### **Brief Updates and announcements**

- Bike Advisory Committee report – no report
- West Nile Virus update – Greg McMaster
  - This has been an unusual and interesting year. Mosquito populations are very low, however, the infection rate has been at a higher percentage and scattered randomly around the City.

- The vector index for adulticiding is rising and we're getting close to the end of the season.
- It is unknown if there will be any spraying.
- Adrienne LeBailey is evaluating small sections of the City for adulticiding.

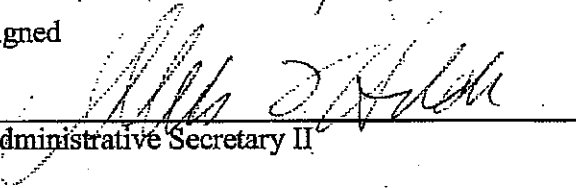
**Adjourn**

Nancy York moved and Scott Groen seconded a motion to adjourn.

Greg McMaster adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm

Approved by the Board on September 17, 2012

Signed

  
Administrative Secretary II

9 17 12  
Date / /