

**AIR QUALITY ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2014**

DATE: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2014
LOCATION: Conference Room 1B, 215 N. Mason Street
TIME: 5:30–8:00 pm

For Reference:

Rich Fisher, Chair	970-221-4389
Ross Cunniff, Council Liaison	970-420-7398
Melissa Hovey, Staff Liaison	970-221-6813

Present:

Dave Dietrich
Scott Groen
Rich Fisher
Tom Moore—left early to attend Boards and Commissions restructure meeting
Richard (Dick) Thomas
Tom Griggs

Absent:

John Shenot
Jim Dennison
Michael Lynn (resigned)

Staff Present:

Melissa Hovey, Staff Liaison
Dianne Tjalkens, Admin/Board Support
Emma Belmont, Transfort Service Planner
Mary Pat Aardrup, HSH Program Coordinator

Guests:

Bob Vangermeersch, Save Our Stadium Hughes (SOSH) member
Doug Brobst, citizen

Call meeting to order: Rich Fisher called to order at 5:30pm.

Public Comments:

None

Member Comments:

None

Review and Approval of January 27, 2014 minutes

Scott moved and Tom seconded a motion to approve the January 27, 2014 AQAB minutes as presented.
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Motion passed unanimously, 5-0-0. (Tom Griggs arrived after motion on minutes)

AGENDA ITEM 1: AQAB Forum

Rich discussed how it was a good time to raise public awareness of air quality. He asked Tom Moore to speak more on the agenda and timeline of the AQAB Forum.

Tom Moore reviewed an outline of the planned 2014 public forum. It will be a 90 minutes program including a 30 minute presentation by John Volckens regarding West Nile virus pesticide spraying, impacts from local oil and gas activities, local and regional ozone, transportation, etc. The open house section will have information tables on Healthy Homes, West Nile Virus management, renewable energy programs, and more. Tom suggested finalizing the agenda tonight.

Comments/ Q & A

- Rich said he is unsure whether John Volckens is available and setting the date may be dependent on his ability to participate. However, we should also select an alternate keynote speaker.
- Dave asked about location and whether it was selected yet.
- Tom more said selecting the date and location, with a plan B, is the first step.
- Melissa suggested the board look at a variety of community calendars including the Coloradoan, the City's website, etc. to ensure that the forum is not overlapping with other events.
- Rich suggested working out the logistics outside of the AQAB meeting.
- Melissa reminded the board that if they include an open house forum, the Council Chambers may not be the best location. The adjoining CIC could be used in conjunction, but is used frequently.
- Tom Moore will look further into dates and locations.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Transfort Route Changes

Emma Belmont, Transfort Transit Planner presented information on Transfort bus route changes to support the new Max Bus Rapid Transit system.

Emma Belmont presented a PowerPoint on proposed route changes, beginning May 2014, with the start of Max. She explained the public outreach that has occurred over the last year. February 20 all boards and commissions were invited to a City-wide projects open house. Max buses were also presented to the public. Some of the highlights of the route changes are additional east west service and extended hours of operation. She showed a map of route changes, including new routes on Horsetooth and Drake east of College, and an additional service area in the northeast sector of the city. Many of the new routes will be on 30 minute frequencies. CSU is also funding additional services, including a shuttle link between the Max and the Lory Student Center, which will be open to the public. Enhanced technology will include real time bus information available through a mobile application. There will be Max audio announcements, Google trip planning for transit, subscriptions to get bus arrival information via text or email, etc. Emma reviewed the environmental benefits of transit including reduction in VMT, GHG emissions, reduction in delayed traffic, and the phasing out of diesel buses.

Comments/ Q & A:

- Rich asked if more routes would reach the interstate. Emma said the Harmony transit line stops at Lady Moon and the northern bus line runs to the Budweiser plant, but not to the freeway. CDOT is starting a service for I-25 and transit will work toward reaching the interstate when that is brought online.
- Melissa asked about the number of CNG buses as opposed to diesel. Emma said the City is at 80% CNG currently and working toward replacing the remainder.
- Rich asked what input was used to design the routes. Emma said the strategic plan of 2009 set forth three phases of build out. The strategic plan included community feedback. Route 14 on Mulberry and Vine was not included in that plan, because they were unaware of the housing that was coming into that area, but adjusted their plans to accommodate.
- Dick mentioned the new student housing having a large amount of parking and expecting those students to use cars. He asked if those students could be accommodated on transit. Emma said we could make a dent in that traffic with students using transit. A shuttle route is proposed on Lincoln to link to Max and go to CSU.
- Dave suggested requiring the developer to provide a shuttle. Emma said there was a development at Blue Spruce that was required to provide a shuttle.
- Dave said the City extends three miles to the south of Harmony, but there are no lines there. Emma said there was a lot of push in the last budget cycle to extend service Lemay to Trilby, but Council chose not to extend to that area at the time due to competing needs in the City.
- Rich asked how the BFO process works. Emma said they propose their core offers and enhancement offers go to City Council during the budgeting cycle. There is a ranking process and a line must be drawn due to funding. There is no dedicated transit funding.
- Rich asked if when the routes were designed, there was data on how many people are expected to ride the transit. Was low ridership expected in the south? Emma said yes. The area is lower density. Rich asked if there was socioeconomic data on the types of riders. Emma was unsure. She said density is their primary indicator. They are trying to prepare more in depth ridership software, but have been held up in the process. [Clarification of information: Transfort does include socioeconomic data that is included in Census Data to make the ridership projections for all new and existing routes. This information was provided after the meeting following Emma's discussion with the staff member who prepares the ridership projections.]
- Melissa asked about the street widening issue and how some of the funds are supposed to be dedicated to transit, but there has not been enough political clout to get it dedicated. Emma said the street improvements qualify the bus stop improvements as going toward transit, which is fairly minimal.
- Mary Pat asked about Turnberry. Emma explained the concept of enhanced travel corridors (ETC), Mason Corridor being the first ETC to be built out. Others include Harmony Road, for example and Mountain Vista is also an ETC that would be in the vicinity of Turnberry. Harmony Road is also an enhanced travel corridor, which includes multimodal transportation improvements.
- Melissa asked if there are specific input points for a board when improvements are made to help promote transit. Emma said the board can let Council know that transit improvements should be a priority. She clarified that Transfort is funded through the general fund, the same as all other departments, while transit systems in other cities are funded by a sales tax or other fund. Transfort cannot plan to expand because they are never sure how much funding they will get.
- Rich asked the difference in budget for the new routes versus the old. Emma said \$14 million versus \$8 million. It is a significant increase. They get some federal funding and have an agreement with CSU, but funding is predominantly general fund.

- Rich added that if there are specific opportunities for the board to weigh in, the board would like to know. Emma said Transfort could come to the board with developed BFO offers for support.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Healthy Sustainable Homes, Volunteer Recruitment and Training

Mary Pat Aardrup, HSH Program Coordinator presented information on this important indoor air quality program and the upcoming training of volunteers.

Mary Pat Aardrup presented a PowerPoint on the Healthy Sustainable Homes program. The program premise is that the EPA found the majority of Americans spend 90% of their time indoors and indoor air quality is 70-90% worse than outdoor air. The purpose of the program is to reduce air pollutants in the home. One quarter of families in Fort Collins have a member with a respiratory problem. The program is free and volunteer driven. The volunteers are trained by experts in the field. The assessments are done by request. Mary provided a handout on strategies they use, such as keeping the inside of the house dry, clean, safe, ventilated, pest free, and contaminant free. She said we have significant problems in our community with cockroaches. They teach people how to use the integrated pest management system, including sticky traps, copper mesh, etc. Volunteers suggest people remove paint and other hazardous chemicals and test for radon. They look at how the buildings are maintained as well, and provide low to no cost solutions. Volunteers make 3 to 5 recommendations per home. They radon test every home and work with them on mitigation if necessary. Of the homes they have assessed that have gone through the 6 month follow up, they have 78% compliance with the recommendations. There is training in April to become a volunteer and Mary asked board members to consider becoming Master Home Educators.

Comments/ Q & A:

- Rich said this is an eye opener for those who have been primarily concerned with outdoor air quality. He said it is amazing what he has found, and it is sometimes difficult to make only 3-5 suggestions. Mary said there was a family with a child and the mother was pregnant. The volunteer came out and the house was very clean, but they installed CO detectors and 2 months after the child was born the detectors went off and most likely saved the family members lives.
- Dave asked how many volunteers participate. Mary Pat said 63 volunteers performed 103 inspections last year and help with other things like marketing, databases, etc. Dave asked what the refresher time is. Mary Pat said 4 times per year she gives topical refreshers on subjects such as furnaces, updates on the program, etc.
- Dick said he is on the West Nile Virus committee and he knows that bats eat mosquitos and sees on the handout that people are to look for signs of bats. He hopes that is not to exterminate them. Mary Pat said it is to keep them out of the house only. Dick mentioned not seeing pets on the handout. Mary Pat said volunteers help people understand the importance of minimizing the impact of pets on respiratory problems and how to do this.
- Doug Brobst asked if a volunteer went to a rental that had real health issues, does the program have authority to contact the owner? Mary Pat said one of the agreements is to not come between an owner and tenant. They have a resource list for tenants who have significant problems with lead, asbestos, etc.
- Mary Pat asked board members to share the information on becoming a volunteer with their networks. They have 10 positions available.

- Dave asked if there are any household hazardous waste collection events coming up. Mary Pat said there will be two coming up and you can drop off at the landfill four days a week.
- Rich requested that Mary Pat host a table at the Air Quality Forum.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Carbon Footprint of Proposed CSU Stadium

Bob Vangermeersch, Save Our Stadium Hughes (SOSH) member, presented his findings on calculating the carbon footprint for the construction of the proposed stadium at CSU.

Bob Vangermeersch was invited by member Dick Thomas. SOSH is working on trying to stop the building of a new stadium. His group feels that the stadium is a loser economically and ecologically. He handed out a list of organizations the group has spoken with to try to determine the carbon footprint of the new stadium. The major help has come from the Good Company in Eugene Oregon that directed him to a feasibility study on a carbon neutral stadium in another country. In that study was a chart describing the embodied carbon emissions of 10 stadiums, using various materials and differing seating capacities. He used this information to extrapolate an estimate of embodied carbon. The unknown factor is the materials that will be used to build the new stadium. His conclusion is that the new stadium will emit about 90,000 metric tons of carbon into the atmosphere. He visited Mississippi State University, which is studying diesel emissions of 18-wheeler trucks. He found that the emissions of building a new stadium are approximately equivalent to 753 diesel trucks idling for 9 years. The emissions won't all occur in Fort Collins as construction materials will be produced elsewhere. He is looking for other benchmarks and asking other universities that are building stadiums for studies. His group believes that someone owes the citizens of Fort Collins an environmental assessment on what this stadium will do. He understands it is a complex issue.

Comments/ Q & A:

- Rich asked if the carbon footprint is his main objection to the stadium. Bob said he started looking at it from an economic/business standpoint. He wants the university to produce engineers to change the world, not sports stars. CSU may see more donations as a result of building a new stadium, but the money will go to athletics, not academics. The budget for athletics is \$30 million a year. CSU loses \$15 million per year. The cost to finance the stadium is somewhere between \$20-50 million per year. You cannot get enough out of state students to meet a \$50 million dollar loss. The new stadium will have 3500 new seats. For every seat you are burning 50,000 pounds of carbon. It doesn't make sense financially or ecologically. He would like to see a resolution to City Council that the community is owed an impact study.
- Scott said CSU is not in the City of Fort Collins. Between Jack Graham and Tony Franks, there is nothing the City can do other than not providing the infrastructure to build it. He has not heard what the City is going to do to improve the sewer system to accommodate the stadium. Bob Vangermeersch handed out cards with a link to a survey. At the City Council meeting last week he met an expert on infrastructure and asked how much it would cost to meet the infrastructure needs of a new on-campus stadium. \$28-35 million in upgrades was the estimate.
- Dave said a CSU has all of the tools necessary to perform a total environmental assessment and trains student on how to perform them. Bob Vangermeersch said he agrees 100%, but that the university will

not speak with him. Dave suggested continuing to present this idea to the community. Additionally, the AQAB is asking for more air quality assessments for new developments within the City.

- Doug Bobst said this was done with the mall renovation. Melissa said the environmental footprint for the mall was not made public. Bob Vangermeersch said you cannot build without carbon consequences. You must look at the cost versus benefit. There is a constraint on decibels at Hughes stadium for concerts and should this be moved into town?
- Dave said you cannot fill anything big enough to bring in these big venues.
- Rich said there is enough construction going on with apartments, and he is unsure that the GHG argument is going to get us anywhere. It is a poor use of resources to build a new stadium when we have one already. You can make arrangements to get students to Hughes. From a resource management point of view it is excessive and those resources could be used better elsewhere. Bob Vangermeersch said it is death by 1000 cuts. This is one cut, but what do you have to lose by going to Council and requesting an environmental assessment?
- Dave said to challenge the university to do it and if they don't there is a big cut. Bob Vangermeersch said he attended a lecture from environmentalists who were speaking about other countries and he asked about the carbon emissions of the stadium.
- Rich said the AQAB has made the point to Council that GHG goals need to be revised in the City. CSU's built environment impact includes massive construction of apartment complexes. If you want to be comprehensive in discussing CSU's carbon emissions, all of their building needs to be addressed.
- Dave said the whole university is expected to grow significantly over the next few years. We should make sure the City thoroughly assess the impact of these built environment activities.
- Tom Griggs added that his main reaction to the stadium is that it is a large enough single project that it ought to be something we develop consensus on, rather than giving up on the matter. He would like to see the AQAB mentioning the Hughes stadium explicitly. A lot of fresh air helps make a wiser decision. He wants to keep the topic visible.
- Rich asked if it was sufficient to ask the 5-board group to add the stadium to its discussions. They will not be meeting again until April 1. This ad hoc entity does not have any power, but is a clearing house of information to take to the boards for action. Scott said if we made a recommendation to Council, Rich could take it to the ad hoc committee and inform them of it. Scott said he does not think there is a majority on the AQAB that wants this stadium. Rich said outside of the board, he agrees, but from the perspective of the board, do we have a statement to make?
- Melissa said in regard to GHG, traffic, emissions, etc. this board can make a statement. The stadium won't need a land use permit, so how and where do we require them to do impact studies on connections to water and sewer, transit, etc.? Information from boards asking Council to work with CSU to analyze those impacts might be beneficial.
- Rich said the board can put together a list of questions. He knows there will be traffic problems but it will be 8 Saturdays per year. Rich asked members to record their comments and email to the board.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Decision Making Fact Sheet and LUC and DR Revisions

Dick Thomas lead a discussion on a decision making strategy as well as his proposed revisions to the land use code and development review process that may benefit air quality.

Dick said the board's position is to be proactive and report directly to Council. The 2014 work plan states that the board will review land use codes. He lives three blocks from the stadium. For two years the neighborhood fought Campus Crest student housing. The land use code is a linear document. An example is a development is farmed out to engineers that work for the City. The land use planner looks at the requirements for street width, setbacks from sidewalk to building, etc.; it is all very precise, and that is how the blue prints are approved. Dick looked at the land use codes for air quality and said they give a general standard about applicable state requirements. The residential building standards have setbacks for windmills and that is all he found regarding environmental requirements that are explicit in the land use codes. The air quality plan talks about focusing on sources, rather than pollutants, including wood-burning stoves and fireplaces. The City offers incentives to replace wood-burning fireplaces. Regarding development fees, he has developed a fact sheet. He recommends no new or rehab residential buildings will have indoor or outdoor wood-burning fireplaces. He would like this sent to City Council to add to the land use codes. He thinks this process can be used for solar orientation for new residential and commercial and other concepts.

Comments/ Q & A

- Dave said it is his understanding that you cannot build with wood stoves in the City at this time. Melissa said there are a variety of codes (building, fire, municipal, etc.) that have air quality statements in all of them, but there are not large air quality codes in any of them. Dave added that residents can have chimineas outside and Melissa clarified that there is a fire code about how outdoor fireplaces can be constructed. Dave said there must be radon mitigation for all new construction in Fort Collins, but in what code is that located?
- Melissa asked if Dick was recommending taking on wood burning stoves in existing construction. He said yes. He mentioned that there are codes for distance between electrical outlets, etc. but he cannot find the wood burning stove codes. Rich said you cannot install open burning fireplaces in new construction.
- Dick said he thought Fort Collins building codes did not prohibit wood burning stoves. Melissa offered to search for the specific code regarding these stoves.
- Dave added that the outdoor stoves are getting complaints. Melissa said the City gets complaints on outdoor and indoor wood burning fireplaces. She goes to the homes and discusses the complaints. She requests compliance with nuisance codes, and Neighborhood Services can get involved if necessary.
- Dick would like the group to consider this technique for other topics such as solar oriented homes. Melissa said there are land use codes for solar orientation, but perhaps they are not as strong as they could be. Very soon we will be taking up making land use code changes regarding fugitive dust and the green built environment. There is also a City process for land use code changes, but this is a great tool to determine which codes this board would like to take on. After that, there is a process we will need to undergo.
- Rich added that it would be interesting to bring together all the pieces of codes that apply to air quality. Dave agreed it would be good to review these. Melissa said they are not extensive, but are spread out over various types of codes. She can show interested members how to access those codes.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Updates

West Nile Virus Policy Issues

- Dick will be attending the meeting Thursday. There is a technical advisory committee (TAC) and a panel. Rich explained these two entities. The technical teams' mission is to determine policy. The role of the panel is to advise Darin Atteberry whether spraying should occur after the County gives the signal. Rich feels that the checklist is not a clear tool and the technical advisory committee is fractured and may not be able to help the process become codified. The League of Women Voters is organizing another group of experts to discuss the issues around spraying. He has learned that the objective for spraying is to kill mosquitos, not to prevent West Nile Virus. There is no mention of nuisance spraying either. He welcomes comments.
- Dave added that the meeting is this Thursday at 6:30 and is open to the public. He said the TAC is deciding when to spray. He asked how the data on how many people have contracted West Nile is tracked. He thinks the statistics are very poor because many who get West Nile Virus do not report it. He would like to see the number of cases compared to the increase in Larimer County population.
- Rich added that many of us have the West Nile Virus in us, but it has not manifested. Dave asked if one could be tested for immunity.
- Melissa asked how much involvement Rich and Dick have with Greg McMasters. Rich and Dave said they have had meetings with him. Melissa said Greg McMasters played a role in making sure the City enforced its policy. Rich said that the process is currently flawed.

Greenhouse Gas Goals and 5 Board Meeting

- Dave emphasized that the 5-board group does not have any power. Recommendations will come to the AQAB and the board can endorse the recommendations, or not.
- Melissa added that there is a summary in the packet regarding the proposal for GHG goals revisions. It was supported by Council and the summary shows the direction Council provided.

CDPHE O&G Rules

- Not discussed.
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AGENDA ITEM 6: Announcements and Future Agenda Items

- Rich said that elections will be delayed until the April meeting. Come prepared to volunteer. He may not be able to attend the March meeting. Members should send future agenda items to Melissa.
 - Melissa said the new oil and gas regulations have been approved. City staff was actively engaged in that process and one staff recommendation has been approved. Melissa provided a summary.
 - Melissa announced the State of the City meeting and invited board members to attend.
 - Melisa reminded board members that the staff liaison is responsible for the agenda and to filter ideas through her. The final agenda is approved by the chair. She would like at least two weeks' notice.
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Adjournment

Scott moved to adjourn. Rich seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Approved by the Board on March 17, 2014

Signed



Dianne Tjalkens, Administrative Clerk II

3.18.14

Date

