

Air Pollution Control Commission – Minutes

Tuesday March 21, 2017, 6:00 P.M.

**City of Fairbanks, City Hall
Fairbanks City Council Chambers**

APCC Commissioners Present

Kathleen Hook – Chair
Larry Duffy
Kent Severns
Cathy Cahill
Mike Pollen
Thomas Douglas

FNSB Transportation Department / Air Quality

Mayor Kassel
Nick Czarnecki
Todd Thompson

APCC Commissioners Absent

Maegan Weltzin

Ex-Officio member: Christopher Quist – Absent

Others: City of FBKS Chief of Staff Mike Meeks
FNSB Chief of Staff Jim Williams
City of North Pole, Mayor Ward

6:00 pm Meeting Called To Order

INTRODUCTION

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Chair Kathleen Hook, and the Commission was introduced.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

For the approval of the January 31 meeting minutes, Commissioner Cahill points out that she is listed as both being present and absent. She said she was absent. Thomas Douglas said he was absent as well. All commissioners approved these edits, and the edited minutes were approved unanimously.

MESSAGES FROM THE BOROUGH MAYOR

Mayor Kassel states that we had a very productive day with all the visitors we had in town, including State DEC and EPA. We have been meeting all day on how to move forward. This has been a good working group.

MESSAGES FROM THE CITY OF FAIRBANKS MAYOR

On behalf of Mayor Jim Matherly, Chief of Staff Mike Meeks welcomes all to City Hall, and said he will be here for the meeting if there are any questions.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

-Joseph Copeland, speaks to he owns Biotech Industries which has a patent on masonry heaters, can build one in two days. He has been a part of the wood stove change out program, and just did their first trade in out in North Pole from an outdoor wood boiler to one of his masonry heaters, and the Borough provide \$12,000 in reimbursement towards the cost of the masonry heater. www.biotechindustries.com

-Greg Egan, speaks to a citizens science project on air quality and neighborhood monitors NHM, compared to a BAM1020 monitor. Did a co-locate between these two types of monitors, and shows a graph showing the comparison. Talks about the correlation. Explains how they ran both monitors.

-Willow Leaves, speaks to she is one of the kids from Kids for Environmental Action, wants to speak out for her friends and others who have asthma, and says that herself and other people can't wait until "someday" to get the air cleaned up, it has to be now, it can't be someday because they already have heart problems and breathing problems. We are stewards of the earth, and if we don't take care of it, we won't be able to carry on, and feels that people don't know this, that they are responsible for the environment. People want to have freedom and heat the way they want, but we can't have freedom if heating the way we want gets onto other peoples property and hurts them. Just like you can't go and cut down other people's trees on their property or go on their property and destroy it? It's just like wood boilers, why would you be able to go and burn your wood boiler and smoke up someone's property and make them get sick from it, when you are not allowed to go and chop down trees and other stuff on their property? And that's what I don't get, you can pollute on their property, but you can't go physically on it and I think that needs to be changed, especially in North Pole. Commissioner asked how to get in touch with KEA, can call 799-2887 and leave a message.

-Sylvia Daeumichen, here to support her daughter, wants everyone to move forward as fast as possible so we don't have to live through another winter with wood boilers, and thanks everyone for working on this so their children don't have to grow up with asthma, or people who are elderly that get diseases caused by this kind of air pollution.

-Jeanne Olson, speaks to being active in clean air, and that Citizens for Clean Air is about science, and recognizes that science has become politicized again and again, and we area really concerned about the air, not the political side of the issue. Speaks about the citizen scientist and the testing of the air with the BAM and NHM monitors. We have a lot of things to do this year, neighborhood surveys, websites...

-Nancy Kuhn, moved here in 1975, and before that lived in Germany, and she had a cough in Germany, and decided to move to Alaska, there is a clean place, moved to Eielson, found North Pole and thought it was worse than Germany. Now moved to the hills above, cleaner there, and then a nearby neighbor got wood boilers, and their smoke rolls down hill to where she lives. She is asking the commission to bite the bullet, we all deserve the right to breath air that is not unhealthy. We have to look out for our citizens, and not just those who holler that loudest for their freedoms.

-Patrice Lee, tonight we have revolved around the economics of air pollution, and we need to include the cost of health care when looking at air pollution. Gives some examples of high costs of medical procedures and other medical costs associated with health issues from air pollution. We don't have a complete economic cost of this issue in our community if we don't include the cost of taking care of people who get sick from breathing dirty air. Encourages us to take a look at the economics in all areas of this situation, and integrate it into the solution.

-Dana Fowlkes, speaks to the fact that the fire back in 2004 left a lot of dead standing trees, kiln dried, that does not have any access because the borough won't build any roads out there. This winter has been cold, explains the savings by burning wood compared to how much oil would be used, and says there are economic impacts when the cost of oil is so high, because there is not as much disposable income. Agrees with Patrice and Jeanne to burn as clean as possible, but to put a blanket statement on everyone that burning is bad when we are trying to burn responsibly is why we are fighting back.

NEW BUSINESS

--PM2.5 Nonattainment Control Measures presentations including: Serious Area control measure requirements; review of successful controls implemented in Region 10 and other communities;next steps in evaluating feasibility of implementing additional controls in the FNSB.

Tim Hamlin, Director of Air and Waste for EPA Region 10, states that we are here to work collaboratively with ADEC and FNSB to address the challenge of clean air and warm homes. We need to be thinking broadly and creatively about what's going to work best. It is a pleasure to be here, our message is we want to work with you, and I think what you will see tonight is some of the things that will work well. Introduces Justin Spinello from EPA for a presentation.

Justin Spenillo from EPA gives presentation on successes in managing wood smoke in Idaho, Oregon and Washington, which have similar issues that FNSB has. Summarizes that areas that have been successful have had strong local leadership, engagement with the public, and strong curtailment program with strong enforcement and compliance. Gives details on 5 different areas that have dealt with this.

Todd Thompson from the Borough gives presentation of the list of current Borough air quality control measures and regulations.

Bob Dulla from Sierra Research gives presentation on the State and Boroughs preparation on going to serious nonattainment status for PM2.5, and gives a talk on control measures, with a focus on Best Available Control Measures, (BACM). Explains that we have to look at what other control measures other communities have adopted with similar air quality issues, and implement the ones that you can in your area. Talks in great detail on the process and on individual controls that we will have to look at as we move into the serious status.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

-Jeanne Olson, speaks to the fact that you can burn wood correctly and contribute very little. At this time we have pretty low oil prices right now, and there has not been any real difference in the air pollution, so it's not really about low oil prices. Would like to see the Borough be a little more kind to pellet burners during restrictions because they burn with low emissions. Would like to see the commission meet more than quarterly. Would like to see the public engagement on reasons why people should consider doing some of the things to help reduce PM2.5, like plugging cars in or changing out your old wood stove.

-Nancy Kuhn, speaks to the importance of people to upgrade their homes (efficiency); making available cheaper loans for builder a more efficient house because it is more expensive.

-Joan Franz, speaks to the need to ban coal and wood burning hydronic heaters, removal by end of 2017, with a waiver program. Speaks to other wood burning practices and programs for better controls on wood burning.

-Patrice Lee, speaks to the NOASH program, needs to be more rigorous and a few more questions asked, concerned about the build up of the F35s. Need more public disclosure of the data we collect, sniffer study data, and weekly newspaper ads about health effects.

-Greg Egan, believes that everybody in the community can benefit economically and health wise as we deal with this problem. Need volunteer outreach, more from the public, Alaskan's helping Alaskan's.

-Dana Fowlkes, speaks to the EPA about the natural gas being available in other communities, but very limited to Fairbanks area. This year, Fairbanks had 10,850 heating degree days, compared to Lakeview Oregon

with 5,544 heating degree days, Klamath Oregon had 4, 904 heating degree days, showing that both of those communities combined don't reach the level that Fairbanks has. It just take so much more energy to heat our homes compared to other areas.

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS (ACTION ITEM):

Questions and comments from the commissioners to the presenters help clarify next steps for the commission. Mr. Dulla clarifies that the information just given and further recommendations will help the commission make decisions on which control measures to recommend for implementation. The measures that are more complex will take more time to analyze. Mr. Spenillo clarifies that for EPA to give credit for measures to be implemented, they need to be permanent and enforceable, and that voluntary and outreach programs are necessary, but hard to quantify. Mr. Hamlin agrees with Mr. Spenillo that you will get credit for a curtailment program, and the additional elements (outreach and voluntary) will help us get there, all the better.

Commissioner Pollen points out that in each of the examples Mr. Spenillo gave of the five communities in the north west that had successful outcomes, they had something that Fairbanks does not have, which is an affordable alternative clean energy source. As this commission moves forward, we have to keep this point in front, and strive for affordable natural gas.

Commissioner Severns expresses concern about burning enforcement and opacity issues. Much discussion on using opacity as a tool for gross emitters is an effective tool.

Further discussion on serious status, economic, health and other issues, and when will the serious SIP will get done.

NO ACTIONS WERE TAKEN.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

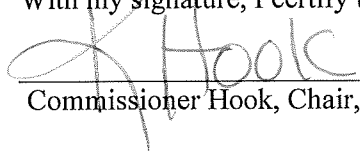
Commissioner Duffy – Thanks public for coming, speaks to the economics of the issue, would like to see an education program for local realtors and bankers on the heating issue, and brings up stove registration issue.

Commissioner Cahill – Thanks all for coming and participating, continue to receive ideas and concepts, and will take all of us working together to get through this.

Commission Hook – The next meeting is April 4 at the NP City Hall, and then again April 18 back here at the City Hall. We can all look for a (draft) resolution to be brought forward soon, for recommendations to the Mayor and Assembly for what can be implemented as control measures, and what can make the most amount of progress in the shortest period of time. Further out APCC meetings are July 13th and October 17th. Todd recognizes the new FNSB Air Quality manager Nick Czarnecki.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

With my signature, I certify the accuracy and completeness of the minutes above.



Commissioner Hook, Chair, FNSB Air Pollution Control Commission

DATE: 4/18/17