

Energy Innovation Task Force Meeting Notes
May-13-2016
10:00am-12:00pm

Members in Attendance: Julie Mayfield, Brownie Newman, Jason Walls, Sam Ruark, Dave Hollister, Kelly Martin, Paul Szurek, Suzanne Hackett, Ed Katz, Sonia Marcus, Toby Weas, Jane Hatley, George Jones

Councilwoman Julie Mayfield and Jason Walls discussed with the group the formation of the task force and provided an overview of the resolution, which was passed by both the County and the City. Commissioner Brownie Newman continued the conversation and described the goals and mission of the group. Members then moved into introductions.

Members of the task force were brought together based on their unique perspectives, networks and knowledge. Before the resolution was passed to form the task force, the Duke Modernization Project was announced and included the proposed construction of a third peaking unit. Following, the City invited Duke Energy into a partnership and developed a Clean Energy Framework, which the task force will expand upon. The specific goals of the task force include eliminating the need for another fossil fuel plant and transitioning to a cleaner and more efficient energy program. Achieving the goals of the task force will require a community-wide effort.

Jason Walls provided a presentation of the work accomplished by those who attended the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) retreat. The presentation included a discussion of who was involved in the retreat and the goals, objectives and strategies that were developed. As a result, the group created three approaches to address the task force's goals, which include: 1.) Programs, 2.) Technology, and 3.) Behavior. Under those three approaches, Mr. Walls described specific strategies that were discussed. Members expressed their thoughts on the work developed by the RMI group.

Councilwoman Mayfield moved forward to discuss the proposed working groups, which include: 1.) Determining Peak Reduction Goal, 2.) Communications/Marketing, and 3.) Technical Analysis. In addition, Commissioner Brownie Newman discussed the proposed process for the task force, explaining that it will work as an advisory group and proposed the use of consensus to make decisions. Also, it was proposed that Councilwoman Mayfield, Commissioner Brownie Newman, and Jason Walls act as co-chairs. Members discussed and provided feedback on the proposed process and co-chairs. It was agreed that the group will work by consensus and that Councilwoman Julie Mayfield, Commissioner Brownie Newman, and Jason Walls will act as co-chairs.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Rick Clemenzi: Discussed Net Zero and PACENC. Asked to have the ability to discuss geothermal approaches and would like to share and present information.

Steven Holsenbeck: Proposed an idea of creating a challenge for energy efficiency, which would include donor matches or a crowdsource campaign to have money be put towards new technologies.

Tim Birthiser: Proposed that measurements and tracking of carbon be discussed along with the ability to profit by reducing carbon emissions.

Mike Wasmer: Asked about the lifespan of coal plants and why there is a need for an additional peaker plant.

Grady Nance: Asked to have more information about how much peak demand there is in the area.

Richard Fireman: Expressed that he is excited about the possibilities and opportunities of the group. Asked that the County and the City push internal agendas to meet reduction goals and encourage Duke to look internally for changing their business model. Also suggested that there be an active media working group to get regular reports of the outcomes of the meetings.

Emma Greenbaum: Suggested that the group not focus too much on personal behavior but also set up a good system that people will get involved in.

Joan Walker: Discussed education and outreach that needs to happen through community-based social marketing. Suggested that someone discuss community-based social marketing at a technical meeting to discuss strategies.

Brad Rouse: Suggested a book for members to read. Asked that integrated resource planning be used to see how much peak growth attributes to different factors. Also suggested that energy efficiency in low income be a part of the mission of the church.

Ned Doyle: Asked that the community give the process and the task force the room to work together and that people be positive moving forward.

Timothy Sadler: Thanked the City and County for forming the task force. Described a product used in small home construction. Asked that there be regulations and requirements for developers to analyze net zero options.

Grant Millin: Asked that members analyze other scenarios to form next steps. Discussed Smartgrid DEEP and asked to have the chance to educate the task force on the options that are out there and discuss solutions.

The meeting ended at 12:21pm.