SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

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~Meeting Minutes~
June 16, 2020

https://www.ci.moscow.id.us/581/Agendas-and-Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve McGeehan-Chair; Fred Pollard-Vice Chair; Victoria Seever; Russ Moore; Tina Hilding; Amber Ziegler; Kristin Haltinner

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF/COUNCIL PRESENT: Kelli Cooper, Environmental Education and Sustainability Specialist; Jenifer Rossini, Administrative Assistant; Maureen Laflin, Council Member

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: David Hall; Cassandra Goodmansen; Wendy Mcclure; Jeffrey Hicke; Michael Jennings; Jo Ellen Force; Pat Rathem; George Bedririan

1. Approval of minutes from February 18, 2020-Steve McGeehan

Result: Approved
Mover: Victoria Seever
Seconder: Tina Hilding

(The SEC did not meet in March, April and May due to Covid-19.)

2. 5G in Moscow- Mike Ray and Wendy McClure

The City of Moscow Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) has been working on a draft ordinance to insert 5G regulations into the City's current telecommunications code. The SEC has discussed health concerns related to 5G and whether there might be any recommendations that can be made that don't go against federal law. The city attorney (Mia Bautista) has been working on a legal opinion that will detail the City's limitations to regulate 5G based upon health effects. P&Z and SEC will discuss a unified recommendation regarding 5G that can be advanced to Council.

ACTION: Discuss the proposed draft ordinance and legal opinion and take action as deemed appropriate.

Parts of this presentation were inaudible due to issues with Zoom meeting audio

Mike Ray gave a brief history of cellular communication. To this point it has been used to transport voice communication. Voice communication was easily handled through tall high powered towers. As time has evolved the demand for data has increased. Micro towers are being overwhelmed with wireless data traffic. 5G will be much higher data speeds and traffic. In order to meet the increasing needs, providers are deploying small cell installations

to accommodate data demand. Micro cells cover a lot larger area when compared to small cells that is why more towers are needed. Ray said there are already towers in Moscow. Ray says a lot of the new towers are going to the stealth design where the antenna is in the inside. There is also some where the antennas are mounted on structures. Usually the tallest structures or City owned structures. The City does receive a lease every month from the provider for allowing these antennas on the structures. A diagram was provided that explained how the system works. Ray then did a brief summary of the Telecommunications Act. This Act dictates that local jurisdictions have to provide telecommunications with reasonable access in the public right of way. The Act also restricts how much local governments can regulate radio frequency emissions. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) had a ruling in September 2018 that was to streamline the permitting of 5G deployment, which included the maximum fees that local governments can set. FCC has determine that when providers submit a small cell application there is a certain amount of time that local governments have to process these applications. Ray told the group that it is most likely that small cell will eventually come to the marketplace and communities will be unlikely to exclude them. It is suggested that communities:

- Stay within the Safe harbor Maximum fees or clearly document the basis of their fees.
- Establish clear aesthetic standards
- Locational and spacing standards
- Adjust permitting process to comply with the required time limits.

Ray showed diagrams from his Power Point Presentation at this moment to show different designs of installed antennas. There are existing telecommunication codes for Moscow that mainly apply to large scale antennas. He says the objectives up to this point are to minimize the amount of antennas Moscow has. Moscow requires that every tower should be able to house three antennas on their tower. There is no lighting allowed on the antenna, unless approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Moscow has no aesthetic restrictions in the code, meaning small cell would be allowed. There are many other requirements that can be found on Ray's Power Point Presentation. As well as the Draft Ordinance that Ray briefly went over. Ray touched over the legal opinion sent out by City of Moscow attorney. He summarized this document was about how much the City can restrict small cell due to health concerns. Ray said they would like to collaborate with the SEC and to move forward with a unified recommendation to City Council from both SEC and Planning and Zoning Commissions.

There was a lot of discussion in regards to how safe or unsafe 5G will be to human health. The Mill Valley California ordinance was brought up and discussed due to the fact that their ordinance prevented 5G from coming to their community. Kristin Haltinner recommended that since so much time is taken up at the monthly SEC meeting discussing the effects of 5G that perhaps a sub-group should be created. Steve McGeehan suggested the group take more time to discuss this further before entering in a unified recommendation. Tina Hilding and Haltinner wondered if the SEC should even be involved with this 5G discussion. All agreed that there needs to be an ordinance, but SEC will not be giving a recommendation at this time.

3. Climate Action Working Group- Kristin Haltinner (A)

ACTION: Receive the report and vote to share the Impact Assessment outside of the SEC.

Haltinner started by explaining the timeline that led to the creation of the Impact Assessment. In July 2019 the discussion started with Anne Zabala about developing an action plan into the strategic plan. Started and Impacts Assessment in January 2020 and in March 2020 a draft was created and sent to the Climate Action Working Group for feedback. The draft was then sent out to the SEC in April 2020 for feedback. It was then completed in May 2020. This Impact Assessment is an evaluation of how climate change will impact Moscow. The Climate Action Working Group (CAWG) has brought this plan to the SEC so they can get approval to share the plan. CAWG would like to share this document with City Council members, Citizens Climate Lobby, and available to the public. Kyle Steele will work with Haltinner on plans to publish this plan. Fred Pollard motioned to accept and release document. Tina Hilding second. McGeehan asked for a roll call vote from the members:

Hilding-Yes
Amber Ziegler-Yes
Pollard-Yes
Victoria Seever-Yes
Russ Moore-Yes
McGeehan-Yes
Cassandra Goodmansen-Yes
Haltinner- Yes

Haltinner will make the two changes requested and then send the updated PDF to SEC.

4. Announcements/Other Business

Next meeting (July 21, 2020)

Fred Pollard discussed that he's been working with a contractor on energy alternatives and would like to bring this item forward at July meeting.

Goodmansen mentioned that she would like the City of Moscow to become part of The Bee City USA program. This will be discussed at July meeting.

ADJOURN: 8:43 p.m.

Steve McGeehan, Chair *(or stamped by Deputy City Clerk)*