

TO: Planning Commission
FROM: Chane Griggs, Planning Commission President
DATE: August 25, 2020
SUBJECT: Climate Action Plan Task Force Appointment

Task Force Appointment:

I am appointing Commissioner Kopcho to represent the Planning Commission on the Climate Action Plan (CAP) Task Force. Commissioner Kopcho will be charged with participating on the Task Force and reporting to the Commission the progress on the CAP.

Task Force Details:

The Task Force will be comprised of approximately 40 people, composed of a cross section of community and organizational stakeholders representing sectors such as education, business, vulnerable populations, insurance, finance, tourism, public health, transportation, energy, environment, neighborhoods, one planning commissioner and two city councilors. Task Force members will be asked to participate in four virtual workshops over the course of the next 17 months. Workshops are tentatively scheduled for three hours each, during normal business hours; it is expected between two to three hours of work will be needed in between workshops. Each workshop will be interactive and designed to elicit the collective wisdom of the individuals selected to serve. The workshops will contain both offline and online components. Members will be asked to read and review certain documents ahead of the meetings, to participate in online surveys, to participate in videoconference meetings, to share information about the Climate Action Plan with your contacts, and to answer questions and provide feedback throughout the process.

The Task Force meetings will be public meetings and there will be other opportunities for the public to engage in this process. Working together, the City and consultant will conduct broad, inclusive public outreach to ensure all sectors of the Salem community have opportunities to provide input and feedback throughout the development of the CAP.

Background:

The City of Salem is beginning an 18-month process to develop a Climate Action Plan. The CAP will help guide municipal and community efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to prepare for and adjust to the impacts of climate change.

The CAP will identify goals, targets, and timelines, and it will provide the strategies, actions, and policies that will be used to reach the identified targets. The Cap will describe the actions governments, businesses, organizations, and the community can take to help achieve the goals. Actions identified in the CAP will lead to climate-related benefits for the community in the near term and will serve as the foundation for sustained forward movement toward longer-term community goals and targets.

Development of the Climate Action Plan began in July 2020 and it will be completed by December 2021.

***Our Salem* Coordination:**

This CAP project will be closely coordinated with *Our Salem*, the City's ongoing project to update the Salem Area Comprehensive Plan, as these strategies are likely to achieve multiple overlapping community goals.

Attachments:

1. None.