

**CITY OF SILVERTON
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES**

3:00 P.M.

June 16, 2020

The Environmental Management Committee of the City of Silverton met via Zoom platform on June 16, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. with Chairperson Plummer and Member Schuetz residing.

I. OPENING CEREMONIES – Call To Order & Roll Call

Chairperson Plummer called the Meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Present	Absent	
X	_____	Chairperson Plummer
X	_____	Vice-Chair Rachel Hiller
X	_____	Beth Finnson
X	_____	Jaime Fuhrman
X	_____	Richard Freeman
_____	X	Dawn Hemstreet
X	_____	Seth Thompson
X	_____	Petra Schuetz, Public Works Director; <i>Ex-Officio Member</i>
X	_____	Travis Comfort, Republic Services; <i>Ex-Officio Member</i>

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Schuetz (Chairperson Plummer experiencing internet issues asked Member Schuetz to run the meeting) called for a motion to approve minutes from the Regular Meeting held on May 19, 2020. Member Freeman made a motion to approve; Chairperson Plummer seconded the motion. All were in favor of approval of minutes as written.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ammon Benedict submitted a request by email on June 15, 2020, for the EMC to discuss replacing the Police Department Dodge Charger with an electric vehicle. Chairperson Plummer noted that a police vehicle is not likely to be purchased during the next Fiscal Year but said that looking at electric options was a good idea. Member Schuetz said they would be able to discuss with upcoming discussions. Member Freeman asked if the Police Department has had input in the decision. Member Schuetz said yes, they have concerns over hybrid performance. She said the SUV hybrid for the Chief might be a good candidate. She noted the benefit of idle time reduction. Member Freeman discussed some errors in the document that Mr. Ammon sent but noted the document was from another agency.

IV. DISCUSSION/ACTION NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Transportation Systems Plan (TSP) Draft Review

Member Schuetz screen shared a PowerPoint related to the update process for the Transportation Systems Plan (TSP) for the City of Silverton. She said the City is not preparing the draft plan and the first City Council hearing will be in August; the Planning Commission presentation will be in July. She noted that the goals stayed the same as the 2008 TSP to maintain consistency between plans. She noted streets which have been changed from collector to constrained collectors. She said she added a circulation component to the plan. She touched on the project list with a breakdown of costs for each type of project. She said the Council prioritized the projects and all are bicycle/pedestrian. She noted the recommended policy and code amendments.

Member Freeman said the draft document was well written; he asked if there was a light rail discussion. Member Schuetz said no. Member Freeman said he has never seen a train on the tracks and asked if it is used. She said it is used north of town but rarely comes through town.

She said the railway has not been maintained and they have talked to the owners about a potential rail to trail project. She said the owners wanted to do an economic analysis and it came back benign. Member Freeman said rail structure improvement is extremely expensive and could be used somewhere else. He said he noticed that Pioneer Village on the maps is sparse.

Member Freeman noted the work at home option and said in light of what is happening this may need to become more prominent in the future. Member Schuetz said as incident command for the City during the Pandemic, one of the positives has been decreased environmental impact due to teleworking. She said she would like to look in to that potential for the City long term. Chairperson Plummer said telecommuting is now a more universally acceptable option.

Chairperson Plummer talked about the rail company not wanting to give up the rail use option for rails to trail. He said there was a discussion of a possible rail next to trails option. He said the county had discussed looking at the economic options to keep the rails. He noted several businesses in adjacent communities which utilize the rail. Member Schuetz said it might be time to look at it again.

Member Schuetz asked if the Committee wanted to make a formal recommendation related to the TSP. Chairperson Plummer said that since the EMC was not involved in the draft, unless there is opposition, he would prefer to just give verbal approval.

Member Fuhrman asked how the Safe Routes to School quarter mile radius around schools related to where kids actually live. Member Schuetz said the City realizes there are other locations that have issues that are more than a quarter mile from the schools, and this is accounted for in the TSP. She noted the project at First Streets and Jefferson Street which is more than a quarter mile from the schools. Chairperson Plummer said this also came up at Council and they decided to leave it as-is. Chairperson Plummer said the Council sees it as a broader area. He noted the ODOT project page up for the Jefferson Street crossing. Member Schuetz said one of the City Council goals was to apply for the TGM grant and if accepted, the funding will allow for more refinement.

4.2 Review 2019 List of EMC Goals

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the March 19, 2019 EMC meeting at which the EMC finalized strategic planning goals. Goals were as follows: incorporate environmental issues into the Comprehensive Master Plan; provide ideas and goals when Comprehensive Master Plan is updated; Energy Plan; incentivize water conservation; encourage smaller, energy efficient houses. Chairperson Plummer said he wants to speak to members one on one to see what their goals may be and the list may be a good place to start. He let Member Fuhrman know they discussed this topic at the last meeting. Member Schuetz asked if he would meet with members between now and the July meeting. Chairperson Plummer said yes.

V. DISCUSSION/ACTION OLD BUSINESS

5.1 Downtown Smoking Ordinance

Member Hiller said she has been thinking about this topic and the Police Department letter which said they would not be able to handle enforcement. She said this support may need to happen prior to a recommendation. Chairperson Plummer said he agrees and that going with the education route and working with the Chamber for distribution might be a good resource for businesses. Member Schuetz said City Council does not have this on the upcoming agenda but she will continue to let them know what the EMC is discussing.

VI. COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

Member Schuetz asked is anyone had communications. She said the City manager has asked that the Climate Action Plan be reviewed/presented at the July meeting. She said implementation ideas for the plan will be discussed through the EMC.

Chairperson Plummer brought up the Transportation Advisory Committee's role and said that the Committee may be dissolved. He said the EMC may then take over those topics. He then said a

survey was released for the City today, from the Civic Center architectural firm. He encouraged members to look at the survey and view the presentation. He said this is the first citizen input opportunity and that there will be more down the road. Member Schuetz said sustainable construction is a feature of this project including recycled water and solar.

Member Freeman asked to go back to the smoking ordinance. He said he thinks it has merit but should be on hold. Member Hiller said she thinks another round of post-COVID surveys might be completed to see if attitudes have changed. Member Fuhrman made a motion to leave the smoking ordinance discussion on the table. Member Freeman seconded. Member Schuetz called for any comments. All were in favor of tabling for a future date.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Chelsea Starner, Public Works Coordinator