GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Commission on Climate Change and Resiliency

AGENDA

22 May 2019
4:00 – 6:00 pm

- Call to Order, Welcome - Kevin Clinton
- Updates from Government:
  - Office of the City Administrator, Resilient DC – Kevin Bush
  - Department of Energy and the Environment Update:
    - Carbon Neutrality Plan, Kate Johnson
    - Climate Ready DC, Melissa Deas
- Status of Summary Document - Uwe Brandes
- 2019 Workplan Status - Kevin Clinton
- Committee Discussion
  - Intro of Chairs, Co-Chairs
  - Logistics, Timeline
- Next Steps
- Adjournment

In Person:
DOEE: 1200 First Street, NE, Room 790

Call-In:
Toll Free Conference Number: 866-459-6055
Passcodes: Participant: 9112782

Meeting Minutes

The District of Columbia Climate and Resilience Commission Quarterly Meeting

Date/Time: May 22, 2019 4:00 – 6:00 pm

Location: Department of Energy & Environment
1200 First St. NE, Washington DC Room 790

Attendees *(*denotes members of the Commission on Climate Change and Resiliency)*:

Kevin Clinton*
Melissa Deas (DOEE)
Jim Dougherty*
Uwe Brandes*
Sandra Knight*
Kate Johnson (DOEE)
Alan Etter*
Maureen Holman*
Melissa Lavinson*
Jason Turner*
Peggy Keller*
Molly Rauch*
Steve Moore*
Zach (Georgetown Student)
Nick Peavy (Georgetown student)

1) Call to Order, Welcome - Kevin Clinton 4:07pm

2) Updates from Government:

- Department of Energy and the Environment Update:
    - Carbon Neutrality Plan, Kate Johnson & Jenn Hatch
        - Just kicked off grant project lead by Integral Group on how to model to carbon neutrality, expanding upon Clean Energy DC plan (which currently models to 2032) - looks at energy, buildings, transportation, and will be adding waste. Will start modeling in next few weeks
        - Vision is to come back later in the summer after modeling is done to see where the District can end up in 2050 and possible scenarios of how to get there. The goal is to come to an "ideal" scenario and then build out policy framework from that
        - Going to be looking for feedback from the Commission on those scenarios/policy framework
        - This carbon neutrality work is part of the commitment made by the Mayor to C40 – 2020 deadline for strategy – pushes cities to raise the level of ambition so as to meet the Paris Climate Accord's goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees
        - Project team will be integrating Climate Ready DC into carbon neutrality strategy – emphasis on climate resilience in addition to climate mitigation and adaptation
        - Will be defining what the District means by "carbon neutrality" - big part of the discussion as strategy development moves forward
        - **Discussion**: how are we measuring progress towards our goal?

- DC submits CDP report every year tracking GHG emissions so we are able to calculate emissions reductions
- Strict guidance on GHG accounting that DC follows – have to include a minimum amount of sources and based on that we know what to include in our modeling
- Integral is taking what was already created for the CEDC Plan and applying that to this carbon neutrality strategy

▪ Is there an opportunity for public input?
- Later down the line there will be opportunities for public comment; very much thinking about how it is presented to the average viewer and how the strategy looks to a DC resident. Will get getting feedback on the different equity lenses that we should be using to evaluate potential scenarios
- work previously done around equity and community engagement in DC can be used in this new strategy development

o Climate Ready DC, Melissa Deas
▪ Public implementation plan draft is near complete and will be shared with the Commission soon. Should anticipate a version by next week, DOEE will collect individual comments from everyone with the goal of this being wrapped up in June. Hoping for a 2 week turnaround process
▪ Design guidelines: to do guidelines well, we have to slow down the process of actually developing them; what we will be able to produce now is a "V1" that will need to be tried and tested before getting to something that is more robust and complete. In a lot of ways we need performance standards rather than guidelines, diverges from pathways of other cities who have taken a more design-centered approach
- For new buildings? What's the scope?
  - Mostly focused on major rehabs or new development. Checklist is a series of considerations/thresholds that need to be taken into account (what's the lifespan, have you considered wind, etc.), other pieces are more technical that build on the responses from the checklist – guidelines will then help answer those questions and provide guidance on development. Mostly buildings-focused, a lot of focus on waterfront development (however this is more private focused based on the makeup of development on the waterfront)
- Is there a set strategy for how the guidelines would be implemented?
  - Using Boston as a model – first released a checklist as something semi-voluntary; currently not required for private development, going to pilot in the public sector first. Working with Office of the City Administrator (OCA) and Department of General Services (DGS) to pilot

3) Status of Summary Document - Uwe Brandes

- Document is for internal use only at this point, developed by dedicated group of students at Georgetown. Genesis is with the retreat held back in January
- Qualifications: represents student work, has not been prepared in the form as academic research but rather a technical memo/tool that seeks to create a framework for the Commission's discussions (intended as a point of reference). Goal was not to reiterate things that DOEE is already doing and avoid redundancy
- Matrix of priority findings is the main focus of the document, section 7 outlines potential actions
- Pg. 3 – representation of legislation from Council
- Pg. 4 – highly abbreviated summary from January retreat, that was further refined in subsequent meetings; outcome was to establish thematic groupings of content around knowledge and risk assessment, governance and accountability, and stakeholder engagement and communications
- Methodology: Pg. 6 - summary matrix that is a crosswalk between the legislation and the 3 themes the commission has identified as management schema (column going down represents aspects of the legislation, columns across represent what the themes that the project team/Commission came up with)
    - Created specific question for each cell in the matrix in survey that was sent out
    - Cells represents synthesis of meeting notes, interviews with various staff, tried to come up with summary of priority findings that could be presented to Council in the future
- Students found a lot of innovation in the precedent set by San Francisco – the resilience planning process in SF has been directly hybridized with the capitol planning process – directly plugs resilience into high level planning processes
- Governance structure of MD Resilience Commission – is like the Resilience Cabinet mixed with this Commissions – scientists, agency staff, public members all working together on resilience goals
- Things happening in DC are simply not happening on other places in the nation, so we are not necessarily going to follow directly behind other jurisdictions because of how unique DC is
- Pg. 20 – recommendations for Commission (dedicated funding, dedicated staff, refining roles/responsibilities of Commission members, ensuring the Commission reflects the stakeholders in the city, opportunities to include other authorities)
    - Most important recommendation: thinking about the Commission's role in the financial/budget planning of the District
- Pg. 21 – recommended next steps --> big concern about the Commission's transparency - not many people know it exists; urgency to report to the Council
- Conversation with Kevin Bush – strategic role the Commission might plan in positioning all the technical work that is being done in the District in front of the Council. Resilience is not well vetted across stakeholders or in the Council
- **Discussion:**
    - What form do we see these recommendations taking?
        - Whatever form is needed (whatever paper is handed to Council)
    - What are some of the most potentially impactful aspects of San Francisco's resilience planning? Other cities?

        - The governance piece most impactful, linking resilience to the broader planning process
        - Stakeholder engagement platform in Boston – gets into neighborhood by neighborhood description of threats, explicitly identifies race and social determinants of health as a major area of threat to the city (could have strong ties to DC's planning)
        - Boston's Green Ribbon Commission – driven resources to the work being done (driving private philanthropy to support initiatives) --> one of the benefits of this Commission is that we are able to go out and engage with the private sector to support the work being done
        - NYC – work has been advanced through dedicated partnerships that engage industries/academia
        - all projects we had to fund ourselves which makes them difficult to replicate, other cities have been able to leverage other resources (like universities) to do some of that leg work
        - Driverless vehicles in Boston – funded by World Economic Forum and established a team of people working on driverless vehicles/other technologies and created a fast track of development and testing --> could do something similar to advance thinking very quickly in DC, would suggest a deep level of industry engagement
        - Should own the leadership space on this work as the nation's capital, especially now that 100 Resilient Cities is going away
        - Linking climate resilience to health impacts really explodes the amount of possibilities for partnerships and engagement
    - Regional system as a way to leverage funding – expands the stakeholder base. Do we know what COG is doing in this space?
        - COG focuses more on climate mitigation and adaptation but there are some commissions focused on climate resilience and specifically trying to come up with regional solutions to resilience
    - Are we able to raise money
        - ? Yes, managed by the government on our behalf (philanthropic, federal grants, private donations)
        - Necessitates someone staffing the Commission (too many administrative tasks) - this is a key priority moving forward
    - The report recommends more significant staffing than we had previously considered. What places have that level of staffing?
        - This is taken from Maryland
        - The report recommends 20-30 part-time employees = someone in each agency responsible for answering questions about resiliency; resilience can/should be written into job descriptions. These would not all specifically be to staff the commission.
    - Next steps?
        - Need to identify 2-3 boxes/recommendations where we get buy-in from the Council and the administration that there is a sense of importance of these topics and where the Commission is seen as the leader in this space --> work with DOEE to champion items with greatest impact and/or that no one else in the city is equipped to deal with

- Recommendations included in box – are these all for the Commission to do or just general recommendations?
  - They are examples of recommendations that the Commission could make to Council based on the Commission's responses to the survey – synthesizes the priorities of the Commission
  - Pg. 20/21 - only two pages where recommendations are being made directly to the Commission
- Will have 3 additional students working on this through the summer

4) 2019 Workplan Status - Kevin Clinton
   - The commission plans to submit a report/recommendation by the end of the fiscal year (was promised to Mary Cheh) about a 6 month delay from original statute – is this possible?
     - Process: establish 3 committees based on the 3 key themes/axes, these committees would be tasked with bringing full recommendations to the full Commission, with the help of the Georgetown students
   - Discussion
     - Seems overwhelmingly ambitious without dedicated staff – taking until the end of the calendar year would be more feasible
     - The Commission wouldn't actually be DOING the recommendations, simply identifying the key priorities to the Council in the form of a report
     - Could be Phase 1 and Phase 2, where Phase 1 is the report with the recommendations, Phase 2 is the actual work/implementation
     - Report is going to be a year to year living document, having recommendations collated together would be incredibly helpful
     - report could outline what the Council should ask of specific agencies regarding their resilience work, and could inform actual legislative requirements for agencies
     - Sept. Report would include the interim and final tasks, and then from there look at the continuing and future role of the Commission
     - Commission can rely on Climate Ready DC/Resilient DC for a lot of the recommendations/implementation
     - This is almost like a gap analysis to identify priorities of how to close those gaps and provide information on what agencies should do NOW and what they should do in the future
     - THIRA (threats and hazard identification and risk assessment) – there are existing documents that can inform these recommendations

5) Committee Discussion

- Intro of Chairs, Co-Chairs
  - Draft of committees a first stab of breaking the Commission into specific committees
  - Chairs
    - Jim & Peggy – Governance & Accountability.
    - Melissa L & Sandra K – Knowledge & Risk Management
    - Alan & Molly – Communications and Engagement
    - Executive – Kevin C.

- every member of the Commission should be actively participating in at least one committee

- Logistics, Timeline
  - May want to move up in-person meeting from Sept., also probably want to reschedule July 3rd meeting
  - Want an in-person meeting before the final delivery of Sept. 30 – maybe convert August 7th meeting to in-person
  - : next in-person meetings should be more like a working group actively engaging with the report
  - Committee co-chairs can be responsible for finding time to meet
  - Students available through mid-August – want recommendations by early July so students have time to work on them
  - Committee for how to take recommendations to Council
  - Can all Commission members have access to one collaborative Google Doc?
  - DOEE as a resource for existing resources, what's legislatively required, what's happening already in the District, what's the process to transmit a report
    - PPT acceptable form of a report
  - Any email can be used for Google Drive if sharing settings are set correctly - don't need a specific Gmail account
  - Going to explore setting up a basic website for the Commission
    - OCTO can set up website, just needs someone with authority to make the request – DOEE to explore options

5) Next Steps

- Google poll asking Commission members which committee they intend to be on, with a commitment of at least 1
- Committees need to be confirmed by June 5th - committee members plan to say a few words about their general scope of work
- Need to let DOEE know at least a few days in advance if we want to host a webinar

6) Adjournment – 6:00pm