



Climate Action Commission Meeting

Monday, March 13, 2023 6:30 p.m.

318 First Street, Abbey Street Conference Room Entrance
AGENDA

Commission Members

Ken Britten

Gar House

David Springer

Olivia Rodriguez

PLEASE NOTE – The numerical order of items on this agenda is for convenience of reference. Items may be taken out of order upon request of the Commission Members. Public comments time may be limited, and speakers will be asked to state their name.

Pledge

Roll Call

Approval of Agenda

PUBLIC COMMENTS

At this time, any member of the public may address the Commission on matters, which are not listed on this agenda. Citizens should reserve their comments for matter listed on this agenda at the time the item is considered by the Commission. An exception is made for members of the public for whom it would create a hardship to stay until their item is heard. Those individuals may address the item after the public has spoken on issues that are not listed on the agenda. Presentations may be limited to accommodate all speakers within the time available. Public comments may also be continued to later in the meeting should the time allotted for public comment expire.

CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed under the consent calendar are considered routine and non-controversial, require no discussion, and are expected to have unanimous Council support and may be enacted by the City Council in one motion in the form listed below. There will be no separate discussion of these items. However, before the Commission votes on the motion to adopt, members of the Commission, staff, or the public may request that specific items be removed from the Consent Calendar for separate

discussion and action. Items(s) removed will be discussed later in the meeting as time permits.

A. December 2022 Meeting Minutes

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Open discussion items from commissioners
- B. Ongoing Items
 - a. Reports from Working Groups
 - b. Suggestions for future agenda items

ADJOURNMENT

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing agenda for the March 13, 2023 regular meeting of the Climate Action Commission was posted on the City of Winters website at www.cityofwinters.org and Commission Members were notified via e-mail of its' availability. A copy of the foregoing agenda was also posted on the outside public bulletin board at City Hall, 318 First Street on March 9, 2023, and made available to the public during normal business hours.

Ellena Branson

Ellena Branson, Deputy City Clerk

Winters Climate Action Commission (WCAC)

Minutes for December 12, 2022 Board Meeting

In Attendance: Ken Britten, David Springer, Gar House, Kirk Skierski

Absent: Pat Wall, Woody Fridae

Meeting initiated by Ken Britten

Pledge by Gar House

Two board member resigned: Woody Fridae and Patrick Wall

Minutes of both October and November 2022 approved by Board Members

Ken Britten added a discussion item for new member recruitment.

Kirk Skierski said City of Winters will advertise for the open positions and that recruiting by board members was allowed.

Dave Springer suggested an article on the open positions in the Winter Express and possibility of recruiting younger members.

Ken Britten suggested increasing the diversity of the WCAC board. This sentiment was shared by Gar House and Dave Springer.

Question was raised: Can a student be a voting member? Perhaps if from college?

Outreach to the Hispanic Advisory Commission (HAC) should be explored.

New board members do not need to be scientists. Ken Britten pointed out that the WCAC is well represented by scientists and would profit from more diverse members of the community becoming board members.

The WCAC currently has three Ad Hoc subgroups: Grant Funding (Ken Britten, head), Outreach (Gar House, head), Policy (Dave Springer, head)

Progress Reports:

1. Grant Funding:

Dave Springer reviewed a number of programs existing at the Federal, State and County level which provide monetary rebates, incentives (esp. EVs). To take advantage and increase WCAC leverage Dave suggested that the Board coordinate and work with existing Yolo county agencies.

Dave and Ken indicated investigating the state's various Regional Resilience programs as well as the Federal Gov't's Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) would be valuable for the WCAC board.

Dave and Ken pointed out that Winters has "Micro-Grid" - the Putah Creek Solar Farm that has 7 MW solar capacity generation and 4 MW battery storage capacity.

Ken Britten mentioned exploring programs and opportunities at the office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy (EERE) with particular reference to energy efficiency in school buildings as a possibility for Winters High School. Kirk reminded the board of requirements of grants that often included provisions, e.g., matching funds. Kirk suggested finding funding opportunities that match needs and select grant collaboration carefully as the process is complex.

2. Public Information Dissemination and Community Engagement - Outreach Initiatives:

Gar House (subgroup head) - Establish Relationships with Collaboration Partners with other public entities - contact and, if possible, attend meetings to understand potential value to WCAC.

Learn from and utilize earlier work of other agencies. (e.g., Yolo County Climate Action Commission (Ken Britten is a member), Tyson Kern - Urban Forester for UC Davis, City of Davis Climate Action, Valley Clean Energy, etc.)

The Public Outreach subgroup also wishes to Identify interested individuals from Winters High School, plus various local Winters clubs, businesses and agencies, particularly with those who show interest in engaging and providing manpower, resources, & planning for WCAC Outreach events and campaigns: e.g., WFOL, Rotary Club, Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce, Future Farmers of America (FFA), Fortnight Club, etc.

A major objective of the Public Outreach arm of the WCAC is to Plan, Organize and Schedule Public Events & Projects:

Possibilities include the following:

- (1) Inform public of WCAC's purpose, objectives and importance to Winters Community plus current policies i.e., building codes.
- (2) Engage public & document their needs, wants, desires as well as concerns regarding local issues related to climate and environment
- (3) Tree planting events sponsored by City of Winters and various clubs, businesses, organizations, and especially Winters High School.
- (4) Educate the public on the importance and inherent value of working from home or local office space, driving less, reducing carbon emissions, benefits of biking including personal health & saving on the cost of gasoline. Use open forums, seminars, videos, demonstrations, printed material, and especially directly speaking to Winters citizens to reveal how we can make progress here in Winters.
- (5) Leverage existing state and county agencies/organizations for funding and adoption WCAC goals, objectives plus assist in project and event implementation.

Finally the Public Outreach subgroup of WCAC believes that developing a Vision for the Greater Winters Community is of primary

importance. The WCAC Public Outreach group plans to develop and take leadership in generating a long-term, comprehensive plan for community engagement including but not limited to:

- (1) Map a walking/bike riding Green Belt around and through City of Winters that is integrated/connected with Putah Creek Park & Walkways
- (2) Promote and establish permanent programs & projects for Putah Creek Restoration, city wide Tree Plantings
- (3) Food Security Preservation through support/engagement with Master Gardeners and Local Small Farms
- (4) Investigate and promote small, light industries
- (5) Increase/build Winters office space to alleviate commuting pressure
- (6) Amend the General Plan to allow zoning changes to implement local neighborhoods, small businesses, shops, etc.
- (7) Engage Hispanic Community - Spanish speakers for events
- (8) Explore methods of engaging our entire community using different, innovative approaches, e.g., Participatory Narrative Inquiry (<https://www.workingwithstories.org/aboutpni.html>)
- (9) Investigate potential of financing and constructing small scale structures, e.g., public solar powered cool rooms activated during periods of extreme heat in Winters:
(<https://www.engineeringforchange.org/solutions/product/cold-hubs/>)

Ken Britten suggested a survey to put to the public a series of questions as a method of initial community engagement and beginning a dialog with the community - to get the "pulse".

Suggestions included:

Door to Door visits within the City of Winters?

Questions about power bills?

Putting in Solar?

Would you like an Electric Vehicle?

WCAC should make it a priority to engage a person well connected within the Winters Hispanic community.

David Springer spoke for the WCAC Policy subgroup:
Present City of Winters City Council with policy changes that are valuable economically and socially. Large number of resources and selection of potential policy adoptions: e.g., opt up to “ultra-green” power rates (1.5 cents per KWH), Ev’s for city vehicles, REACH codes (perhaps applicable to city’s proposed 183 Project?)

Ken Britten reminded the board of the need to be judicious in what guidelines we present to the City Council: e.g., stress benefit of lower operating costs via policy adoption.

David Springer requested that WCAC keep meetings shorter and on time. Ken Britten suggested setting a time limit for discussions.

Next WCAC Meeting scheduled for January 9, 2023