



MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 28, 2018

100 Cambridge St, 2nd Floor

Conference Rooms B & C

Boston, MA 02114

Councilors Present: Brian Beote (for Elliott Jacobson), Don Boecke (for Maura Healey), Amy Boyd, Cindy Carroll, Elizabeth Cellucci, Larry Chretien, Rebecca Davis, Maggie Downey, Paul Gromer, Frank Gundal (for Tilak Subrahmanian), Charlie Harak, Paul Johnson, Judith Judson, Richard Malmstrom, Deirdre Manning, Michael McDonagh, Jeremy Newberger, Maureen O'Rourke (for Chrystal Kornegay), Laurie Pereira (for Trish Walker), Bob Rio, Michael Sommer, Gregg Wade (for Victoria Rojo), Mary Wambui, Sharon Weber (for Martin Suuberg)

Councilors Absent: Michael Ferrante, Andrew Newman

Consultants Present: Eric Belliveau, Craig Johnson, Jeff Schlegel

DOER Staff Present: Rachel Evans, Ian Finlayson, Matt Rusteika

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Judson, as Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM.

2. Public Comment

Emily Jones of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation in Boston discussed a few items that should be considered in the next three-year plan. She began by noting that the next three-year plan recommendations are vital to consumers' ability to access the programs. She recommended that the EEAC consider supporting training for passive house design as well as funding for passive house pilot projects. She also suggested that resources should be made available for green design charrettes for new construction and retrofit opportunities. Lastly, she noted that multifamily buildings with tenants who are up to 80% of the area median income are only allowed to participate in the low-income program on a case-by-case basis. She suggested that

there should be a standard policy in place so that all multifamily buildings with low-income consumers can access the programs.

3. Council Updates and Business

Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Judson noted that the approval of the January 17, 2018 EEAC and February 7, 2018 Executive Committee meeting minutes would be pushed to the March Council meeting.

Public Listening Sessions

Rusteika noted that public listening sessions had been scheduled at eight locations across the Commonwealth including Boston, Fall River, Salem, Mashpee, Pittsfield, Worcester, Springfield, and Lowell. He added that more details for each of the meetings could be found on the Council's website.

4. Executive Committee Vacancy and Vote

Commissioner Judson began by noting that the Executive Committee (ExCom) seat representing the residential sector, including low-income, was vacant and needed to be filled. She noted that Councilors Jacobson, Johnson, and Wambui had nominated themselves for the vacant seat.

Boecke asked for clarification on Councilor Johnson's eligibility for the vacant seat. He noted that the seat is designated for a Councilor representing the residential sector, including low-income, and that Councilor Johnson represents energy efficiency small businesses. After some short deliberation, it was the sense of the Council that Councilor Johnson was eligible to run for the vacant seat.

Elliott Jacobson Candidacy

Brian Beote, on behalf of Elliott Jacobson, expressed interest for the vacant seat. He noted that Jacobson has been on the Council since its inception and that he has worked in the income eligible sector for over 40 years. He added that Jacobson has been an educator and an implementer and that he knows the programs inside and out. Lastly, Beote noted that Jacobson represents and serves a large population of low-income households which make him a suitable candidate for the vacant seat on the ExCom.

Mary Wambui Candidacy

Wambui began by noting that she felt she was a qualified candidate despite the fact that she is relatively new to the Council and has not served for a long time. She noted that in her short time on the Council she has noticed a need for the voice of the consumer. She suggested that the future of energy efficiency relies on the consumer and that she was running to represent them. She added that energy efficiency is connected to social justice, equity, and development and that the Council can do more to connect its work with the consumer. Wambui also noted that she was qualified for the vacant seat because she has experience implementing the plans and has experienced the gaps of the programs through her work in affordable housing communities.

Paul Johnson Candidacy

Johnson noted that he would like to be considered for the residential seat on the ExCom for a variety of reasons. First, he indicated that he would like to be an important voice for saving the residential home energy services program, in identifying and satisfying the interests of utility customers who have paid into the program but have not been served, and for keeping contractors in the weatherization workforce interested in staying in the business. He added that the contractors are the people who talk to the consumers on a daily basis and that they are in the best position to understand the average customer's motivation for participating in the programs. Johnson also cited his continued commitment to the Council as a qualification for serving on the ExCom.

Vote to Fill Vacancy

Commissioner Judson noted that the vote would be conducted by a raise of hands and that the candidate receiving the most votes would win. She added that she would abstain from the vote but would break a tie if needed.

Councilors Beote (on behalf of Jacobson), Harak, Malmstrom, Manning, McDonagh, O'Rourke (on behalf of Kornegay), and Rio voted in favor of assigning the Residential ExCom seat to Councilor Jacobson. Councilors Boecke, Boyd, Chretien, Davis, Wambui, and Weber voted in favor of assigning the Residential ExCom seat to Councilor Wambui. Councilor Johnson voted in favor of assigning the Residential ExCom seat to Councilor Johnson.

The votes as tallied were seven (7) in favor of Jacobson, six (6) in favor of Wambui, and one (1) in favor of Johnson. Councilor Jacobson was declared the winner of the vote and was assigned to the Residential seat on the ExCom.

5. 2019-2021 Plan Workshop Recommendations Resolution

Chretien noted that the resolution represents the Councils recommendations and priorities following a few months of workshops. He acknowledged that there are several upcoming items that could change his priorities, including the program administrator's (PAs) potential studies, the consultant team's (C-Team) assessment of potential, and the public listening sessions, but that he was comfortable with this resolution as a starting point. Commissioner Judson agreed and added that the Council would have the opportunity to develop another set of recommendations after the PAs have submitted their initial draft of the 2019-2021 Plan in April. Boyd echoed Chretien and Commissioner Judson's comments and noted that she viewed the resolution as a starting point.

Finlayson asked if any of the Councilors had suggested edits to the resolution. Proposed amendments, discussions, and votes on the amendments are outlined below.

Edits to the last sentence of the second paragraph under the Priorities section

The PAs recommended removing "supports the PAs' efforts to encourage" from the referenced sentence. In removing the language, Boyd suggested replacing it with "wants in the plan." There was no opposition to these recommendations. The resolution was amended to reflect the recommended changes.

Edits to the third numbered point under the Priorities section

Boyd noted that the referenced language echoed what was said in first sentence of the second paragraph under the Priorities section. She, along with Weber, proposed clarifying edits to the referenced language. The first proposed edit was to remove “are consistent with and”. The second proposed edit was to add “Commonwealth’s long term greenhouse gas reduction requirements, as established under the” starting after “the” and ending before “Global Warming Solutions Act.”. There was no opposition to these recommendations. The resolution was amended to reflect the recommended changes.

Johnson indicated that he did not think the programs should be incentivizing fuel switching. Boyd noted that this part of the resolution came out of the workshops and that its intent is to have people switch from oil to heat pumps. Commissioner Judson added that the way the language is written, any fuel switching being promoted or incentivized would have to support the GWSA. Boecke and Harak agreed.

Johnson made a motion to remove “& incentivize” from the third point under the priorities section. Manning seconded. Johnson and Manning were in favor. Beote, Boecke, Boyd, Chretien, Davis, Harak, Commissioner Judson, Malmstrom, McDonagh, O’Rourke, Rio, Wambui, and Weber were opposed. The motion did not pass.

Edits to the fourth bullet under the Low-Income Sector Recommendations

Harak proposed to replace “regardless of geography” with “across the Commonwealth.”. There was no opposition to these recommendations. The resolution was amended to reflect the recommended changes.

Addition of a bullet to point #3 under the Integrated Residential Program Design

Johnson noted that most people who are interested in energy efficiency have already participated. He added that support for sales training and incentives for those that interact with the customer is important for getting people who are not actively interested in energy efficiency to participate. To this end, Johnson proposed adding a bullet to the third point under the Integrated Residential Program Design section that would read “Support sales training and incentivize those at all points of contact with the customer.”

Boyd asked Johnson to clarify to whom “those” referred to in his suggested language. Johnson indicated it would refer to utility staff, contractors, and anyone who has contact with the customer. Boyd suggested that “those” be replaced with “individuals.”

Rio indicated that he did not have any problem with sales training but that he was unsure about the inclusion of incentives. Boyd agreed and suggested removing “and incentivize” from Johnsons’ suggested language. Johnson indicated that he was not in favor of that.

Johnson made a motion to add “Support sales training and recognition for individuals who are in contact with the customer” as a bullet to the third point under the Integrated Residential Program Design section. Rio seconded. Beote, Boecke, Chretien, Davis, Harak, Johnson, Commissioner

Judson, Malmstrom, Manning, McDonagh, O'Rourke, Rio, and Weber were in favor. Boyd and Wambui were opposed. The motion passed.

Vote to Approve the 2019-2021 Plan Workshop Recommendations Resolution

Harak motioned to approve the 2019-2021 Plan Workshop Recommendations Resolution, as amended. Davis seconded. All were in favor, with none opposed or abstaining. The motion passed.

6. Quarterly Report: Year-End for 2017

PA Presentation

Steve Menges, Melanie Cohen, and Ezra McCarthy, on behalf of the PAs, presented the fourth quarter and preliminary year-end results for 2017. In the presentation, they highlighted annual and three-year term progress to date for key metrics for both electric and gas. They also discussed impacts of lighting changes to the portfolio of savings, their achievement of greenhouse gas reductions, and updated the Council on their combined heat and power projects. They concluded with an update on their commitment to the Council's key priorities which included progress on 2016-2018 Plan commitments, equitable customer participation, and demand side management.

Chretien noted that the PAs had a good year in terms of capacity savings but not in terms of lifetime energy savings. He asked if there is data available to look at measured benefits at the measure level. Schlegel indicated that the C-Team has done that before in the form of a pie chart and that they could update that.

Chretien noted that the Council authorized a budget for the PAs and that he would have liked to see them spend up to that amount. Menges indicated that the PAs do not view the budget as a goal. He added that they did not turn away customers in 2017 and that they maximized what they could do. He also noted that the planned costs for lighting measures were a lot higher than what they actually ended up being which in part explains their under-budget spending.

Harak indicated that he was pleased to see the low-income sector program achieve high savings levels while remaining under the planned budget.

Boyd pointed out that she had not seen as much variance across individual PAs' results in past years as she had in 2017. Downey noted that Cape Light Compact's underperformance on the commercial and industrial (C&I) side was a result of a few things. First, she noted that the results are not final and that they had a few big projects that could increase their year-end performance. Second, she noted that about half of their C&I program is upstream lighting and that they had a situation where their vendor walked away and they had to start all over. Lastly, she noted that they recently changed their small business program and that its taken some time to gain traction. Carrol noted that Unitil has a small territory and that they are subject to large swings in performance from year to year. She added that they had one large project that is completed but not commissioned. She indicated that had it been commissioned before the end of the year their savings would have been much closer to goal.

Johnson asked why benefits have decreased over the past three years. Menges indicated that benefits have decreased as a result of changes to lighting lifetimes as well as changes to the avoided costs. Johnson also asked why participation compared to goal was much lower for C&I compared to residential and low-income. Menges indicated that some of the upstream participants have not yet been counted and that he would expect that number to increase.

Commissioner Judson thanked the PAs and noted that she was particularly impressed with their performance in the low-income sector.

C-Team Presentation

Schlegel presented on the C-Team's initial review of the PAs fourth quarter and preliminary year-end results for 2017. In his presentation, Schlegel highlighted key metrics at the portfolio level and at the sector level by PA, portfolio of lifetime savings at the statewide and sector levels, and data on cost to achieve over time. Schlegel also noted that the 2017 programs achieved their highest annual savings to date and that most benefits were higher than planned.

7. Adjournment

Commissioner Judson, as Chair, adjourned the meeting at 3:03 PM.