



**COLUMBIA HEALTH, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

The Columbia Health, Social, and Environmental Affairs Committee conducted a meeting on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at City Hall (Mayor's Conference Room), Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Aditi Bussells, Chair called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Aditi Bussells	Chair	Present
Howard E. Duvall	Member	Present
Edward H. McDowell	Member	Present

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. Senior Resources - Lourie Center Unification Proposal - Mr. Andrew Boozer, Executive Director / Senior Resources, Inc.

Councilor Brennan said it has been 60 days since we were tasked with figuring this out. During that time, Senior Resources approached us with a proposal to integrate the Lourie Center with the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department. This would allow us to leverage Senior Resources' extensive networking and grant capabilities. This is a work in progress and an agreement from the City to use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding would go a long way.

Mr. Andrew Boozer, Executive Director / Senior Resources, Inc. discussed ongoing efforts to explore a merger with the Lourie Center. Senior Resources is the contracted Council on Aging for Richland County. The goals of the merger include increased programming; a new base membership model; and enhanced access to healthcare, social activities, and internet at no cost. Both organizations are working towards unification by the summer, pending legal and financial evaluations. The budget request for this unified organization is \$150,000 per year over three years.

There was discussion about Richland County's financial support; the timeline for merging with the Lourie Center; and a possible three-year commitment from ARPA funding.



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MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2023**

Upon a motion made by Dr. Bussells and seconded by Mr. Duvall, committee members voted unanimously to send a letter of interest to Richland County Council explaining that the City of Columbia is open to funding this unification proposal for up to three years contingent upon Richland County coming to the table and doing the same. The City's leadership team was asked to determine if ARPA funds can be used for this purpose.

2. Ready for 100 Resolution 2.0 – Mr. Bob Petrulis, Climate Protection Action Committee

Mr. Clint Shealy, P.E., Assistant City Manager / Columbia Water said the original Ready for 100 Resolution was passed in 2017. The Climate Protection Action Committee has been discussing the next tangible steps. We received grant funding, hired Dr. Artuso to help develop a framework, and out of that came this new resolution.

Mr. Bob Petrulis and Ms. Gretchen Lambert, Climate Protection Action Committee members explained how the original Ready for 100 Resolution aimed for 100% clean energy by 2036. The updated resolution focuses on enhancing city operations.

Mr. Clint Shealy, P.E., Assistant City Manager / Columbia Water explained that the updated resolution proposes 75 megawatts of additive capacity. Under this proposed resolution, the City of Columbia is asked to perform energy efficient audits; procure or build 25 megawatts (MW) by 2025, an additional 25 MW by 2030, and another 25 MW by 2036; incorporate rooftop solar where appropriate; host a 60-day stakeholder input session; and create a cohort of city staff dedicated to reviewing progress and providing an annual report.

There was discussion about using action items instead of whereas clauses within the resolution; the need for flexibility in energy solutions; potential cost impacts and cost neutrality; drafting a fact sheet; and the effectiveness of multi-use land for renewable energy.

There was consensus of the committee to streamline the Ready for 100 Resolution 2.0; draft an action plan and timeline; and bring the resolution back for the committee's consideration.

Mr. McDowell left the meeting at 11:58 a.m.



We Are Columbia

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MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2023**

3. Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Opportunity – Ms. Mary Pat Baldauf, Sustainability Facilitator / Public Works Department

Ms. Mary Pat Baldauf, Sustainability Facilitator / Public Works Department said we are finally getting more information about the Inflation Reduction Act. We have an opportunity for a million dollar Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. We were chosen to take the lead with the metropolitan statistical area which includes Richland County, Lexington County, Kershaw County, Fairfield County, and Calhoun County. A letter of intent is required by August 28, 2023.

Mr. Robert Anderson, Director of Public Works said two draft letters were prepared last week, signaling the city's readiness to proceed. The Central Midlands Council of Governments has expressed interest in assisting with project administration.

Ms. Mary Pat Baldauf, Sustainability Facilitator / Public Works Department said the Climate Action Plan is due in the summer of 2025. Competitive grants will be available for implementation of the projects. We can make the plan and then fund the projects.

There was consensus of the committee to support the letter of intent and to communicate with City Council if we decide to pursue this opportunity.

4. Coal Tar Sealant Alternatives - Ms. Dana Higgins, PE, LEED AP, Director of Engineering

Ms. Dana Higgins, PE, LEED AP, Director of Engineering explained the city uses coal tar sealants to seal asphalt surfaces like driveways and roads. While it is effective in prolonging surface life, coal tar sealants contain polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), which are harmful to human health and aquatic life. Asphalt-based sealants with lower PAH concentrations are available.

Mr. Jason Weaver, Principal / EcoShield Asphalt Products said we're at 0.0 PHA concentration, which is very doable by any manufacturer. Coal tar sealants are irritating to the skin and can cause burns. There are better alternatives and they are readily available by manufacturers in this region.



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MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2023**

There was discussion about the citywide impact; ordinance revisions; EPA rulings; roll out dates; and possible effects on local hardware stores.

There was consensus of the committee to endorse the recommendation to prohibit the use of high polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) pavement products by amending the City of Columbia code sections 21-33 and 21-48 effective July 1, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, CMC
City Clerk