Climate Action And Resilience Plan Mitigation Task Force  
February 22, 2018  
Civic Center, Room #2404

Attending: Likwan Cheng, Henry Eberhart, Vickie Jacobsen (departed at 6:40), Kumar Jensen, Lauren Viso-Marquez, Chris Kucharczyk (arrived just after 6)

5:40 meeting called to order

Minutes from 1/23 - voted to approve; approved.

At the last meeting, Lauren coordinated with Gaj’s graduate students, who agreed to working with the CURB tool (entering data) in exchange for independent study credit. They have requested data from Kumar - he has responded to initial questions. We’ll use the 2005 baseline to start.

There is also a possibility of using the Isabella Woods tree inventory data to better understand the carbon sequestration influence of our trees; Christy Klimas - US forestry rep who has grant money for this kind of work is in touch with CGE.

Comment: Carbon sequestration is important part of the ‘resiliency piece’ of our work - important to support forestry program, increase water reservoirs but will carbon sequestration be included in our inventory/mitigation plan? Kumar: Probably not but worthwhile for the above reasons. (Informal conclusion, the project may benefit our work and can be included in our report but we will probably not be able to devote task force time to it.)

Gabriela’s email - slow and steady approach to mitigation - general consensus that this is the right approach. 28% reduction by 2025 is the absolute bare minimum (we should do more).

We should also determine a hierarchy of priorities of emissions reductions - mix of options (reducing), criteria, RECs as short-term strategy, establishing criteria, for example - 10% of on our residential energy

Report on Wilmette’s Community Solar project; Lauren attended a meeting in Feb. Wilmette is currently pursuing an off-site community solar project, run by a 3rd-party called Trajectory Energy Partners. They source the land (unused agricultural adjacent to electricity infrastructure) then get 400-500 subscribers from Wilmette to fund the construction of solar infrastructure. Block funding (part of the Future Energy Jobs Act) happens in September of this year, so communities are preparing. Community solar - lots of ways to do it. While we agree is can be an effective strategy - the group decided to continue that topic as we address some implementation strategies.

Group refocused on a goal of 40-50% reduction by 2025, and then stating additional targets -3 high-level goals with associated strategies; waste diversion program (reduction) may be an important piece.

Community engagement process, which is starting in March should be a listening tour for our group and an opportunity to talk through issues with interested citizens and increase accessibility to the process of developing the plan.
Distilling the overall plan to a few simple goals may be a more effective way to communicate our plans to the general public. Waste reduction goal - reduce waste by 15% for example, should include a comprehensive waste inventory. Kumar working on making City net zero electricity + other sources (except natural gas)

Kumar will produce a publically viewable draft of the GHG inventory to share with members of the general public prior to public meetings later in the year.

Goals for next meeting: begin identifying and prioritizing specific policy initiatives to include in the plan

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Kucharczyk, seconded by Ms. Marquez-Viso. Meeting adjourned 6:53pm.