

Should this item be pulled from the consent agenda the following motion is suggested:

POSSIBLE MOTION

I MOVE TO approve Resolution 2016-18 on first and final reading.



City and Borough of Sitka

100 Lincoln Street • Sitka, Alaska 99835

Coast Guard City, USA

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor McConnell and City Assembly

From: Planning and Community Development Department *MB*

Subject: Application to Smart Growth America for Free-of-Charge Technical Assistance Workshop

Date: September 21, 2016

The Planning and Community Development Department is excited to apply for Smart Growth America's free technical assistance workshops and is seeking support from the Assembly. This potential opportunity would add additional knowledge, expertise, and assistance for what is already an anticipated follow-up step to the current Comprehensive Plan process.

Smart Growth America (SGA) is funded under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This agreement funds their technical assistance workshop program. SGA manages the application process and determines the winning communities. Under this program, SGA provides the workshops as described, free of charge, to the successful applicant communities. These workshops occur over a 2 day period. CBS must provide the venue in which to hold the workshop and public presentation, and also provide any refreshments or lunch as appropriate. There is no other cost to the community, except for staff time, which in this case is already allocated to address these very same topics within our current work. Further, no grant is awarded to the local community, so there is no grant administration necessary. Again, the workshop is free if Sitka is chosen as a recipient.

SGA offers the opportunity to apply for 9 different types of technical workshops. Based on benefits to being synergistic within the existing Comprehensive Plan process and implementation of those policies, goals, and action items, staff would like to seek technical assistance on a Sustainable Land Use Code Audit workshop to help identify barriers to and opportunities for promoting a vibrant, healthy, and sustainable community as well as best practices to execute the future Comprehensive Plan.

PCDD staff are also working to collect letters of support from community members and community groups to further support the application and demonstrate Sitka's commitment to creating a vibrant, healthy, economically resilient, and environmentally conscious community.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Pass a motion granting approval of the resolution.



Smart Growth America

Making Neighborhoods Great Together

Tool: Sustainable Land Use Code Audit

Provider: Smart Growth America and Clarion Associates

Summary:

Audits of local land use codes are being undertaken by an increasing number of communities that recognize their zoning and subdivision regulations are an important key to long-term sustainable development patterns and practices and economic growth. These code audits examine 10-12 sustainability issues such as energy conservation, renewable energy, and community health that are chosen by the community and provide an assessment of barriers and regulatory gaps in the codes to attaining community sustainability goals in these areas and potential implementation strategies.

Areas of potential focus include:

The focus areas for the code audit are chosen by the community and can include topics such as:

- renewable energy
- energy conservation
- climate change
- recycling
- community health
- water conservation
- housing diversity
- urban agriculture
- green infrastructure and water quality
- outdoor lighting
- natural resource protection

The presentations and discussions will also cover costs and benefits of sustainable code provisions and implementation strategies.

How it works:

- One-day session with community leaders and staff begins with an overview (typically 1 hour) that answers the question: What is a sustainable development code and why undertake a sustainable code diagnosis?
- Short presentations on the economic and other benefits of sustainable code provisions; specific sustainability topics such as renewable energy and water conservation, addressing barriers, incentives, and regulatory gaps.
- Examples of best practices from around the nation
- Hands-on working session with local officials to conduct an initial sustainable code assessment

Outcomes:

- Hands-on initial assessment of local zoning and subdivision ordinances
- Understanding of code issues inhibiting sustainable development patterns and growth.
- Know-how to conduct a detailed code assessment
- Tips and advice on implementation



Assistance provided with grant support from US EPA's Office of Sustainable Communities under their Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Program.



Tool: Implementing Smart Growth 101

Provider: Smart Growth America

Summary:

Smart growth strategies help towns and cities across the country grow stronger economically by using land strategically, making the most of existing resources and using public funds to catalyze private development. Yet many communities face barriers or are uncertain how to implement smart growth. As a national leader in the field, Smart Growth America has accumulated extensive experience working with communities to realize the benefits of smart growth. The Implementing Smart Growth 101 workshop draws on this expertise to provide actionable steps that the community can use to overcome the barriers to smart growth and build stronger economies now and for generations to come.

Description:

The Implementing Smart Growth 101 workshop provides best practices to local leaders in urban, suburban and rural communities working to create housing and transportation choices near jobs, shops and schools. Our technical assistance will provide the resources to refine and implement local priorities with smart growth strategies that make sense for your community. The one-day workshop will help the community become familiar with the ten principles of smart growth:

- Mixed land uses
- Take advantage of compact building design
- Create a range of housing opportunities and choices
- Create walkable neighborhoods
- Foster distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place
- Preserve open space, farmland, natural beauty, and critical environmental areas
- Strengthen and direct development towards existing communities
- Provide a variety of transportation choices
- Make development decisions predictable, fair and cost effective
- Encourage community and stakeholder collaboration in development decisions

Local leaders and the technical assistance team then work on how to apply these principles in a way that makes sense for the community through a hands-on session.

Topics to be explored include:

- How to set smart growth goals
- How to develop an action plan for implementation using a foundational community planning document such as the transportation capital budget, comprehensive plan or zoning code
- A shift in funding allocations and economic development plans
- Crafting new policy
- Amending core planning documents



CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-18

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA
SUPPORTING THE APPLICATION FOR A TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WORKSHOP,
FREE OF CHARGE, FROM SMART GROWTH AMERICA

WHEREAS, the City and Borough of Sitka advocates for vibrant, healthy, economically resilient, and environmentally sustainable communities for all community members; and

WHEREAS, the attached summaries of the standardized technical assistance tools for a Sustainable Land Use Code Audit and the Implementation of Smart Growth 101 could help provide leaders, planners, and the community with additional knowledge and tools to advance smart growth policies and strategies; and

WHEREAS, the City and Borough of Sitka seeks to learn ways how it can create policy and code that supports the ten principles of smart growth and promotes a vibrant and healthy community for all Sitkans.

NOW BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska, supports the application for a technical assistance workshop provided by Smart Growth America.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska, on this 27th day of September, 2016.

Matthew Hunter, Deputy Mayor

ATTEST:

Sara Peterson, CMC
Municipal Clerk