



**Application for Appointment to Boards, Committees, and
Commissions City and Borough of Sitka**

Board/Commission/Committee: Climate Action Task Force

Name: Kathleen Kreiss (Kay) Preferred Phone: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] Alternate Phone: None

Email Address: [REDACTED] Fax Number: None

Length of Residence in Sitka: 4.5 years since 7/2016 Registered to vote in Sitka? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Employer: Retired, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Centers for Disease Control

Organizations you belong to or participate in:

Sitka Citizens Climate Lobby
Health Summit's Carbon Dioxide Reducers Group (2017-2018)
Sitka Conservation Society
Alaska Native Sisterhood, Camp 4

Explain your main reason for applying:

I am devoting my retirement to address the climate emergency, which threatens civilization, mankind, and so many animals and plants. Solutions exist which will drawdown carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas levels to mid-20th century levels, improve health, create jobs, and strengthen local economies. Acting locally in Sitka will increase our resilience and contribute our share to world-wide action.

What background, experience or credentials will you bring to the board, commission, or committee membership?

I am a physician-scientist who worked in environmental and occupational public health at federal, state, and medical school levels; advised federal and international agencies; and discovered new diseases related to workplace exposures, usually following up worker suspicions about clusters of lung disease. I have experience translating science and medicine into language that diverse audiences can understand, which is necessary to motivate Sitkans about what we must do to avoid further warming of our oceans and earth.

Please disclose any potential conflicts of interest that may arise from your appointment. These may include but are not limited to:

- A substantial financial interest of \$1000 annually that could be influenced by your appointment.
- An immediate family member employed within the scope of this appointment.

No conflicts of interest to report.

Please attach a letter of interest, outline, or resume which includes your education, work, and volunteer experience that will enhance your membership. Letter attached.

(To be considered, your application must be complete AND be accompanied by 1 of the above supporting documents.)

Date: 12/29/20 Signature: Kathleen Kreiss

Your complete application and resume should be returned to the Municipal Clerk's Office by noon on the Wednesday prior to an advertised Assembly meeting.

Please note: all information submitted will be made public and published online. Appointments are normally made during open session of an Assembly meeting, however, Assembly members may vote to discuss applicant(s) in closed executive session. In this case, do you wish to be present when your application is discussed? ☐ Yes ☒ No

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
December 30, 2020

Melissa Henshaw, Deputy Clerk
City and Borough of Sitka
100 Lincoln Street
Sitka AK 99835

RE: Application for Climate Action Task Force

Dear Ms. Henshaw:

I write in support of my interest in being appointed to the Climate Action Task Force being established by the Assembly. I retired to Sitka in July 2016 after a public health and medical school teaching career in occupational and environmental health, specializing in lung disease epidemiologic research.

I graduated with honors from Harvard College in 1969 and from Harvard Medical School in 1975. I completed internal medicine residency at San Francisco General Hospital and the Beth Israel Hospital at Harvard. I then completed a preventive medicine residency at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta and at the Colorado Health Department, working predominantly on public health investigations of environmental and occupational toxins and exposures. After this early public health experience, I joined the faculty at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and the National Jewish Center for Respiratory and Immunologic Medicine for 14 years, eventually attaining a rank of full professor. I developed a division of occupational and environmental lung disease, a national referral clinic for occupational lung disease, an accredited occupational/environmental residency training program, and a federally supported research program.

In 1996, I returned to the Centers for Disease Control, this time to its National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health in Morgantown, West Virginia, where I led the Field Studies Branch in the Division of Respiratory Health. In this capacity, we discovered new lung and skin diseases in workers related to bioaerosols, nylon dusts, beryllium compounds, indium tin oxide, contaminated metal working fluids, and butter flavorings in microwave popcorn manufacture, among other exposures and industries.

Up to the present time, I have authored or co-authored 220 scientific publications and made 88 scientific presentations at national or international meetings. I have served in an advisory capacity to the U.S. Department of Labor, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the World Health Organization, as well as many professional organizations, including the American Society for Heating, Refrigeration, and Air-conditioning Engineers, the American Public Health Association, and the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists. I have overseen masters and doctoral theses for many students; supervised medical students, medical residents, and pulmonary fellows in clinical and

research work; and closely mentored dozens of physicians and epidemiologists at the Centers for Disease Control on their field investigations of workforces and communities. My highest professional awards have been the Centers for Disease Control's Lifetime Scientific Achievement Award in 2011 and the American Thoracic Society's 2013 Public Service Award for contributions in the public health arena related to respiratory disease and medicine.

Since moving to Sitka, I began educating myself about the most severe threat facing humanity: global warming. I joined Sitka's Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) in the spring of 2017 and became its co-leader in the fall. I have been to Washington, D.C. twice to lobby Alaska's congressional delegation, as well as meeting with each of them or their staffs here in Sitka on several occasions. In response to my suggestion in 2018, the Sitka Health Summit chose the Carbon Dioxide Reducers' Group as the year's priority, which drew a different group of volunteers than Sitka CCL. We worked on funding heat pumps for 3 non-profit groups, established the Sitka carbon offset fund at the Sitka Conservation Society, ran an idle-free campaign, encouraged the Assembly to implement the 2010 Climate Action Plan, and explored the feasibility of on-bill financing for energy conservation measures and residential heat pumps. I completed on-line training to become a climate ambassador by Climate Interactive, a nonprofit that has developed interactive programs with the Sloan School of Business at MIT; its integrated models allow participants to assess what solutions are most effective in controlling global temperature (all being ultimately necessary). Most recently, I was part of the foursome that drafted the ordinance for the proposed Sustainability Commission. I am so grateful that the Assembly responded by reactivating the Climate Action Task Force.

I believe that the Climate Action Task Force will take lots of effort and investigation to make feasible recommendations to Sitka's elected leaders and citizenry. As a retired scientist and physician specializing in environmental risks, I have the time and interest to help craft the solutions that we can adopt to meet targets to become carbon emission-neutral over the next 1-3 decades. Our climate emergency requires urgent action, and I hope that I can participate in helping us make a community contribution to stabilizing our climate, regardless of federal or international action. Efforts at all these levels are critical to avoiding more climate chaos, migration from uninhabitable parts of the earth, food insecurity, wild animal-derived pandemics, and conflict. But in the end, local action is necessary too, and we can learn from other towns and cities that have begun this work. I look forward to interfacing with pertinent parts of our governmental structure, such as the Health Needs Commission, the Local Emergency Planning Commission, and the Planning Commission, all of which will have a role in responding to the current challenge of climate change. Most actions to decrease greenhouse gases have health and economic co-benefits.

Thank you for considering my application for the Climate Action Task Force.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Kreiss, M.D.