



**SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

Community Center - EOC Room (Downstairs)
1249 Marin Avenue
November 21, 2007 – 7:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cooper at 7:35 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Thomas J. Cooper	Suzanne Schrift
Miya Kitahara	Janet Smith-Heimer
Dan Lieberman	
Caryl O'Keefe	

Members Absent: April Yang

Staff Present: Nicole Almaguer

Others Present: Council Member Wile

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3-1. Approve minutes from October 17 meeting (attached)

Minutes unanimously approved as amended. Motioned by Smith-Heimer, seconded by O'keefe.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kim Linden and Mara Duncan, Albany Residents, expressed interest in preserving quality of live along the transit corridor, and preserving open space at the Albany Hill, Waterfront, and Gill Tract. Linden and Duncan expressed concern regarding the proposed UC Village Whole Foods development project in relation to the Gill Tract land. Linden and Duncan want the Gill Tract land to be preserved. Linden is interested in providing a presentation on the Gill Tract to the Committee at an upcoming meeting. Linden can provide reference material for the Committee in the near future.

5. REPORTS

5-1. Albany Library "Green" Corner

Kitahara announced that she has been working with the Albany Library to enhance the selection of books on environmental topics. There is a growing list of books, and the Committee should give any other recommendations to Kitahara to include in the list. The Library has agreed to showcase the "Green" corner in April, allowing use of the display case and meeting space to hold workshops on environmental topics. Kitahara would like to work with Committee members on developing workshops. Lieberman expressed interest in assisting with workshops.

6. DISCUSSIONS AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

6-1. Teach-In January 30, 2008: www.focusthenation.org

Kitahara announced that there is a teach-in developed by Focus the Nation, and will be working with the high school to determine if something can be organized. Almaguer noted that KALB Channel 33 is also researching whether they can collaborate.

6-2. Financing Solar Energy and Energy Efficiency – Discuss Berkeley’s conceptual program and identify process to research similar program development opportunities for Albany

Almaguer provided background regarding City of Berkeley’s project. Currently the City of Berkeley is initiating development of a solar energy/energy efficiency financing program for residential property owners. Berkeley estimates a draft of the program will be ready within 6-9 months. Albany City Council has referred this item to the Sustainability Committee for review.

Smith-Heimer added that she has had conversations with Berkeley staff noting they will be creating assessment districts for property owners that will be funded by bonds.

Cooper expressed interest in collaborating with Berkeley, Smith-Heimer agreed.

O’keefe suggested asking City Council to approach Berkeley regarding interests to partner.

Wile stated that the funding program is intriguing, and Albany may have other items that could be funded by such a program including seismic retrofits.

Almaguer will contact Berkeley staff to identify their interest in collaborating.

6-3. Review Clean & Green Task Force Final Recommendations – Identify Priorities

Cooper suggested identifying priorities, and that this item would require follow-up discussion at later meetings. Smith-Heimer noted that the Committee might have additional priorities or items to add. Cooper noted that the Task Force recommendations are a work plan for the Committee.

Cooper suggested the Committee identify a priority list.

O’keefe agrees and suggests identifying items with most payback.

Almaguer discussed the City’s Climate Action Plan program, identifying that the City is pursuing grant funding from BAAQMD. The Climate Action plan will include a number of the Task Force recommendations and also new measures/policies related to environmental quality. The Climate Action plan will also quantify emissions reductions and prioritize measures/policies.

Cooper suggested Committee members identify items that are simpler to implement, what other jurisdictions have done, and identify goals regarding public outreach/education for discussion at the December meeting.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Kitahara announced ning.com. She has set up greenalbany.ning.com, which is a blog page.

Smith-Heimer asked for clarification regarding the Committee’s ability to email and use blogs.

Almaguer will research whether there are any issues related to Committee members using a blog.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

8-1. Next meeting December 19, 2007 – City Hall Conference Room

Lieberman noted the potential of a leaf-blower ban, and will bring this forward during discussion of the Task Force recommendations. Lieberman suggested the Committee invite experts in occasionally on related agenda items.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.