



**SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

City Hall Conference Room
1000 San Pablo Avenue
January 16, 2008 – 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
April Yang	

Members Absent: Dan Lieberman, Caryl O'Keefe

Staff Present: Nicole Almaguer, Jeff Bond

Others Present: Council Member Joanne Wile

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3-1. Approve minutes from December 19 meeting (attached)

Minutes approved unanimously, Motioned by Schrift, seconded by Smith-Heimer.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kim Linden: encouraged Committee members to attend the next City Council meeting regarding the IPM Policy, CA Department of Food & Agriculture spraying for the light brown apple moth, and tree removal at the UC Village.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

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

6-1. Discussion with Planning Manager Jeff Bond & P&Z Commission Chair David Arkin

a. Current Projects and green building update, Committee networking

Jeff Bond provided an overview of the City's planning department and the Planning & Zoning Commission's current projects. The City has adopted a green building ordinance that requires all projects to complete a green building checklist, and commercial projects are subject to LEED standards. Staff is currently updating the residential design guidelines and will be incorporating green building language into the guidelines.

Staff is also in process of initiating a General Plan update, including a sustainable/climate change element. Staff is currently working on the housing element of the General Plan.

b. UC Village Project

Jeff Bond provided an overview of the proposed project at UC Village. Currently the plans call for development of a 55,000 square foot Whole Foods market, and a 250 parking space structure. Development of additional small retail and a 175-unit Senior housing complex with parking located beneath is also planned.

Smith-Heimer asked how the proposed project interfaces with the Gill Tract property.

Bond replied that UC Berkeley has not provided detail on its intent for the Gill Tract as of yet, however the City would require information as part of the planning process. UC Berkeley would also have to adhere to strict development regulations concerning the creek. The project would require City Council approval for rezoning. The project would be required to meet LEED Gold standards.

Wile noted that work is being done to hold a Creeks Council meeting to collaborate with the various interest groups regarding the land area and discuss the project.

Meeting Agenda

6-2. Styrofoam Ordinance – Discuss recommendation of a Styrofoam Ban (Wile)

Almaguer presented a draft ordinance that would ban Styrofoam use by food vendors, and also apply to city facilities.

Cooper stated support for requiring food vendors to use biodegradable serve ware as opposed to other alternatives to Styrofoam, suggesting a phased approach to requiring use of biodegradable serve ware. Cooper also suggested a sticker be developed for businesses to promote that they are Styrofoam-free.

Kitahara noted that public outreach would be important to ensure people know to place the biodegradable serve ware in the organics cart as opposed to trash.

Almaguer will research any issues concerning phasing in biodegradable serve ware.

6-3. Community Educational Workshops (Kitahara)

Kitahara discussed the workshop plan, noting that the workshop series would run for 6 months, with a focus around April for Earth Day.

Cooper noted concern over whether people would attend all six sessions. Cooper suggested a workshop on toxins reduction at home be included, and that some sort of fee be charged for workshops.

Smith-Heimer motioned an education subcommittee be formed to plan workshops and other educational items, seconded by Cooper. Motion approved unanimously.

Kitahara and Cooper agreed to act as the subcommittee, and will confirm Lieberman remains interested in participating.

6-4. Greening Albany Event – Update

Almaguer reported that James Carter and the Green Chamber of Commerce are interested in holding another Greening Albany event. The Green Chamber would work with the Committee to gain input regarding the event, and Carter is available to attend an upcoming meeting to discuss event details further. The education subcommittee will schedule a meeting with Carter.

6-5. Regional Partnering Opportunities – Update

a. City of Berkeley Solar Energy Financing program

Almaguer reported that City of Berkeley staff has agreed to attend the Committee's March meeting.

b. Green Corridor Partnership

Almaguer reported that the Mayor had done some research on the Green Corridor Partnership and that it is uncertain whether Albany fits into the program. Cooper and Smith-Heimer expressed interest in meeting with the Mayor to discuss partnership opportunities. Cooper will contact the Mayor to meet.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

(Commission/Committee/Board Member announcement of requests for future agenda items. No public comment will be taken on announcement of future agenda items).

7-1. Special Meeting January 28, 2008 – Prioritize Clean & Green Task Force Recommendations.

Next regular meeting: February 20, 2008.

Kim Linden will provide a short presentation at the Committee's February meeting regarding the UC Village property and the Gill Tract.

The Committee would like to discuss how to interact with the Planning & Zoning Commission at the February meeting. The Styrofoam Ban will also be placed on the February agenda.

Schrift requested an overview of the City's stormwater program.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.