



SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

NOTE LOCATION CHANGE:
Albany Library - Edith Stone Room
1247 Marin Avenue, Albany
September 16, 2009 – 7:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Tom Cooper Dan Lieberman Janet Smith-Heimer April Yang
 Miya Kitahara Suzanne Schrifft Caryl O'Keefe

Members Absent:

Others Present: Jeff Bond, Planning Manager, EDAW INC.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3-1. Approve minutes from July 15 meeting (attached)

Minutes approved as amended, motion by Kitahara seconded by O'Keefe.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Outis: Reviewed Neil Mayer/Urban transformation incorporated economic development reports and found the data lacking.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

5-1. Energy Efficiency Projects & Grant Funding – update (Attachment 1)

6. REPORTS

6-1. Long Range Planning/Sustainable Development Subcommittee – update

Cooper provided an update – the group met to discuss draft UC Village EIR.

6-2. Urban Landscape Subcommittee – update

O'Keefe provided an update – they are working on prioritizing projects, the food survey is in progress, and are also working on how to include stormwater treatment at developments – staff has updated the standard conditions of approval to encourage treatment onsite.

6-3. Education Subcommittee – update

Kitahara reported that the group is working on Green Albany Day and merging it with the Arts & Music Festival. They also discussed how to conduct further outreach with the high school.

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

7-1. Draft Administrative Climate Action Plan (EDAW, Inc. – Attachment 2)

The Committee provided comments to EDAW following the special meeting on September 10.

EDAW replied that the comments provided are all helpful and can be implemented.

Schrifft would like to incorporate “green streets” concept into complete streets and green infrastructure as a means to encourage stormwater treatment along streets.

Kitahara prefers additional measures to help ensure goals are reached, and how major projects are quantified to make sure they satisfy ghg reductions.

EDAW replied that with CEQA analysis projects will be reviewed to determine if they are consistent with the CAP, any impacts would require mitigation.

O'Keefe discussed the non-quantifiable measures noting the cost and amount of work associated with them is significant, and prefers eliminating these measures.

Lieberman suggested EDAW attempt to quantify some of the non-quantified measures. O'Keefe supports the idea if the quantification is justifiable.

EDAW replied that those listed as non-quantifiable were listed as such if data was not available to ensure defensible quantification.

Schrifft suggested including a separate listing of non-quantifiable measures.

Public Comment:

Ed Fields: supports including the non-quantifiable measures in some format. Would like to make sure ABAG growth projections are considered and supported. City policies should include minimizing traffic on San Pablo. TL3.4 – infill development by second units should be included.

David Arkin (AS&R, COA): written comments provided prior, supports consolidating bike/pedestrian measures and propose targets for implementation of the measures. COA: emphasize most effective priorities, streamline less effective priorities. Reflect latest data and plans from EBMUD, measure regarding air conditioning is not applicable, encourage including a residential parking permit fee, building energy - suggest keeping renewable and energy efficiency measures as separate. Asked if any progress measures had been made regarding the 25% below 2004 level goal, and whether there is a way to regionally account for development.

Clay Larson: suggests including multifamily development zoning ability on blocks parallel to San Pablo and Solano, and that intense infill is inconsistent with Albany's trends.

Signey Madison: Asked if the projections are based on Albany in particular, and how regional issues impact Albany.

Kitahara requested an adaptation section be added to the CAP that includes the impacts of climate change on development and also local food/goods production.

EDAW stated it is included throughout the CAP, developing a new section is outside of the project scope.

Kitahara asked about growth projections and regional issues. Kitahara suggested keeping the projections flexible to account for change.

EDAW suggested growth can be addressed in detail within the General Plan Update. Regional issues will be contingent upon SB375, and help determine regional targets.

O'Keefe would prefer not adding an adaptation section given it is outside of the scope. Separate lists should be made for quantifiable vs. non-quantifiable measures.

EDAW suggested consolidating the measures into quantifiable, with action measures, and non-quantifiable, without action measures. Also some non-quantifiable measures can have positive impacts addressing conditions on development.

Cooper added that measures that are currently non-quantifiable can change into quantifiable as data, research and the industry are constantly improving.

Kitahara suggested including a shortlist of quantifiable measures.

EDAW can categorize the non-quantifiable measures into a range of uncertainty, supporting measures/implementing measures and measures outside of the inventory. EDAW can put the tables in the introduction chapter structured as-is, but recasting the introduction and listing the measures in the priority order of quantified followed by supporting measures.

The Committee agreed this would be a good approach.

Kitahara would like the food item at a strategy level, and include a discussion of the peak oil protocol.

O'Keefe asked about TL4.4, and would like clarification. EDAW will clarify that it is an ordinance requiring employers to adopt trip reduction programs.

EDAW will refine the "things you can do page". EDAW will now develop the draft CAP for review by the Planning & Zoning Commission and then to City Council.

7-2. Review Draft UC Village EIR, comments provided by the Long-Range Planning Subcommittee and formulate comments to provide to the Planning & Zoning Commission (Attachment 3)

Cooper reviewed the written comments provided by the Long-Range Planning Subcommittee.

Bond provided clarification on particular items and is looking into how to identify how to calculate ghg emissions related to projects.

Kitahara asked about the ghg emissions calculations noting the emissions would likely go beyond what is estimated and would prefer additional detail.

O'Keefe stated the Committee would need to research how the calculations are conducted.

O'Keefe suggested bullet #4 be revised to a resolution, Gill Tract is misspelled, and remove bullet #3 since it is uncertain whether the sizing is correct.

Kitahara asked if there was an alternative for a smaller grocery store.

Public Comment:

Ed Fields: confirmed there was an alternative for a smaller grocery store, and that it had a smaller ghg emissions amount. Recommends another alternative with smaller grocery and larger residential.

Kitahara would like to see the full residential smaller grocery store alternative included. O'Keefe asked that it be termed as a full assessment of alternatives.

Cooper motioned to adopt the comments provided by the Long-Range Planning Subcommittee with the modifications discussed, and to clarify whether it is bay friendly plants or plans. Unanimously approved.

7-3. Wind Energy at Albany Bulb – Discuss meeting outcomes and potential next steps

Cooper reported that the item was on the City Council consent agenda and was approved. Cooper and Lieberman attended the September 14 Waterfront Committee meeting to discuss the item. The WFC noted that the lease agreement for the bulb would last another 40 plus years unless other action is taken regarding the lease.

Lieberman reported that he sensed resistance to the idea of wind energy at the bulb.

Cooper agreed noting that all could be clarified upon pending findings of a feasibility study.

Public Comment:

Clay Larson: cautioned the Committee about installation of an anemometer given the level of vandalism at the bulb. O'Keefe suggested a Committee member be present at the upcoming City Council meeting when Measure WW funds are being discussed.

7-4. Review draft letter to USDA re. community garden (Attachment 4)

The letter was unanimously approved by the Committee.

7-5. Review draft letter to Fern Tiger Associates regarding inclusion of climate change analysis (Attachment 5)

O'Keefe suggested source information regarding how to estimate ghg emissions be provided to Fern Tiger.

The Committee agreed to revise the example without listing a specific source and calculation.

Bond recommended staff discuss the item with Fern Tiger to determine what would be involved in calculating ghg emissions and report back to the Committee.

8. 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).

8-1. Next meeting October 21, 2009 – 979 San Pablo Avenue – Green Building Guidelines (P&Z), Green Albany landscape proposal (Urban Landscape Subcommittee), liaison role with Albany School Board

Bond will provide the draft Green building guidelines to the Committee.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15p.m.