

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE AND PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION JOINT MEETING MINUTES

Community Development Department 979 San Pablo Avenue October 21, 2009 – 7:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Cooper O'Keefe Schrift
Lieberman Smith-Heimer Yang

Members Absent: Kitahara

Others Present: Planning & Zoning Commissioners: Arkin, Maas

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3-1. Approve minutes from September 10 and 16 meetings (attached)

Minutes approved as amended.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Franchesco Papalia: discussed a project to build highly efficient wood stoves for Darfur. The stove efficiency saves CO2 emissions, and encouraged others to donate to the project.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

None.

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

6-1. Recommendation to the City Council on Amendments to City of Albany Green Building Standards of Compliance and Checklists

Bond provided a summary. Albany was an early adopter of green building standards. The checklist is being updated to include new code standards, and make achieving the total number of points more challenging. The revised checklist will include standards for education facilities.

Arkin reviewed proposed changes the Commission identified including LEED certification for homes, and that it be applied to all projects. The point threshold may be increased from 50 to 70, and point allocations may be adjusted.

Public Comment:

Catherine Stern – increased requirements may deter residents from conducting projects.

Maas replied that P&Z has considered this item and at the items proposed will not increase costs too extensively.

Cooper asked about energy audits related to building improvements. Lieberman agreed this item would be good to include.

Maas replied that this item would be better included in the Climate Action Plan.

O'Keefe asked why field verification was added. Bond replied that this will help verify compliance with checklist.

Cooper asked about vinyl siding and why it was not discouraged within the checklist.

Maas replied that vinyl siding is now banned.

Smith-Heimer recommended that regular reviews be conducted to ensure the checklist stays updated.

Cooper agreed that the checklist should be reviewed on an annual basis.

Cooper motioned that the Committee recommend the City Council adopt the amendments to the green building standards of compliance and checklist, with review on an annual basis. Seconded by Schrift. Unanimously approved.

6-2. Draft Climate Action Plan – discuss next steps and identify any additional comments

Bond reported that a revised public draft was submitted to staff by EDAW, and is in process of reviewing. City Council will have a study session on the item on January 4th. P&Z will have a review of the CAP in November. Cooper asked how to ensure whether the comments provided by the Committee will be incorporated.

O'Keefe and Smith-Heimer agreed it is important to verify whether comments provided by the Committee were incorporated.

Bond stated he is reviewing the CAP to verify comments made by the Committee have been included and will work with EDAW to make sure the draft is ready for public review.

Bond recommended the Committee identify how they will participate in the process of the CAP review with P&Z and City Council.

Preston Jordan asked about the review period and when the public review would be initiated.

Bond replied that the CAP public review will occur at the P&Z meetings in November, and City Council will have a study session in January.

Maas asked if a Committee member will participate in the CAP review during P&Z meetings. Smith-Heimer replied that she will be present as she is the designated liaison.

6-3. Landscape proposal for a green Albany – Catherine Stern (Urban Landscape Subcommittee)

Catherine Stern provided a presentation to the Committee regarding residential gardens. Supports streamlining the process for a Whole Foods and a farmers market. A farmer's market would provide a community activity and place where Albany grown foods can be shared, and would like to utilize local resources to improve residential gardens to produce food with surplus shared locally. Recommends developing a loan program provided by the City for improvement of gardens, and City sponsorship of a garden program.

O'Keefe stated the subcommittee met with Stern and identified items that they recommended. Schrift listed the items including organized local gleaning, bringing people together to garden, and providing educational workshops. Cooper noted that there are a lot of pieces to the proposal, and would need to organize it further to determine what the Committee could support.

Smith-Heimer noted that the Committee can promote public projects.

O'Keefe stated that the City's budget is constrained, and recommended promoting the items at green Albany day.

O'Keefe suggested the Committee endorse specific aspects of the proposal, and support moving them forward.

Catherine Stern stated she would like 10 households signed up during green Albany day to develop gardens.

Cooper stated that a lead would need to develop the program and would be able to have a booth at the event.

O'Keefe offered to work with Stern on the item further.

6-4. Discuss concept of an Albany Farmer's Market (Stephanie Sala, Supporters)

Stephanie Sala outlined the concept of a farmer's market. Many organizations are interested in the event but have not taken a leadership role. Sala has reviewed several locations, Cornell school grounds seem to be the best location available. Sala envisions a community-oriented market, and a market that promotes sustainable food production. Sala introduced Urban Table, which is a group that provides assistance in developing farmer's markets. Sala would like to hold the market on Wednesdays.

Smith-Heimer asked if there is enough demand for a market in Albany, and if vendors are interested.

Sala and Urban Table replied that they have a variety of vendors that are interested.

Sala added that it would be helpful to have the Committee support the market concept, and assist in recommending fees be waived for permitting.

Cooper motioned that the Committee supports the concept of a regular farmers market within the City, applauds the efforts thus far by Sala, and encourages any waiving of fees or other activities that will facilitate bringing the event to Albany. Seconded by Schrift. Unanimously approved.

7. REPORTS

7-1. Long Range Planning/Sustainable Development Subcommittee – update

Smith-Heimer reported that they met and discussed wind energy, and are continuing to develop this item further.

7-2. Urban Landscape Subcommittee – update

Schrift reported that they did not meet prior to the meeting.

7-3. Education Subcommittee – update

Cooper reported that they met to discuss Green Albany Day and whether workshops should be included this year given that the character of the event is changing this year. O'Keefe stated that it is important to have a workshop to add educational value to the event.

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 November 18, 2009 – 979 San Pablo Avenue

8-2. Discussion regarding scheduling of December 16, 2009 meeting.

Bond stated that city staff will be moving back into City Hall during December and that staff support for the December meeting will be limited.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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