



**SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES**

**NOTE LOCATION CHANGE:  
Albany Library - Edith Stone Room  
1247 Marin Avenue, Albany  
July 15, 2009 – 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 Cooper              Caryl O’Keefe              Dan Lieberman  
   Miya Kitahara              Janet Smith-Heimer

Members Absent: Suzanne Schrift, April Yang

Staff Present: Nicole Almaguer, Jeff Bond

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

Minutes unanimously approved. Motion by Smith-Heimer, second by Lieberman.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**5. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

**5-1. 4<sup>th</sup> of July outreach summary**

Almaguer thanked O’Keefe and Kitahara for staffing the table, and reported that the outreach went well and significant input was collected regarding draft Climate Action Plan measures.

**5-2. Stopwaste.Org 2008 Waste Characterization Study – update**

Almaguer reported that the City’s has a high waste diversion rate, and that the study indicates additional focus should be placed on increasing diversion of organics materials.

**5-3. Energy efficiency grants – update**

Almaguer reported that the California Energy Commission has released draft guidelines for the small cities energy efficiency grant funding. It appears the funding will be allocated based on a population formula. Further details regarding this grant will be provided by the CEC within the next few months, and there will likely be a tight application submittal schedule.

Smith-Heimer asked if these funds could be used for wind energy feasibility study. Almaguer noted the funds are for energy efficiency, but will confirm.

**5-4. Sustainability Committee participation in “Carbon Neutral Albany” communications**

Almaguer reported that the City Attorney suggested Committee members refrain from expressing comments on listserves or other regarding items that may be on Committee agendas.

Smith-Heimer asked if Committee members could participate as individuals and clarify that they are not representing the Committee.

Almaguer replied that it may be allowable, but is at the discretion of each Committee member.

Kitahara announced the “Transition Albany” project being developed by Catherine Sutton.

Kitahara announced that she attended the City of El Cerrito’s Environmental Quality Committee meeting. They are planning public outreach for National Night Out in August.

**6. REPORTS**

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

Smith-Heimer reported that the subcommittee discussed logistics regarding review of the UC Village EIR, and discussed development of the wind energy memo prepared by Lieberman.

**6-2. Urban Landscape Subcommittee – update**

O’Keefe reported that she researched the potential for a farmer’s market, and would like to have the item on a future agenda so the Committee can discuss the scope of the market, and whether it is profit based or more grass roots. There are potential liability concerns with produce sharing.

Smith-Heimer noted she had information on consortiums that could provide assistance and will forward to O'Keefe.

Kitahara reported that they are beginning to research local food production opportunities, and have drafted a letter to recognize the garden plot developed at the USDA.

### **6-3. Education Subcommittee – update**

Kitahara reported that the subcommittee did not meet.

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

### **7-1. University Village Draft EIR (Jeff Bond)**

Bond provided an overview of the EIR process for UC Village. The comment period is 45 days, ending on August 20<sup>th</sup>. Planning & Zoning will have a public hearing on July 28<sup>th</sup> where they will take public comment. Comments can also be submitted in writing. Bond noted the review period could potentially be extended. The final EIR will require City Council approval.

Project design and detailed review will come later in the process following the EIR. Comments regarding specific components of the project should be raised during the project design review period.

O'Keefe asked if the greenhouse gas emissions estimates listed within the EIR could be supplied in a format that allows easier comparison to data within the City's draft CAP. Bond replied he will research with the consultant.

O'Keefe asked if the Committee should develop a standard template for analysis of climate change within EIRs. Smith-Heimer noted that the state has developed standardized content that will be adopted into CEQA review.

Cooper stated the UC Village students may not be around during the summer, and they should have a chance to comment.

Public comment:

Preston Jordan stated Carbon Neutral Albany supports extending the review period.

Kim Linden suggested the EIR be tabled until after development of the CAP.

Smith-Heimer motioned the Committee ask Planning & Zoning to request an extension of the EIR comment period by an additional 45 days. Seconded by O'Keefe, unanimously approved.

Bond will relay the request to Planning & Zoning.

### **7-2. Draft Administrative Climate Action Plan (EDAW, Inc.)**

EDAW provided an overview of the Draft Administrative CAP. EDAW noted that the CAP will serve as a guiding document, and that each measure within the CAP would require its own planning, review, and implementation process. EDAW also noted that inclusion of climate change analysis within CEQA is very new, and that it would be difficult to compare CAP ghg data to a project's projected ghg data as they are on different scales, and the CAP data is based on inventory of specific sectors.

Cooper suggested the CAP include comparison of Albany to other jurisdictions within the state. Cooper asked about the parking fee measure, and the nexus between parking fees and reducing use of vehicles. He does not want to discourage shopping locally. Cooper did not see a reference to utilization of EBMUD's graywater pipe.

EDAW replied that production of graywater actually increased ghg emissions, and that is why it is not included. Further explanation will be added to the CAP.

Cooper added that there are very few homes in Albany with air conditioning, and this item should be removed.

Cooper asked whether there would be an inclusion of the ghg emissions associated with urban forestry/agriculture including water demand. EDAW replied that they researched the item with staff and that the water demand is minimal. This detail will be added to the CAP.

O'Keefe suggested language indicating the City will pass an ordinance be restated to reflect that any ordinance would be reviewed by the City Council. O'Keefe suggested the measures without measurable reductions should be eliminated from the CAP.

Smith-Heimer would like to discuss the measures without measurable reductions further. Smith-Heimer suggested condensing certain sections of the CAP including chapter 2. Smith-Heimer suggested a prioritization of actions be included.

Kitahara responded to the written comments provided by Carbon Neutral Albany that call for elimination of urban farming measure, and disagreed with removal of this measure. Kitahara asked what growth projections were chosen, and for clarification on renewable energy vs. energy efficiency cost effectiveness and new development vs. retrofitting existing development cost effectiveness.

Public Comment:

Howard McNenny: asked if AB 32 would supercede the work being conducted on the CAP. Suggested that Albany also be compared to other cities within the world.

Ellen Toomey: asked how much the school district had participated in the CAP.

Amy Smolens: stated that Albany Strollers & Rollers submitted written comments regarding the CAP, which call for speeding up timelines of particular transportation related projects.

Preston Jordan: stated that Carbon Neutral Albany had submitted written comments regarding the CAP. Suggested a set of metrics in each category for percent reductions/targets, and that the information should be vertically integrated to allow for easier review. Encouraged setting a priority list for implementation, and that measures with non quantifiable ghg benefits should be further reviewed to identify which are more practical to keep. Noted that the urban agriculture item could potentially be a competing interest with other measures that have quantifiable reductions.

Kim Linden: expressed support for the urban agriculture measure and would like it expanded. Asked about how the CAP would be updated.

### **7-3. Review request for City Council to consider wind energy feasibility study at Albany Bulb**

Lieberman presented the draft memo for City Council.

Smith-Heimer motioned the memo be sent to City Council. Seconded by Kitahara. Unanimously approved.

Almaguer will format memo and have available for Cooper's signature.

### **7-4. Green Albany Day/Arts and Music Festival 2010**

Kitahara reported that she attended the Arts Committee meeting and that the concept of combining the events was well received. They will be having a planning meeting for the festival in September.

## **8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

### **8-1. Next meeting September 16, 2009 (August recess) – Comments on Draft Administrative CAP (EDAW, Inc.), Green Albany landscape proposal (Urban Landscape Subcommittee), Solar outreach to commercial**

The Committee agreed to hold a special meeting on September 10<sup>th</sup> to develop comments regarding the Draft Administrative CAP. They will also briefly discuss the UC Village EIR if timing allows. The Long-Range Planning Subcommittee will plan to meet prior to the special meeting in order to formulate suggested comments re. the draft EIR.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.