



**SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

**City Hall Conference Room
1000 San Pablo Avenue
May 16, 2012 – 7:30 p.m.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cooper at 7:40 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Cooper, Smith-Heimer, Lieberman, Jennings

Members Absent: Wei, Wangmo, Price

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3-1. Approve minutes from March 21, 2012 meeting

Action on minutes deferred to a future meeting.

3-2. Approve minutes from April 18, 2012 meeting

Action on minutes deferred to a future meeting.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Preston Jordan of Carbon Neutral Albany expressed desire to discuss the CAP, but decided to discuss during item 7-4.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Jeff Bond explained that the issue of urban farming will be on the next City Council agenda and the issue may be deferred to the Sustainability Committee. If so, the committee will likely need to hold a special meeting before the regularly scheduled June meeting. Jeff and committee member Smith-Heimer discussed the outcomes of a recent meeting held by UC regarding urban agriculture and the Gill Tract.

6. REPORTS

6-1. Green Building Ordinance Subcommittee

Subcommittee has not met.

6-2. CAP Implementation Update

The Committee reviewed the results of an RFP to purchase solar power for city facilities. The committee agreed that the Childcare Center on Buchanan was the only feasible option for solar. Committee member Lieberman said he would talk to Nicole Almaguer about the possibility of leasing instead of purchasing solar.

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

7-1. Arts & Green Festival Debrief

Chair Cooper said that the subcommittees of the Sustainability Committee and the Arts Committee were both very pleased with the attendance and the quality of the booths at this year's event.

7-2. Review Draft Correspondence to City Council Supporting EBMUD Plans for Community Choice Aggregation Purchase of Sustainable Electric Power

The committee submitted minor edits to the draft letter; they wanted to mention that San Francisco and Marin were already using CCA, they wanted to mention that a letter would not commit the City to anything, and that the only foreseeable downfall was that it might affect the City's relationship with PG&E.

7-3. Review Draft Correspondence to City Council Supporting Utility Users Tax

The subcommittee had not yet drafted a letter, but the four Committee members present agreed to have Committee member Smith-Heimer write a letter to the City Council from the Committee suggesting that the UUT be placed on the ballot. Preston Jordan suggested the language be reworded to 'Energy Utility Tax.'

7-4. Discuss CAP Funding and Implementation including Approach to Recalculating CAP baseline

Preston Jordan volunteered Carbon Neutral Albany, possibly along with Max, to recalculate the CAP baseline rather than hiring a consultant. Preston thinks this should be done annually, and plans to recalculate the baseline with 2004 data and with the most recent data.

The Committee discussed how the issue of urban agriculture fits into CAP goals and priorities. Committee members and Preston Jordan agreed that a focus on urban agriculture would likely be a distraction from more real emission reduction strategies.

7-5. Discuss the formation of a subcommittee in partnership with the School Board to focus on environmental sustainability in Albany schools

Chair Cooper explained that Allan Maris is going to propose the idea of forming a subcommittee comprised of Two Sustainability Committee members and two School Board members to discuss environmental issues in the schools. In particular, the subcommittee would focus on transportation, energy, and materials.

7-6. Review monthly article for Albany Patch

The article was reviewed with small edits. Chair Cooper suggested it be added as an attachment to the CCA Staff Report. Motion made and passed unanimously to approve Patch article.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Committee discussed future agenda items including a presentation on the proposed Safeway construction project, updates on CCA, UUT, and the CAP, including a chance to review the revised CAP baseline. Pending school board approval, they will have a motion to create the schools subcommittee, they may form a subcommittee to work on CCA.

Committee member Lieberman and Jeff Bond will not be able to attend the June meeting. Jeff will plan to discuss the upcoming general plan at the July meeting.

8-1. Next regular meeting – June 20, 2012

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.