



**SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES**

**City Hall Conference Room  
1000 San Pablo Avenue  
June 20, 2012 – 7:30 p.m.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Cooper, Wei, Price, Jennings

Members Absent: Smith-Heimer, Lieberman

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**3-1. Approve minutes from February 12, 2012 meeting**

Approved

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

Approved

**3-3. Approve minutes from May 16, 2012 meeting**

Approved

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**5. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

**5-1. Update on Pierce Street Parcel Project**

Griffing provided an update – the City hired an architect for the new maintenance center, public park and bike path on the Pierce Street Parcel. An “awareness walk” will be held on the property and the architects will give a presentation on the proposed project and solicit community input at the next Parks & Rec meeting.

**5-2. MTC Parking Workshop**

Griffing provided an update – Transportation Planner Aleida Andrino-Chavez and Traffic and Safety Commission Chair Ken McCroskey attended MTC’s parking workshop and are in the process of writing up a formal presentation of their findings. They hope to have something to present to all interested committee and commission members in July.

**5-3. Update on Student Committee Member**

Griffing provided an update – Pasang will not continue on for a second year because she will be serving on the Instructional Improvement Council at the high school. The school district will appoint a new student member in September. The Committee asked staff to send her a thank you letter for her service.

Griffing informed the Committee that the UC Village/Whole Foods Project will be going to a Planning and Zoning special meeting on June 27<sup>th</sup>, and then it will go to Council on July 9<sup>th</sup> and July 16<sup>th</sup>.

**6. REPORTS**

**6-1. CAP Implementation Update**

Griffing provided an update – Council approved the solar project at the childcare center and they’ve requested to seek funding for other projects. The Farmer’s market is up and running again and has been approved year-round.

The City has hired Nelson/Nygaard Consultants to draft a Complete Streets design concept for Buchanan and San Pablo Avenues. They will solicit community input this fall with a walking audit and a week-long charrette process. The Committee can appoint a liaison to attend Technical Advisory Committee meetings.

**6-2. Update Regarding Proposed Safeway Remodel**

Griffing provided an update – The EIR is being finalized and the project is slated to go to Planning & Zoning in September. A presentation on the project will be given at the July Sustainability Committee meeting. Preston Jordan had safety concerns about the proposed parking structure and mentioned a lack of

sufficient bike parking.

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

### **7-1. Update regarding correspondence and City Council action supporting EBMUD Plans for Community Choice Aggregation Purchase of Sustainable Electric Power**

Griffing provided an update – Council made a motion to send a letter to EBMUD. They’ve received formal letters from Albany, Berkeley, Oakland, and Emeryville, and heard interest from many others. EBMUD will discuss CCA and the possibility of including Albany in its feasibility study at their meeting on June 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **7-2. Update regarding Community Gardens/Urban Farming “Green Albany” Plan as reviewed by City Council on May 21, 2012**

Griffing provided an update – Council has decided to defer this responsibility to Parks & Rec, who met last week to discuss the topic.

### **7-3. Establishment of subcommittee in partnership with the School Board to focus on environmental sustainability in Albany schools**

Chair Cooper said he’d met with a School Board member and the AUSD Facilities Manager to discuss the creation of a subcommittee, which might include teachers and students. The subcommittee would be focused on energy, materials, and transportation issues. The goal is to encourage the District to enact policies that favor environmental preservation, especially related to energy and building concerns. Committee member Wei expressed interest in being on the committee, and Chair Cooper said he was interested but not sure if he could commit the time.

### **7-4. Update regarding recalculating baseline and current greenhouse gas emissions reductions status in Climate Action Plan – discuss draft findings**

Preston Jordan and Ari Halberstadt have been recalculating the CAP baseline and presented their preliminary findings. The committee discussed the possible causes of the downward trends in electricity and natural gas usage outlined in Preston’s presentation. Griffing informed the Committee there might be an opportunity to partner with StopWaste.Org and PG&E to provide a greenhouse gas inventory update by December 2012.

### **7-5. Review draft correspondence to City Council supporting placement of Utility Users Tax on November 2012 ballot**

The committee discussed the letter and made edits. There was some concern about the portion of the letter that criticized the phone survey. Committee member Price expressed concern about the content of the letter and wanted to see the final product before it went to Council.

#### **Motion:**

Moved by Committee Member Wei, seconded by Committee Member Jennings to authorize Committee Member Smith-Heimer to make the proposed edits and send to Chair Cooper for signature.

AYES: Cooper, Jennings, Wei

NOES: Price

Absent: Smith-Heimer, Lieberman

## **8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The Committee discussed future agenda items including reinstating the standing green building subcommittee update, a report on the CAP baseline update meeting with Stopwaste and look at the transportation part of the update, an update on CCA and the EBMUD meeting, schools subcommittee update, and a presentation on the proposed Safeway construction project.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.