



SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

City Hall Conference Room, 1000 San Pablo Avenue
September 19, 2012 – 7:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL

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

Members Absent: Blanchard, Jennings

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3-1. Approve minutes from June 20, 2012 meeting

Approved with minor edits.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

5-1. Status of New Committee Members

Claire Griffing provided an update – Committee Member Price resigned in August, and Council Member Peggy Thompson has appointed Charlie Blanchard in her place. Claire and Jeff met with Charlie and he offered to continue to help with the CAP baseline project as a committee member. He also served on the School Board and has expressed interest in working on the schools subcommittee.

Griffing is working with the School District to get a student member appointed. They've agreed to appoint a student from the Earth Team environmental club or the EDSET environmental internship program that Maddy Dunn was a part of. Several students from these programs have expressed interest, and staff is waiting for a final decision.

Chair Cooper announced that San Francisco had approved CCA the day before. Also, the Coastal Cleanup at the Bulb was successful and committee members wished there was more outreach done.

6. REPORTS

6-1. Pierce St Parcel Project Update

Jeff Bond provided a brief presentation on the project design concepts. There will be a maintenance center/public works building on the southern end of the property and a park on the northern end. Committee members expressed concerns about air quality, freeway noise, vandalism and maintenance. They suggested PV panels on the roof and thought the site might be a good location for wind generation. Committee member Wei suggested constructing an indoor recreation center to alleviate the air quality and noise issues.

6-2. Complete Streets Project Update

Griffing provided an update – The Complete Streets design process for Buchanan and San Pablo will solicit public input at workshops in December. Meetings will be held on Thursday, December 6th, 7pm-9pm, Saturday, December 8th, 9am-2pm and Wednesday, December 12th, 7pm-8:30pm. In addition to the public meetings, focus groups will meet throughout the day on Friday, December 7th. The proposed focus groups include an urban design/green streets component.

6-3. San Pablo Avenue Rain Garden Project Update

Griffing provided an update – The San Francisco Estuary Project is initiating a pilot project to develop green infrastructure to limit storm water runoff on San Pablo Avenue. They're working with Albany and 6 other cities. The project aims to treat seven total acres along San Pablo, although the total amount per city has yet to be determined. The Albany site has been chosen – it's the eastern side of San Pablo between Marin and Dartmouth. The project is fully funded by several grants, and should be complete by fall of 2015. Construction is scheduled to begin next summer.

6-4. General Plan Update

Bond provided an update – Albany’s general plan was last updated in the late 1980s. They are now going through the process of updating it. The Planning and Zoning Commission will act as the steering committee. The general plan will be the foundation document for land use in Albany.

6-5. Presentation on Sustainable Development by Janet Smith-Heimer

The presentation was rescheduled for the next regular meeting on October 17th.

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

7-1. Committee Member Resignation and Resolution of Appreciation

A resolution of appreciation for former committee member Del Price was approved with minor edits. It was scheduled to be adopted and signed at the next meeting.

7-2. Request from the Chair to Discuss UC Village Project

Bond provided an update – Two lawsuits have been filed, one by the Albany Farm Alliance and one by Carbon Neutral Albany/Strollers and Rollers. A referendum with 1,400 signatures was submitted. The referendum would nullify the ordinance adopted by Council to approve the development agreement.

7-3. Arts and Green Festival Update

Chair Cooper provided an update – The Arts Committee voted not to participate in the Arts & Green Festival next year. They feel the art component doesn’t fulfill their goals. If the event is to survive, the Sustainability Committee will need help organizing food booths and musical performances. Chair Cooper has asked community groups and the Traffic & Safety Commission if they’d help. Griffing will speak with the Rec Department to gauge their ability to promote ‘green’ outreach at existing events. The City can’t provide extra support for this festival, however.

7-4. Discussion of Minimum Parking Requirements

Bond provided an update – They are still waiting on outcomes from the last meeting and will provide something concrete when it’s available.

7-5. Establishment of Subcommittee in Partnership with the School Board to Focus on Environmental Sustainability in Albany Schools

The subcommittee hasn’t met. The School Board isn’t going to appoint members to the subcommittee.

Instead, they will appoint people from the District. This will be discussed further when Committee Member Blanchard returns.

7-6. Update regarding EBMUD Plans for Community Choice Aggregation

Griffing provided an update – She met with several people from EDMUD in August to discuss their progress on CCA research. Representatives from Berkeley and Oakland were there. It sounds like Berkeley is very interested in CCA, but the Oakland wouldn’t say whether they were interested. EBMUD is working on a pre-feasibility study that they will present to the Board in December. They’ve asked for load data. Berkeley and Albany plan to provide load data, but Oakland declined. They’re looking at 100% or 50% green portfolios. PG&E is planning to offer a 100% green option sometime next year. Committee member Lieberman explained that an application was put in, but that the program will be based on a credit system. EBMUD thinks they’d have to organize a joint powers authority and have all cities share in costs and risks. Legal staff is looking into whether EBMUD even has the authority to become a CCA.

El Cerrito City Council is getting a presentation from Marin Clean Energy on Tuesday, October 2nd. It should start around 7:30.

Committee members Smith-Heimer, Lieberman and Wei volunteered to be on a subcommittee to research CCA further.

7-7. Update Regarding Recalculating Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

Griffing provided an update – Albany is continuing to work with Stopwaste to calculate both our Citywide and municipal operations GHG emissions for 2010. MTC changed their database and models in 2010. The change is from a straight traffic counting model to a trip demand model, which means that cities will now be assigned vehicle miles based on cars that are actually trying to get to the City, instead of just passing through. MTC has agreed to run the 2004 data through their new model so that we can show comparable numbers from both inventories. Detailed municipal data has all been collected and there will likely be preliminary data to share at the next meeting. The Stopwaste intern will give the SC a presentation, likely in November. She might be available to come back for a follow-up in December. She is from Albany and is entering data into the ICLEI model.

7-8. Discussion of Financing CAP Measures

The Committee submitted a letter to Council requesting guidance and has not received a formal response. Bond suggested they create a new proposal with funding options to bring to the new council in January and try again for the 2014 election.

7-9. Review monthly article for Albany Patch

The Committee approved the article but suggested a headline and added information on how walk scores can add value to your house.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Committee discussed future agenda items including a meeting with the El Cerrito Sustainability Committee, the presentation from committee member Smith-Heimer on sustainably development, a presentation from a San Rafael Sustainability Committee member on a low carbon diet program, a presentation from a UC Village resident who is organized community-based group promoting energy savings.

8-1. Next regular meeting – October 17, 2012

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm.