



SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING

City Hall Conference Room, 1000 San Pablo Avenue
Tuesday, November 27, 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: Blanchard, Jennings, Lieberman, Smith-Heimer, Wei, Cooper

Members Absent: Young

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3-1. Approve minutes from September 19, 2012 meeting

Approved.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Cooper welcomed new Committee Member Charlie Blanchard to the Committee.

Claire Griffing announced the Alameda County plastic bag ban going into effect in January 2013.

5-1. Update Regarding Recalculating Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

Griffing provided an update – Stopwaste.Org is finishing up the inventory update and will give a presentation to the Committee in December.

6. REPORTS

None.

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

7-1. Sustainability Committee Biannual Review by City Manager Beth Pollard

Beth Pollard discussed planning for the future of the Committee. Committee members discussed the possibility of merging with the Social & Economic Justice Commission, which Committee members decided against due to the amount of work that still needs to be done in implementing the Climate Action Plan. The Committee also discussed the idea of changing meeting frequency. They decided to keep monthly meetings but to carefully prioritize goals for next year and keep meeting agendas short. They also discussed the number of committee members and whether the student member was necessary. They also discussed the need to make sure any subcommittees that meet regularly are publicly noticed. There was a difference of opinion on whether a subcommittee needed to be noticed if it only met 9 months out of the year, which will be clarified at the annual committee training in January.

7-2. Complete Streets planning process for San Pablo and Buchanan Corridors

Jeff Bond encouraged the Committee to attend the three community workshops planned to help incorporate community input into new designs for the San Pablo and Buchanan Corridors.

7-3. Discuss community involvement and debrief from Sustainable Marin presentation

Mila Moran of Nature Village discussed the work of residents in University Village to encourage sustainable behaviors and the challenges the community faces with language barriers and frequent turnover. The Committee asked for a presentation from them sometime next year to continue the conversation about community outreach. Chair Cooper suggested that the role of the Committee may not be direct outreach, but encouraging existing groups who already do community outreach.

7-4. CCA Subcommittee Update

Committee Members Lieberman and Smith-Heimer met to discuss ways to increase the amount of renewables.

Griffing provided an update – There will be a CCA Webinar with speakers from LEAN energy, Marin Clean Energy, the SF PUC and the Sonoma County Water Agency. EBMUD will finalize their pre-feasibility study in December but they seem hesitant to move forward, especially because Berkeley is the only other municipality with clear interest. The City would like to look at Marin Clean Energy more closely and gauge their interest in expanding.

7-5. Green Building Ordinance Update

Chair Cooper expressed the need for another subcommittee meeting because the current ordinance changes do not reflect the concerns of the Sustainability Committee. The City will try to schedule one more meeting before the final changes are approved by the Planning & Zoning Commission.

7-6. Arts and Green Festival Update

Chair Cooper provided an update - The date is set for May 19th but there is no one to volunteer to organize the music and dance portion of the event. Committee Member Lieberman will help coordinate alcohol at the event, and they will try to invite food trucks to bring more people to the event. They want to increase the amount of compost that is given away at the event as well.

7-7. Schools Subcommittee Update

Committee Member Blanchard provided an update – Committee Members Blanchard and Wei met with AUSD Facilities Director Don Albright to discuss energy efficiency in the schools. They have a meeting scheduled to discuss what the County is doing in the schools. Don is looking into energy management system and the schools are discussing the establishment of an advisory committee for when they replace schools.

7-8. Discussion of Financing CAP Measures

Griffing gave a brief presentation – The Alameda County Waste Management Authority (Stopwaste.Org) is requesting that its member agencies in Alameda County join a Joint Powers Authority they've titled the Energy Council. The goal of this Energy Council is to coordinate grant seeking for, and regional implementation of, energy efficiency and sustainable energy initiatives. They are going to Council on December 17th to request that the City join.

Motion:

Moved by Committee Member Smith-Heimer, seconded by Committee Member Wei to recommend that the City Council join the Alameda County Energy Council JPA.

AYES: Blanchard, Cooper, Jennings, Lieberman, Smith-Heimer, Wei

NOES: None.

Absent: Young

7-9. Review monthly article for Albany Patch

No article to review.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Committee discussed future agenda items, including a discussion of how to communicate with the council about funding CAP measures, the GHG inventory update presentation by Stopwaste, a presentation by Nature Village, a discussion of goal setting for next year, and further discussion of the green building ordinance revisions.

8-1. Next regular meeting – December 19th, 2012

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm.