



SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

City Hall Council Chambers, 1000 San Pablo Avenue
October 17, 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: Jennings, Lieberman, Smith-Heimer, Wei, Young, Cooper

Members Absent: Blanchard

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Approved.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

5-1. Welcome New Committee Member

New student Committee Member Sareeta Young introduced herself to the Committee.

5-2. Litter Can Mosaic Project

Claire Griffing announced this new project – The City has been unable to obtain grants to replace the current City litter cans. They've come up with an adopt-a-can program modeled after Oakland's program, where residents, community groups or schools can adopt a litter can and create an environmentally-themed mosaic on the can. The plan is to pilot the program with support from the Arts Committee.

Reappointments/Maddy Act Announcement

Griffing provided an update – At-large members and termed-out council appointees must reapply to remain on the Sustainability Committee. Reelected appointees will need to be reappointed but don't need to officially reapply.

6. REPORTS

6-1. Sustainability Community Outreach presentation by Tamra Peters of San Rafael's Sustainability Committee and Kiki La Porta of Sustainable Marin

Tamra Peters provided a presentation on her work with Sustainable Marin and the Resilient Neighborhoods program in Marin County and outlined similarities and differences between their climate action steps and Albany's program.

6-2. California First Program Update

Griffing provided an update – Albany businesses can now participate in the CaliforniaFIRST program, which allows commercial property owners to use municipal bonds to finance energy efficiency, water efficiency and renewable energy upgrades – which the owners repay through a special assessment on their annual property tax bill. Through a public-private partnership, private capital will be used to supply the upfront funding for the work. Committee members expressed disappointment that the residential program has not been approved.

6-3. Update Regarding Recalculating Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

Griffing provided an update – Stopwaste staff is still waiting on transportation data for MTC. The hope is to have something to present at the November meeting. A graphic of energy use data compiled by PG&E was distributed and discussed. Committee members took note of the fact that residential energy usage looked like it had increased.

6-4. Presentation on Sustainable Development by Janet Smith-Heimer

This item was moved to item 7.7 due to time constraints.

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

7-1. Committee Member Resolution of Appreciation

The Committee passed a resolution in appreciation of former Committee Member Del Price.

7-2. CCA Update

Committee Member Lieberman provided an update – The subcommittee met to discuss CCA and clean energy. There are no barriers to join Marin Clean Energy. Pending new state legislation would require utilities to credit owners of renewable energy. This legislation would allow for community solar projects. Committee Member Lieberman suggested that someone come speak to the committee about these community ‘solar gardens.’ Griffing provided an update – Marin Clean Energy gave a presentation to the El Cerrito City Council. They seemed interested in looking for more communities to join their JPA. EBMUD is scheduled to present the findings of their CCA pre-feasibility study to their board in December.

7-3. Arts and Green Festival Update

Chair Cooper provided an update – The Albany Community Foundation, along with the Arts Committee, will no longer be a part of the Albany Arts & Green Festival. Chair Cooper said they are looking for alternative sponsorship. They held a meeting several weeks ago, where there seemed to be a lot of support from community groups. There is another meeting scheduled for next week. This year there will be no artists, but they hope to still provide music and dance performances. They also hope to offer more interactive tables this year, like the chicken vendor who was very popular. They have set a tentative date for Sunday, May 19th. Claire Griffing offered to book the date for the Vet’s Building and Memorial Park. She will look into whether Jeremy Allen can help with audio equipment again this year and how much funding is available for the ‘green grant’. Committee Members Lieberman and Young offered to be part of the subcommittee this year.

7-4. Establishment of Subcommittee in Partnership with the School Board to Focus on Environmental Sustainability in Albany Schools

Committee Members Blanchard and Wei have agreed to be on this subcommittee. No one from the School Board will officially participate, although Allan Maris may attend some meetings. School District Facilities Director Don Albright will represent the School District in these meetings.

7-5. Discussion of Financing CAP Measures

The Committee decided last month to create a subcommittee to discuss CAP funding measures. They are going to wait until after the election to discuss next steps.

7-6. Review monthly article for Albany Patch

There was no article to review this month. Committee Members requested a reminder email be sent out to encourage them to write an article before the meeting.

7-7. Presentation on Sustainable Development by Janet Smith-Heimer

This item was moved from 6-4. Committee Member Smith-Heimer provided a brief version of the economic development presentation she gave to cities through an EPA sustainable development program.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Committee Member Jennings requested that the green building subcommittee update be placed back on the agenda. The Committee also requested an agenda item to discuss community involvement in CAP programs and expressed interest in debriefing from the Sustainable Marin presentation. Committee Member Wei offered a presentation by his friend from UC Village at a future meeting.

8-1. Next regular meeting – TBD

Proposed date change: Tuesday, November 27th.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm.