



SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

City Hall Council Chambers, 1000 San Pablo Avenue
Wednesday, February 20, 2013 – 7:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cooper at 7:30pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Blanchard, Uhrhammer, Young, Cooper

Members Absent: Lieberman, Smith-Heimer, Wei

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approve minutes from January 16, 2013 meeting

Approved.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Claire Griffing provided an update – Committee Member Lieberman was reappointed by Council in January.

6. REPORTS

A. Complete Streets Update

Jeff Bond provided an update – The consultant Design Team will be presenting at next Thursday's Traffic and Safety Commission meeting to discuss two options for the design of San Pablo Avenue. The first would include bike lanes and require the removal of a significant amount of parking. The second option would include a green 'super sharrow' lane for shared use by cyclists and drivers and would protect current parking and allow for extended medians to aid safe pedestrian crossings. The Design Team hopes to make recommendations to Council in July.

B. General Plan Update

Jeff Bond provided an update – The City has hired a consultant and will begin engaging the community in March to obtain big-picture ideas, starting first with boards, commissions, and committees. The City will be using a new social media platform to solicit feedback from the community and will be creating a video as well. The project is expected to take a year and a half. Committee Member Blanchard requested that the Sustainability Committee be able to provide input on the process and Chair Cooper agreed, suggesting a monthly agenda item on the subject once the process begins.

C. Schools Subcommittee Update

Committee Member Blanchard provided an update – The subcommittee hasn't met, but the District signed up for the Leadership in Energy Efficiency Program (LEEP). Chair

Cooper suggested they also focus on building materials and Committee Member Blanchard said the subcommittee will meet again to discuss this topic.

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

A. Arts and Green Festival Update and Discussion on Street Closures

Chair Cooper provided an update – The festival has a few sponsors already signed up. He discussed the plan to close the eastbound lane of Portland from Ramona to Carmel to accommodate food trucks, food booths, and a bike valet area. The plan leaves Carmel open to traffic and eliminates parking on the west side of the street for electronic drop-off and compost pick-up. Griffing expressed concerns about potential traffic issues on Carmel related to the compost giveaway and will follow up with Chair Cooper to determine a solution. Chair Cooper asked about the possibility of a banner across Solano and Griffing explained that it is possible but a lift would cost \$500/day. Chair Cooper asked if a ladder could be used instead. Griffing will ask the Maintenance Department.

B. Green Building Ordinance Update

Jeff Bond provided an update – The Planning & Zoning Commission made some refinements to the ordinance changes in the multi-family section. The final changes will come back to the Sustainability Committee for review in March once they have been written up. The changes will go to Council in April.

C. Discuss Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

Committee Member Blanchard provided an update – He looked at the new inventory and compared it to the previous numbers. There was concern about the off-road vehicle numbers being too high; they are based on a breakdown of off-road vehicle use in Alameda County and scaled by population. The Committee discussed the differences with Albany's off-road vehicle use and the rest of the County, and suggested they look at the numbers based on construction activity versus population. The new transportation data uses an MTC model that identifies trips solely within Albany (which are counted in full), trips that end and begin somewhere else but pass through Albany (which are not counted), and trips that are partially within Albany (which are counted at 50%). These partial trips dominate the result and Committee members were concerned that the allocation is not accurate. Some trips attribute up to 10 miles driven within Albany per person daily, which isn't likely for a city of this size.

Chair Cooper expressed concern about where the data that informs the MTC model comes from and whether the City should do a separate survey.

Bond explained that the Alameda County Transportation Commission is currently doing their own traffic counts that may provide more clarity than the MT model does.

Public Comment: Preston Jordan recommended using Caltrans data because models like MTC's will change over time and not give consistent results. The natural gas emissions factor used in Stopwaste's inventory did not account for losses during production and transmission. He also asked that the Committee revisit the big decline in commercial natural gas usage in 2008. The Committee discussed possible reasons, including the

economy, the UC Village development, and Albany Pool. Bond offered to check with USDA to see if there were any changes during that time period.

D. Discuss Options for Community Renewable Energy and Community Choice Aggregation

Griffing provided an update – Committee Member Lieberman provided an analysis of four community renewable energy options; Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) would provide the most significant GHG savings, Community Renewable Energy would allow residents to purchase a part of a local renewable energy system, PG&E's Utility Green Pricing program set to launch in 2014 would allow customers to pay a premium for 100% renewable energy through the purchase of RECs, and Individual Actions to install solar systems may not be reliable, as 75% of people don't have the option to install solar and the costs are still high. Griffing's staff report outlined the current possibilities for CCA and detailed the pros and cons of joining Marin Clean Energy (MCE). The Committee discussed MCE's high percentage of RECs. They will receive a presentation from MCE in March. Bond said that the City will outreach to the community regarding this presentation.

E. Discuss Committee Goals for 2013

The Committee voted unanimously to move this discussion to the March meeting when more members will be present.

F. Review of Monthly Article for the Patch

None.

G. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair for 2013

The Committee voted unanimously to move this discussion to the March meeting when more members will be present.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Committee discussed future agenda items, including a presentation by Marin Clean Energy, continued discussion of committee goals, updates on the green building ordinance changes and the GHG inventory, as well as selecting a chair and vice chair.

A. Next regular meeting – March 20, 2013

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 pm.