



SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

City Hall Council Chambers, 1000 San Pablo Avenue
Wednesday, March 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, Lieberman*, Smith-Heimer, Uhrhammer, Wei, Young, Cooper

*Committee Member Lieberman joined the meeting by phone.

Members Absent: None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approve minutes from February 20, 2013 meeting

Approved.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Claire Griffing provided an update – Earth Hour is an annual event that urges communities to switch off their lights for an hour in a symbolic show of concern for the environment. The purpose of the event is to inspire people to mobilize to take action on climate change. Earth Hour 2013 is scheduled for Saturday, March 23 from 8:30 to 9:30pm. You can find ideas of how to spend the hour of darkness on our website. The Albany Farmers Market will be reopening April 17th and is scheduled to run until December this year. Chair Cooper requested that a discussion of marketing for the Farmer’s Market be put on a future agenda.

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

A. Presentation by Jamie Tuckey of Marin Clean Energy, Discussion and Possible Recommendation Regarding Community Renewable Energy and Community Choice Aggregation

A presentation was provided by Communications Director Jamie Tuckey and Data Analyst Simon Loos of Marin Clean Energy (MCE). MCE is administered by the public agency Marin Energy Authority and offers a 50% or 100% renewable power option to 92,000 customers in Marin and Richmond. Tuckey highlighted the varied energy efficiency and renewable incentive programs MCE offers, and clarified that customers also have access to PG&E’s programs. Concern about the fact that MCE’s emissions factor is only slightly lower than PG&E’s was discussed. Committee Member Blanchard asked whether Albany would see a decrease in GHG emissions by moving to MCE. Loos explained that there is not a significant difference in the 2011 emissions factors, but that PG&E’s portfolio includes nuclear and large hydro and their goal is 33% renewable by 2020. MCE’s renewable portfolio has increased significantly each year it’s been in operation and its ultimate goal is 100% renewable energy.

Motion:

Moved by Committee Member Uhrhammer, seconded by Committee Member Blanchard to recommend to Council to consider next steps to move toward applying to join Marin Clean Energy CCA, including the following steps:

1. Request that the Marin Energy Authority Board make a decision as to whether to expand to Albany.
2. Decide how to fund the feasibility study.
3. Continue the process MCE laid out in the presentation.

AYES: Blanchard, Lieberman, Smith-Heimer, Uhrhammer, Wei, Young, Cooper

NOES: None

B. Arts and Green Festival Update

Chair Cooper provided an update – The festival has received several sponsorships and 16 applications. Committee Member Blanchard and Vice Chair Smith-Heimer will work on the display for the Sustainability Committee table at the event.

C. Schools Subcommittee Update

Committee Member Blanchard provided an update – The School Greening Committee will be meeting May 21st. Chair Cooper and Committee Member Wei will plan to attend the meeting.

D. Discussion of Annual Report to School Board

Griffing provided an update – The School Board has requested that the SC provide an annual update at their Board meeting on Tuesday, April 9th. They are interested in hearing about the work the schools subcommittee has been doing to encourage energy efficiency in the schools and the student member's experience on the Committee. Staff will provide a report on CAP implementation. The Chair and Committee Member Young will attend the presentation.

E. Discussion and Possible Recommendation Regarding Green Building Ordinance Changes

Jeff Bond provided an update – The green building ordinance changes are scheduled to go to Council on April 1st. The proposed revisions include increasing the minimum point requirements, requesting additional submittal documentation, and collecting a fee for final inspection to insure compliance. Additional changes include changing the new commercial construction threshold to 10,000 sq. ft. for official LEED certification and allowing equivalency for renovation/construction more than 5,000 sq. ft. There was an error in one of the charts that was clarified. This is the first phase of necessary revisions to this ordinance, but there will be future discussions about revising the standards further.

Motion:

Moved by Committee Member Blanchard, seconded by Committee Member Uhrhammer to recommend that Council adopt the revised green building standards, with the necessary edits on the multi-family chart.

AYES: Blanchard, Lieberman, Smith-Heimer, Uhrhammer, Wei, Young, Cooper

NOES: None

F. Continued Discussion of Committee Goals for 2013

The Committee voted unanimously to move this discussion to the April meeting for the sake of timing.

G. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair for 2013

The Committee reelected Tom Cooper as chair and elected Max Wei as vice chair.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Committee discussed future agenda items, including a continued discussion of goals, as well as updates on CAP implementation, City development projects, MCE next steps, the GHG

inventory, and marketing for the farmer's market. Committee member Wei also offered to share information on pilot programs he learned at a recent conference.

A. Next regular meeting – April 17, 2013

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.