



SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

City Hall Council Chambers, 1000 San Pablo Avenue
Monday, April 29, 2013 – 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, Lieberman, Smith-Heimer, Uhrhammer, Wei, Young, Cooper

Members Absent: None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approve minutes from March 20, 2013 meeting

Approved.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Claire Griffing provided an update – The green building ordinance updates were approved by Council in April. The School Board expressed interest in a continued partnership during the Sustainability Committee annual update on April 9th.

Committee Member Young said she would be resigning after the June meeting to focus on school. Committee Member Uhrhammer shared an article from Scientific American on the true cost of fossil fuels.

6. REPORTS

The Committee agreed to hear item 7-A here.

A. City Development Projects Update

Jeff Bond provided an update – One of the lawsuits against the UC Village development has been settled, and the second one is scheduled for a hearing May 16. A Sprouts grocery store is proposed for the site. Safeway has decided the original expansion plan is too expensive and will likely design a smaller remodel. An orthodontics office and retail building will be developed at 1600 Solano Avenue. The Public Works Center will not be built at the Pierce Street site because grading the property proved too expensive. Instead, the City is looking to purchase a facility on Cleveland Avenue.

B. Plan Bay Area Update

Bond provided an update – Plan Bay Area is a regional plan put together by ABAG and MTC and touches on the issues of resiliency and sustainability. Committee members discussed a table detailing GHG emissions reductions projected in the plan's EIR.

C. Arts and Green Festival Update

Chair Cooper provided an update – The festival now has about 45 booths. Committee Member Smith-Heimer asked for input on the existing educational displays the committee will use during the event. The Committee decided to update the information and include some charts.

D. Schools Subcommittee Update

The subcommittee met with AUSD Facilities Director Don Albright, who said that the energy audit was very helpful. It's clear that the High School uses the most energy and he will focus on ways to cut energy usage.

E. Pilot Programs and Behavior Change Update

Vice Chair Wei provided a presentation on pilot programs designed to reduce carbon emissions through behavior change, including the Cool Davis Initiative. Committee members discussed the creation of a subcommittee for education and outreach. The creation of this subcommittee was agendaized for the May meeting.

F. CAP Implementation Update

The committee voted to push this item to the May meeting.

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

A. Discussion of How to Incorporate Sustainability into the General Plan

This agenda item was moved to before item 6-A. Consultant Barry Miller gave an overview of the upcoming process to update the City's General Plan. Existing City plans, including the Climate Action Plan, will be incorporated into the General Plan. Chair Cooper asked that the recently updated Green Building Standards also be included. Vice Chair Wei suggested that adaptation and resilience should be included in the plan. The Committee will have the chance to provide input on what aspects of the CAP should be included throughout the process, and there will be many opportunities for community input.

B. Discussion of Marketing Strategy for the Albany Farmers Market

Chair Cooper expressed concern that the Farmer's Market does not have as many signs as other markets in the area. Staff will check with the Ecology Center to see if there are other ways to market the event.

C. Discussion of Strategy for Reviewing CCA Options and Potential Future Presentations and Discussion of Marin Clean Energy Next Steps

Chair Cooper suggested the Committee determine what approach it wants to take with other CCAs that may show interest. He spoke with the Local Clean Energy Alliance, a non-profit that is advocating for CCA in the East Bay.

Preston Jordan asked the Committee to look at other CCAs and decide why they aren't interested in joining them before bringing the item to Council.

Committee Member Lieberman suggested they reach out to other CCAs in Northern California to determine their interest and invite them to a meeting. Staff will reach out to these CCAs and their responses will be included in a staff report to Council. The Committee decided to invite the Local Clean Energy Alliance to present at their June meeting.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Committee discussed future agenda items, including a continued discussion of CCA, Committee goals, establishing an education and outreach subcommittee, and the annual CAP implementation update.

A. Next regular meeting – May 22, 2013

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 pm.