



**SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

**City Hall Council Chambers, 1000 San Pablo Avenue
Wednesday, March 19, 2014 – 7:30 p.m.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Wei at 7:40pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Blanchard, Cooper, Lieberman, Uhrhammer, Wei, Yiu

Members Absent: Smith-Heimer

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approve minutes from February 19, 2014 meeting

Approved.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Claire Griffing made an announcement – an LED firm worked with USDA to upgrade lighting in their greenhouses. Committee Member Blanchard calculated that the savings from this one project represent over 1% of commercial electricity usage in Albany. City staff plans to recognize USDA for the project.

Griffing met with representatives of the HERO PACE program, who will give a presentation at the April Sustainability Committee meeting.

Jeff Bond provided an update on the parking meeting the previous night and announced that the next meeting is scheduled for April 15th.

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

A. Update on City Council Advisory Body Policies

Griffing provided an update – Council has requested no hard line recommendations, but the committee can indicate a preference in proposals, provided they discuss the reasons why they support the item.

B. Discussion of Proposed Leaf Blower Practices for Public Works Staff

The committee discussed the staff report suggesting a phased-in pilot to reduce leaf blower use in the Public Works Department and agreed to send it to Council in May after reviewing it once more.

C. Staff Update UC Village Mixed Use Development Project Approvals on March 5, 2014

Bond provided an update – The Planning & Zoning Commission approved the project in December, but the decision was appealed to the City Council. The Council held a special meeting on March 5th and voted unanimously to deny appeal and uphold approval of the project. The project team will come back to talk to the Committee again. Vice Chair Blanchard realized that they used the wrong emissions factor for electricity and reported their emissions too high by at least a factor of two.

D. Update on MCE CCA Membership Analysis

Griffing provided an update – The contract for the MCE membership analysis will go to Council on April 7th.

E. Arts and Green Festival Update

This item was moved to the beginning of the agenda. Committee Member Cooper provided an update – They have 5 sponsors and about 15 booths so far. The Committee discussed signing up to volunteer at the Committee booth.

F. Discuss CAP Implementation Update

The Committee reviewed the draft update and provided comments to staff.

G. Discuss Outreach Proposal

Committee Members Cooper and Smith-Heimer will present the proposal to Council on April 7th.

H. CAP Funding Update and Discussion and Possible Recommendation to Council

Regarding the Proposed Utility Users' Tax Ballot Measure

Committee Member Blanchard updated the proposal and the Committee reviewed and made comments.

Motion: Moved by Vice Chair Blanchard, seconded by Committee Member Uhrhammer to approve the report with modifications to be made to reflect committee comments and forward to staff to send to Council in April.

AYES: Blanchard, Lieberman, Uhrhammer, Wei, Yiu

NOES: None

Absent: Cooper, Smith-Heimer

I. Schools Subcommittee Update

Vice Chair Blanchard provided an update – The subcommittee met with members of the School Board and Don Albright to discuss school energy efficiency. The District has a Prop 39 planning grant available for energy efficiency audits and retrofits.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Committee discussed future agenda items, including a continued discussion of the UUT proposal, CAP implementation update, leaf blowers, an update on CCA, as well as a presentation on the PACE program.

A. Next regular meeting – April 16, 2014

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 pm.