



**SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

**City Hall Council Chambers, 1000 San Pablo Avenue
Wednesday, December 17, 2014 – 7:30 p.m.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Max Wei at 7:37p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Blanchard, Cooper, Golem, Uhrhammer, Wei

Members Absent: Smith-Heimer, Yiu

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approve minutes from November 5, 2014 meeting

Approved with minor edit.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Council Reappointments

Claire Griffing provided an update – All Committee Members have been reappointed. One more appointment will need to be made to replace Committee Member Blanchard.

Committee Member Uhrhammer mentioned a lecture he attended by the director of the Earth Institute of Columbia University on the impact man has had on the planet through energy consumption.

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

A. Arts & Green Festival Subcommittee Update

Recommendation: Information only. No action required.

Committee Member Cooper provided an update – The planning committee is working with the Solano Avenue Association, which has contributed new ideas for promoting the event. They are looking into installing a promotional banner across Solano Avenue, and discussing sponsorships. Claire Griffing confirmed that the City grant is still available for the festival. Committee Member Golem offered to join the planning committee.

B. Schools Subcommittee Update

Recommendation: Information only. No action required.

Vice Chair Blanchard has joined the school board and shared the Facilities Master Plan with the Committee. The District is still securing funding and the Sustainability Committee agreed to continue working with the Board to set sustainability goals for any new facilities.

C. Discussion and Debrief from November 20th Outreach Meeting

Recommendation: Establish schedule for periodic outreach meetings in place of regular committee meetings.

Chair Wei provided an overview of the November 20th outreach meeting. The second meeting will be held at St. Alban's Church at 7pm on December 23rd. Committee Member Cooper thought the meeting achieved their goal of identifying common interests and goals of various groups and was encouraged that high school students, council members and school board members were present.

City staff said they could support further outreach meetings if they take place during regular Sustainability Committee meetings. Committee members liked the idea but wanted to make sure that did not take over time for regular committee business. Committee Member Cooper said the group would be more effective with the support of the City.

There was public comment from Catherine Sutton and Preston Jordan. They both encouraged continuing the coalition as a separate entity from the city.

D. Review Process for Updating the CAP Target and Consider Formation of CAP Target Subcommittee

Recommendation: Form a CAP Target subcommittee.

The Committee discussed creating a long-range greenhouse gas reduction goal. They discussed defining carbon neutrality and determining methodology for leakage, embedded emissions, and calculating inventories. They discussed offsetting one sector (e.g. transportation) with another.

Committee Member Golem and Vice Chair Blanchard suggested organizing the effort by decades and determining intermediate goals. Committee Member Uhrhammer suggested describing progress by per capita so the Committee could more easily describe progress to Council and the community.

Public comment from Preston Jordan, who proposed taking the emissions from Western Forge & Flange out of baseline calculations and current emissions update for a fair assessment of the City's progress. Public comment from Catherine Sutton, who asked the Committee to consider using more than just numbers to describe its goals, but also explain changes the community will undertake to reach those goals.

Committee Member Cooper suggested the formation of a subcommittee to work on this issue further.

Motion: Moved by Committee Member Uhrhammer, seconded by Chair Wei to form a subcommittee to discuss updating the CAP target. The members of the new subcommittee will be Committee Member Uhrhammer, Committee Member Smith-Heimer, and Chair Wei.

AYES: Blanchard, Cooper, Golem, Uhrhammer, Wei

NOES: None

Absent: Smith-Heimer, Yiu

Staff will provide a set of steps that need to be taken before bringing a proposal to the City Council. The Committee needs to determine definitions and methodological issues and decide whether to fold this into General Plan, as an amendment to the CAP or as a standalone policy statement.

E. Review City of Berkeley Residential Energy Conservation Ordinance (RECO)

Recommendation: Information only. No action required.

Griffing provided information on the City of Berkeley's new Building Energy Saving Ordinance (BESO). Jeff Bond suggested that crafting an ordinance similar to Berkeley's could be easier politically. He also mentioned that homes don't turn over often and when they do it can be a very stressful time in peoples' lives to require additional upgrades.

Committee Member Golem was in favor of the idea but said it was ambitious to require it for all homeowners and suggested a scholarship program for people in need. Committee Member Uhrhammer asked about how condominiums would be treated by this ordinance, given their shared infrastructure. Committee Member Cooper thinks an ordinance would be instrumental and suggested a gradual target, where people first get an audit and then if they score below a certain threshold they need to do improvements by a certain date. Committee Member Blanchard suggested using incentives to encourage upgrades.

Public comment was received from Catherine Sutton, who suggested an incentive like a star or plaque. Public comment from Preston Jordan, who said that compliance monitoring could be a burden for City staff and thinks requiring upgrades rather than audits will be more effective at reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Staff will research what other cities are doing and bring back a list of options for further discussion.

F. Discuss 2015 Work Plan

Recommendation: For initial discussion only. No action required.

The Committee discussed the draft work plan and suggested edits, including parking, supporting the schools, reviewing major developments and updating the emissions inventory.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Committee discussed future agenda items, including a continued discussion of their 2015 work plan, the CAP target, RECO/BESO and CAP funding, as well as updates on the outreach meetings and the arts and green festival. They will choose a chair and vice chair and adopt a resolution of appreciation for former Committee Member Blanchard at their next meeting. Staff will bring more information on the City's investments to continue the discussion on divestments.

A. Next regular meeting – January 21, 2015

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:09 p.m.