



SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

City Hall Conference Room, 1000 San Pablo Avenue
Wednesday, January 20, 2016 – 7:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Wei at 7:33pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Committee Member Cooper, Committee Member Golem, Committee Member Howard, Committee Member Smith-Heimer, Committee Member Uhrhammer, Chair Wei
Members Absent: None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approve minutes from December 16, 2015 meeting

Approved.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

- Building Energy Assessment and Disclosure Ordinance Update

Claire Griffing provided an update – the subcommittee will have an update next month.

- Utility Users' Tax Update

Claire Griffing provided an update – the subcommittee will have an update next month.

- General Plan Update

Jeff Bond provided an update – The draft General Plan is still being reviewed by committees and commissions. Staff hopes to have the next draft soon, and is planning to bring it to Council for final review in April.

Committee Member Uhrhammer sent an article about Denmark's industrial ecosystem.

Bond reminded the committee about the community meeting about parking taking place the following evening.

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

A. Presentation on Federal Cap and Dividend Policy

Harry Chomsky provided a presentation on the Federal Carbon Fee and Dividend Policy, which has been proposed by the Citizens for Climate lobby. The policy proposes to impose a fee on carbon by taxing fuel where it first enters the economy (mine or well), which would be redistributed to households through a dividend. Dividends would be the same for each household, and an estimated 50% of the population would receive more money back than they pay in carbon fees. It also includes a border adjustment for international trade; a fee on imports and rebates on exports.

The Committee discussed the policy and asked staff to bring back a draft resolution in support of the policy that they could recommend to Council for approval. Vice Chair Golem asked staff to add a clause for endorsing similar measures that address climate change mitigation.

Public comment was received from Catherine Sutton and Preston Jordan in support of the policy.

B. Report on Traffic & Safety Commission discussion of electric vehicle charging stations

Jeff Bond provided a presentation on electric vehicle (EV) charging stations that was given to the Traffic & Safety Commission last month and summarized commissioner comments. The Committee discussed charging stations and reached consensus on requiring that new developments of a certain size be EV-ready. There was discussion about whether the City should put a charging station in the Community Center parking lot and they asked for more information on parking lot usage.

Public comment was received from Catherine Sutton and Harry Chomsky.

C. Update on Alameda County Community Choice Energy (CCE) Program

Griffing provided an update on the County's ambitious timeline. The Committee asked how to support these efforts and discussed talking to their Council members.

D. Arts & Green Festival Subcommittee update

Committee Member Cooper provided an update – The Albany Community Foundation will be a sponsor. They are forming a business to manage finances and they are sending out save the dates to exhibitors.

E. Work plan review

The Committee discussed their 2015-2016 work plan and suggested edits, including adopting long-range goals and discussing what it would take to implement a carbon zero target, title 24 reach codes, issues with the LEED standard, and public outreach.

Public comment was received from Preston Jordan recommending that the committee look at reforming utility taxes.

F. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair for 2016

Motion: Moved by Committee Member Cooper, seconded by Committee Member Smith-Heimer to reappoint Max Wei as Chair and Ron Golem as Vice Chair.

AYES: Committee Member Cooper, Committee Member Golem, Committee Member Smith-Heimer, Committee Member Uhrhammer, Chair Wei

NOES: None.

Absent: Committee Member Howard

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

(Commission/Committee/Board Member announcement of requests for future agenda items. No public comment will be taken on announcement of future agenda items).

Possible future agenda items:

- Building Energy Assessment and Disclosure Ordinance
- Utility Users' Tax
- Net Zero Target
- Green building in planned new schools
- Green building reach codes
- UC Village
- Revisit subcommittees
- Draft resolution of support for Carbon Fee and Dividend Policy

A. Next regular meeting – February 17, 2015

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:36pm