



SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

City Hall Conference Room, 1000 San Pablo Avenue
Wednesday, December 16, 2015 – 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 Uhrhammer, Chair Wei

Members Absent: Committee Member Smith-Heimer

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approve minutes from October 21, 2015 meeting

Approved.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Community Choice Energy Steering Committee update

Claire Griffing provided an update – The CPUC is deciding on whether to raise the exit fee CCE customers have to pay on their monthly bills for leaving PG&E. The Committee asked for a timeline for the County program rollout.

Update on Sustainability Committee appointments

There has been a vacancy since July. Staff and Committee members will do outreach.

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

A. Discuss Draft General Plan

Jeff Bond provided a presentation on the draft General Plan and the Committee provided comments. Overall feedback was positive. Comments are summarized below.

- Introduction
 - Make a broader reference to social, environmental, and economic sustainability in the preamble. Something along the lines of, “Albany is a town that seeks to be sustainable.”
- Conservation and Sustainability Element
 - Include 1-2 key graphics regarding carbon pollution, showing where we are now and our carbon reduction goals
 - Add a statement about how the City is working toward reduction and elimination of use of chemicals that are on the state’s ‘red list’ for building materials.
 - Pursue a more aggressive zero emissions target for buildings than the State
 - Water conservation could have more specific implementable actions
 - Table 7-1: Air Quality Attainment Status in the San Francisco Bay Area, page 7-11

- Add values in Attainment Status column, and possibly color code them, at least for particulate matter
 - Page 7-12
 - There are no units listed for CO2 emissions
 - Update text box “California Executive Orders on Greenhouse Gas Emissions” to include latest legislation, especially SB350
 - LU-1.7: Sustainable Development, page 3-32
 - Like to see something that explicitly says that we’re trying to get to net zero for buildings
 - Include comments about net zero residential buildings that are affordable for all income levels
 - Action CON-6.D: Energy Outreach
 - Should have an action like: “aggressively pursue policies that increase the adoption of energy retrofits”
- Other Elements
 - Discussed importance of soft-story seismic retrofits from a sustainability perspective
 - Add possibility of looking into a shuttle service to BART
 - PROS 1.9: Stormwater Management, page 6-17
 - Incorporate looking at ways to capture and filter our stormwater

Public comment was received from Preston Jordan, who discussed prioritizing sidewalks.

B. Discuss Building Energy Assessment and Disclosure Ordinance (BEADO)

Chair Wei provided an update on the Council meeting and discussed the need to provide more information and reframe the issue and its importance. The Committee discussed the importance of disclosure and ways to protect privacy. Vice Chair Golem suggested that landlords be required to provide assessments to tenants. They decided to provide two options for Council: Berkeley’s current BESO ordinance and their stricter BEADO ordinance with pros and cons of each. They expanded the scope of the UUT subcommittee to include discussing the BEADO. The subcommittee consists of Committee Member Cooper, Vice Chair Golem, and Chair Wei.

Public comment was received from Preston Jordan, who suggested discussing the BEADO and UUT at the same time when presenting to Council since they rely on each other. He suggested explaining the ordinance as “requiring smog checks for buildings,” and highlighting that the State is moving in this direction.

C. Subcommittee update on Utility Users’ Tax Proposal to Council

The UUT subcommittee had a call where they discussed the possibility of making it a general tax. Asked whether UC Village pays a UUT to Albany. They will continue to refine their proposal.

Public comment was received from Preston Jordan, who suggested restructuring all UUTs to just tax pollution. People would pay the same amount of tax, it would just be on natural gas rather than on electricity, phones, etc.

Vice Chair Golem said it would be important to design it in a way where the City will not lose revenue as natural gas declines, and the City may need to reevaluate the tax every year.

D. Arts & Green Festival Subcommittee Update

Committee Member Cooper provided an update – The subcommittee met and is looking for a fiscal sponsor to receive payments online. They will also provide more in the kid's zone. The City will reserve the Vets Building and Memorial Park.

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 January agenda items:

- Committee operations and chair election
- Work Plan review
- Net Zero Target
- Federal Cap and Dividend Policy
- Restructuring utility users' taxes to reflect greenhouse gas emissions
- Green building discussion of new schools
- Green building – reach codes
- UC Village
- UUT
- BEADO
- General Plan

A. Next regular meeting – January 20, 2015

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm