



SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

City Hall Conference Room, 1000 San Pablo Avenue
Wednesday, February 17, 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 Uhrhammer, Chair Wei

Members Absent: Committee Member Howard, Committee Member Smith-Heimer

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approve minutes from January 20, 2016 meeting

Approved.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

- General Plan Update

Jeff Bond provided an update – Staff is close to finalizing the General Plan for Council approval, likely in April.

- Alameda County Community Choice Energy (CCE) Program Update

Claire Griffing provided an update – The Steering Committee met to discussing governance.

- BAAQMD Consumption-Based Inventory

Griffing provided an update – The BAAQMD has partnered with LBNL to create a consumption-based greenhouse gas emission inventory with specific information for each Bay Area city. Chair Wei suggested asking Chris Jones of UC Berkeley to give a presentation at a future meeting.

- Albany Unified School District Sustainability Committee

Griffing provided an update – AUSD has established a Sustainability Committee comprised of a subcommittee of their Board. Vice Chair Golem suggested they adopt a goal for net zero buildings and Committee Member Cooper suggested they look at indoor air quality.

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

A. Arts & Green Festival Subcommittee update

Committee Member Cooper provided an update – They have set up a bank account and PayPal system and have sent out invitations. Bua Luang, Transition Albany, and Waste Management recently submitted sponsorship applications.

B. Presentation from Preston Jordan regarding potential restructuring of utility users' taxes to align with CAP objectives

Preston Jordan provided a presentation on restructuring utility users' taxes. The goal is to increase taxes on pollution while keeping utility taxes the same overall. He suggested increasing the tax on natural gas by 240% and decreasing other utility taxes (electricity, communication/other) by 58%. PG&E doesn't currently have the billing software to implement a split tax on gas and electric charges, and the tax percentages would have to be reevaluated each year based on PG&E's emissions factor and price changes. Suggestions were made to share costs of a new billing system with other interested cities and to

look to the State to require utilities to allow this split utility tax. Additional complexities include tiered rates and GHG-free electricity programs. Benefits include aligning with climate action goals, reducing taxes on communications, and providing the City a mechanism to keep UUT revenue stable over time.

Committee members asked for examples of individual bills from each provider and further discussion of the impact of CCE on restructuring. They expressed support for the idea but want to focus on their UUT proposal first. Jordan suggested incorporating this idea into their proposal.

C. Report from subcommittee on CAP funding

The subcommittee met and determined that revenues from a UUT would go to supplement BEADO assessments, provide rebates for upgrades (specifically to address the landlord-renter problem), and minimal staff time for program administration. Chair Wei explained that the level of rebate might not be substantial enough to be effective, so they are considering focusing more on offsetting the cost of assessments instead of offering rebates. Energy efficient devices could also be offered. The subcommittee will provide an updated memo to the Committee in March and aims to bring this item to Council in April.

Bond provided an update – The Council recently discussed CIP funding and directed the City Manager to come back with options for the ballot, including a large parcel tax for a range of CIP projects, a smaller parcel tax limited to sidewalk repair, and a UUT general tax. They did not discuss using these measures for CAP implementation.

Public comment was received from Preston Jordan, who encouraged revenue being used for BEADO assessments.

D. Report from subcommittee on Building Energy Assessment and Disclosure Ordinance

Vice Chair Golem provided an update regarding concerns from Council, including choosing a lighter Council agenda so they have time to engage, addressing privacy concerns and split incentives for landlords, clarifying the benefits of requiring assessments, providing details on staff requirements, and connecting the assessment cost to potential UUT revenue. They will plan to bring this to Council in April with the UUT. Staff will revise the staff report and provide it to the Committee in March.

Public comment was received from Preston Jordan, who said it would be ideal to bring this to Council at the same time as the UUT, and that the UUT should help pay for assessments. He said the City could achieve reduced costs by doing an RFP for bulk assessments, and he sees assessments as a “smog check for your home” that provides valuable information.

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).

The committee discussed possible future agenda items, including:

- BEADO
- UUT ballot measure and reform idea
- Ad hoc subcommittees
- General Plan
- UC Village
- Resolution endorsing a Federal Carbon Fee and Dividend Policy
- Parking study update
- 2035/2050 targets – CAP 2.0, adaptation

A. Next regular meeting – March 16, 2016

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:34pm