



**SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES**

**City of Albany Community Development Department
Large Conference Room
979 San Pablo Avenue, Albany
July 16, 2008 – 7:30 p.m.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cooper at 7:35 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Thomas Cooper	Caryl O'Keefe
Miya Kitahara	Janet Smith-Heimer
Dan Lieberman	April Yang

Members Absent: Suzanne Schrift

Staff Present: Nicole Almaguer

Others Present: Neil Mayer, Economic Development Consultant

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3-1. Approve minutes from June 18 meeting (attached)

Minutes approved unanimously, motion by O'Keefe, seconded by Cooper.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Allan Maris noted a recent UCLA study that found Albany as the greenest city in the State. Maris also inquired regarding a recent newspaper article reporting that State Parks may be planning on spraying herbicides.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Smith-Heimer thanked Maris for his comments urging the City Council to take action regarding the Green Corridor Partnership.

O'Keefe announced a green jobs career fair involving Barbara Lee.

6. REPORTS

6-1. Long Range Planning/Sustainable Development Subcommittee – update

Smith-Heimer reported the subcommittee intends to develop criteria for identifying issues for the Committee to focus on, and expects to present something at the September meeting.

6-2. Urban Landscape Subcommittee – update

O'Keefe reported that Schrift is researching training programs for bay friendly landscaping. O'Keefe has conducted some research regarding community gardens and discussed the item with Tony Wolcott, City Urban Forester.

6-3. Education Subcommittee – update

Kitahara reported the subcommittee is identifying new opportunities for education including involvement with the schools. They will also forward items to add to the City's website.

6-4. CAP Contract - update

Almaguer reported the contract has been submitted to EDAW for signatures.

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

7-1. Mayer Associates Presentation – Economic Development Program

Neil Mayer provided a presentation and discussed his scope of work to assist the City develop economic development programs. Focus will be on existing businesses, business retention, attracting new businesses, and encouraging green businesses. They will also be researching the Green Corridor Partnership, and providing recommendations to staff regarding the City's involvement in this partnership.

Mayer has conducted some initial research on the Green Corridor Partnership finding that they are still in the early planning stages of the program. Mayer will conduct further research and report it back for the Committee.

Mayer has located a study conducted on the East Bay Corridor relating to green business and will forward that for the Committee.

Meeting Agenda

Smith Heimer suggested the Committee plan to take action on the Green Corridor Partnership at the Committee's September meeting, based on information received back by Mayer.

Mayer intends to return to the Committee in November with an update regarding economic development programs.

7-2. Follow up discussion to Greening Albany Event – Review letter for City Council, confirm interest of Committee

O'Keefe noted that some non-members had issue with the Albany Chamber of Commerce partnering on the Greening Albany Event, and as such the Chamber did not include leading this event within their proposal to the City Council.

Kitahara suggested the Committee develop an event focused on community education and workshops in an effort to fulfill the goals of the Committee.

The Committee agreed to request the City Council approve an annual Green Albany Day, focused on environmental education and outreach to the community.

Almaguer will draft a letter for the Committee to review.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

8-1. Next meeting September 17, 2008 – CAP Kick-off

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.