



**SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

Albany Community Center Rooms 1&2

1249 Marin Avenue

May 21, 2008 – 7:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Smith-Heimer at 7:40 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Caryl O'Keefe	April Yang
Dan Lieberman	Suzanne Schrift
Miya Kitahara	Janet Smith-Heimer

Members Absent: Thomas Cooper

Staff Present: Nicole Almaguer

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3-1. Approve minutes from April 16 meeting (attached)

Minutes approved unanimously, motioned by Lieberman, seconded by Schrift.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

None.

6. REPORTS

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

Smith-Heimer provided an update. The subcommittee met to discuss priorities. The subcommittee would like to follow up on the Green Corridor Partnership and ask City Council to discuss the item. Committee Members agreed to inquire with their Council contact and may also attend an upcoming Council meeting.

6-2. Urban Landscape Subcommittee – update

Schrift reported the subcommittee has not met yet, but initial goals include local agriculture/community gardens including Gill Tract opportunities, and identifying ways to encourage urban runoff design as part of home remodel projects, educating the community about pesticide reduction and bay friendly landscaping.

6-3. Education Subcommittee – update

Kitahara reported a composting workshop and the greener living workshop were held. Approximately 20 people attended the greener living workshop. Kitahara recommends increased publicity for future workshops. Kitahara is also working on the Greening Albany event, and will use displays from the greener living workshop at the event. Almaguer will inquire regarding a table for the Committee at the event. Committee members will let Kitahara know if they are available to attend the event. Almaguer will draft an information page regarding the Committee for the event.

O'Keefe recommended a detailed event summary be provided by the Green Chamber following the event.

6-4. Economic Development Consultant Selection – update (Smith-Heimer)

Smith-Heimer reported that she is working with the consultant and City. Details to the scope are still being negotiated.

6-5. Polystyrene Ordinance – update (Almaguer)

Almaguer reported the Ordinance was approved by City Council and will be implemented beginning September 2008.

6-6. Climate Action Planning Consultant Selection – update (Almaguer)

Almaguer reported that the interview panel selected EDAW as the most qualified firm, and will be working with them to clarify scope and budget. The scope will be provided to the Committee for review.

Meeting Agenda

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

7-1. Presentation/Discussion with City Urban Forester – Tony Wolcott

Tony Wolcott provided an overview of the urban forestry program. Wolcott is currently conducting tree planting block parties, and staffing an urban forestry task force, which currently has a couple of vacancies. Wolcott is looking for opportunities to recycle tree-planting materials and to make mulch from milled trees more accessible to the public. Wolcott is also researching opportunities for alternative sidewalk designs and materials that are more accommodating to trees.

7-2. Leaf Blower Ordinance (Lieberman)

Lieberman provided an overview to the issue, noting several local cities have adopted ordinances.

Kitahara stated she received an email from a gardener concerned on the impact this could have on small companies.

O’Keefe noted the City’s noise ordinance prohibits noise lasting longer than 1 minute at 70 decibels, and no longer than 5 minutes at 65 decibels, which seems to capture leaf blowers.

Almaguer will conduct research with other cities to identify how the ordinance was received by gardening companies. Additionally, this may be an item that can be considered as part of the CAP process.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

8-1. Next meeting June 18, 2008 – Location TBD

The Committee would like to discuss guidelines for interaction with other City Commissions/Committees. Smith-Heimer suggested discussing green dry cleaning.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.