



**SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes**

**City of Albany Community Development Department
Large Conference Room
979 San Pablo Avenue, Albany
December 17, 2008 – 7:30 p.m.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Thomas Cooper Dan Lieberman
Miya Kitahara
Caryl O'Keefe

Members Absent: Janet Smith-Heimer, Suzanne Schrift, April Yang
Staff Present: Nicole Almaguer
Others Present: Beth Pollard, City Administrator, EDAW, INC.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3-1. Approve minutes from November 19 meeting (attached)

Minutes approved unanimously, motion by O'Keefe, second by Kitahara.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Cooper announced he and Lieberman will be meeting with Council Member Wile regarding an upcoming meeting she will be attending with Barbara Lee to discuss sustainability opportunities and projects for the city in preparation for federal funding.

6. PRESENTATION

6-1. Albany Climate Action Plan Update – EDAW, Inc.

EDAW, INC provided a presentation regarding the climate action survey. To date 100 responses to the survey have been received. Input from both seniors and youth are still needed.

The survey will be further promoted within the community, and public workshops will be held at the Green Albany Day event in May.

Amy Smolens, representing Albany Strollers & Rollers expressed interest in pursuing the City's Pedestrian Plan and updating the Bicycle Master Plan. Strollers & Rollers would like to coordinate and work collaboratively on the Climate Action Plan.

7. REPORTS

7-1. Long Range Planning/Sustainable Development Subcommittee – update

Cooper provided an update, including reading an email provided by Smith-Heimer. The subcommittee continues to research the possibility of placing an anemometer on the bulb, and have been trying to inquire with PG&E. The item will also be brought up with Barbara Lee. Lieberman also noted that PG&E may receive the credits associated with the wind energy project, and it would be important that the City receive some sort of percent of the credit.

Almaguer asked what installation of an anemometer entailed. Lieberman replied that it is a 150-foot pole, which would be up for approximately one year.

Almaguer recommended this item be discussed with the Waterfront Committee to gauge interest.

Cooper agreed and noted that the subcommittee determined that more dialogue with the Waterfront Committee is necessary on this item as well as on development issues in general.

Cooper asked what the typical procedure is for corresponding with another Committee.

Almaguer suggested representatives from the Committee visit the Waterfront Committee to present and discuss the idea.

Cooper asked how the Committee could learn about what the Waterfront Committee is pursuing, and when it is related to sustainability.

O'Keefe suggested reviewing the minutes, watching the meetings on television, or contacting them directly to discuss overarching areas of interest.

Meeting Agenda

Cooper reported the subcommittee also discussed the Fern Tiger presentation.

7-2. Urban Landscape Subcommittee – update

O’Keefe noted that she received a proposal regarding urban farming, and would like to allow for a presentation on this subject at a future meeting. They are also researching the amount of water conservation at Golden Gate Fields, and would like to recognize them for conservation.

7-3. Education Subcommittee – update

Kitahara reported they are working on Green Albany Day, and are developing criteria for how vendors and participants are allowed to host a table at the event. Additionally they are working on a survey that would be sent community wide.

7-4. Green Albany Day - update

This item was discussed as part of 7-3.

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

8-1. Long Range Planning Subcommittee Recommendation: “Project Review Policy” (Smith-Heimer)

Smith-Heimer will present a revised draft policy at the next meeting.

8-2. Sustainable Food Policy – Review and provide comments (Kitahara)

Kitahara asked for additional comments from the Committee, and plans to make the policy a purchasing policy, taking out the land use portion within the policy. The resolution will include charging the Committee with conducting a land use study.

8-3. Reorganizing the Social and Economic Justice Commission and Sustainability Committee into one commission

City Administrator Beth Pollard provided background on this item, and noted that the reasoning behind this recommendation is to do some economizing of staff capacity, and that the Social and Economic Justice Commission (SEJC) has not been that active recently. Additionally, social and economic justice has a connection to sustainability. City Council would like input from the two bodies. The item will be taken back to City Council in January or February.

O’Keefe stated she sees advantages to combining the groups, and feels economics should be considered within sustainability. She attended some of the SEJC meetings, a quorum was not met at two recent meetings.

Kitahara expressed concern over the potential size of the new body, and feels that SEJC issues would require additional people.

Lieberman suggested SEJC act as an ad-hoc group that met as issues were identified. The Sustainability Committee is currently comprised of professionals in the environmental field, and increasing the scope of this group could have a negative impact on the Committee.

Cooper agreed the Committee should keep social and economic justice issues in mind when considering items. The Committee has a very full plate, and addition of SEJC items could create distraction and overwhelm the group. Cooper also expressed concern regarding the potential size of the body.

The Committee agreed to discuss this item further at the January meeting.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

9-1. Next meeting January 21, 2008 – Green Building Ordinance & Implementation, Site Drainage Update (Planning Staff)

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.