



**SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes**

**City of Albany Community Development Department
Large Conference Room
979 San Pablo Avenue, Albany
October 15, 2008 – 7:30 p.m.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cooper at 7:40 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Thomas Cooper	Caryl O’Keefe	April Yang
Miya Kitahara	Suzanne Schrift	
Dan Lieberman	Janet Smith-Heimer	

Staff Present: Nicole Almaguer

Others Present: Aleida Andrino Chavez, Transportation Planner

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3-1. Approve minutes from September 17 meeting (attached)

Minutes approved as amended, Motion by Cooper, Second by O’Keefe.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

None.

6. PRESENTATION

6-1. Transportation Projects & Pedestrian Plan Presentation – (Aleida Andrino-Chavez, Transportation Planner)

Andrino-Chavez provided a presentation regarding status of the City’s transportation and pedestrian plan projects. Andrino-Chavez is seeking grant funding to complete the pedestrian plan, and would like the Committee to consider providing a letter of support for the grant application. The pedestrian plan ties in well with the climate action plan.

Andrino-Chavez is also working with the elementary schools to promote the Safe Routes to Schools program, which includes “walk and roll” to school days, formation of walking school busses, and an educational component.

Andrino-Chavez is also working on the bike/pedestrian path along Buchanan. This will include some sort of crossing over Buchanan.

Smith-Heimer asked about a fly-over for Buchanan.

Andrino-Chavez encouraged raising this question to the Traffic & Safety Commission during review of the project.

The Committee agreed to provide a letter of support for the grant. Andrino-Chavez will provide a draft letter for the Committee to review.

7. REPORTS

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

Cooper reported that the subcommittee met with Jeff Bond to discuss how the Committee can get involved in broad planning issues. Bond suggested any major applications be brought to the Committee for discussion, and that this be done fairly promptly as there are time constraints involved with the review process. Depending on the timing of the application, the Committee can review during the meeting or a designee can attend a Planning & Zoning Commission (P&Z) meeting.

Additionally, the City is initiating an update to the housing element to identify a plan for developing 277 more housing units.

Cooper noted Bond also encouraged the Committee to assist P&Z with smart growth opportunities and help consider broad range planning issues for the city including integrating the CAP into the General Plan, and other land use decisions including parking requirements.

Meeting Agenda

Cooper suggested the Committee aim to develop guidelines as the review process begins.

Smith-Heimer suggested the subcommittee meet again to discuss further, and provide something for the Committee to review in November.

7-2. Urban Landscape Subcommittee – update

Kitahara noted that an environmentally friendly food policy is under consideration that will be brought to the Committee for review. Schrift reported the subcommittee is researching food production within the city, “gleaning groups”, and stormwater/water catchment opportunities.

7-3. Education Subcommittee – update

Kitahara reported that the subcommittee did not meet. Yang reported that the AHS Connect program is currently the introductory phase and has not started any projects yet. They are looking for garden opportunities at AHS. The AHS Earth Team has more members now and is selling eco-metro books.

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

8-1. Climate Action Planning – discuss project, identify any questions/comments for consultant

8-2. Long Range Planning Subcommittee Recommendation: “Project Review Policy” (Smith-Heimer)

8-3. “Sustainability Impact” Section for City Council Reports – define guidelines

The Committee agreed to support the sustainability impact section and recommended P&Z staff reports also include this section. The Committee would like to review the item again in three months to identify how it is working. Almaguer will work with staff to provide guidance on how to complete the section.

8-4. Green Albany Event – select date for event to be held in May, select planning tasks

The Committee agreed on 5/17. The education subcommittee will work on planning for the event, including drafting up a budget. Almaguer will identify how much funding may be available for the event.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

9-1. Next meeting November 19, 2008 – Fern Tiger Associates Waterfront Planning Presentation

10. ADJOURNMENT