



**SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
Draft Minutes**

**City of Albany Community Development Department  
Large Conference Room  
979 San Pablo Avenue, Albany  
February 18, 2009 – 7:30 p.m.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. ROLL CALL**

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

Staff Present: Nicole Almaguer

Others Present: Amber Curl, Associate Planner

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**3-1. Approve minutes from February 18 meeting**

Minutes approved unanimously. Motion by O'Keefe, seconded by Smith-Heimer.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Preston Jordan commented regarding the high school pool and noted that a committee was being developed to provide recommendations on how to ensure a green design. The project has been slowed due to budget demands.

**5. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

• **Transportation Projects Update – Memo (Attachment 1)**

A memo was provided from the City's Transportation Planner as an update on transportation-related projects. The Committee will review and identify whether any of the items should be put on a future agenda.

Almaguer commented that the City Administrator recommended to City Council that the Social and Economic Justice Commission and the Sustainability Committee not be merged at this time. The item will be reviewed in one year.

O'Keefe noted the City of Berkeley's solar financing program was detailed in the SF Chronicle.

**6. PRESENTATION**

**6-1. Planning Update – (Planning Staff)**

Amber Curl provided an update on the City's Green Building Ordinance noting that the points had been restructured to make the ordinance more aggressive. An update on larger planning projects was also provided: Whole Foods – the number of senior units has been reduced to comply with parking rules by the city. The draft environmental document is in process. The site will require gold LEED certification and stormwater treatment measures.

The Committee raised concern regarding reducing the number of senior housing units. It was agreed that the long-range planning subcommittee would draft a letter regarding the project, highlighting the limitations the parking rules could place on the project's overall sustainability.

Safeway – a scaled down proposal was submitted. The project will be subject to stormwater treatment requirements and the green building ordinance.

A General Plan update and Housing Element update are both being scheduled.

Smith-Heimer noted that the Climate Action Plan is intended to be incorporated as part of the General Plan.

Smith-Heimer recommended that the CAP be adopted as part of the General Plan prior to the General Plan update.

Almaguer will research this item with planning staff.

**7. REPORTS**

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

Smith-Heimer reported that the subcommittee made contact with UC Berkeley staff that may be able to provide assistance researching wind energy at the waterfront. The other items the subcommittee worked on were discussed as part of agenda item 8-1 and 8-3.

### **7-2. Urban Landscape Subcommittee – update**

Schrift reported the subcommittee identified the items within the urban farming proposal that they would like to pursue further. This will be provided to the Committee at the April meeting. Additionally, the subcommittee would like to incorporate the food policy within the City's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing policy. This item will be on the April agenda.

### **7-3. Education Subcommittee – update**

Kitahara reported that the subcommittee worked on Green Albany Day – detailed in agenda item 8-2.

### **7-4. Climate Action Plan - update**

Almaguer reported that EDAW would attend the March meeting with draft climate action measures. Almaguer also distributed the written comments submitted by Albany Strollers & Rollers, noting that these have been submitted to EDAW.

Jordan asked how aggressive the 25% greenhouse gas reductions goal is, and whether this will be addressed by the consultants. Almaguer replied that at the time the goal was adopted, it was considered an aggressive percentage reduction, and matched that of other cities within the county. EDAW can further address this question at the March meeting.

## **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 reported that she discussed the matter with Planning Manager Jeff Bond. The subcommittee recommended that the Committee develop formal relations with Planning & Zoning Commission, Traffic & Safety Commission, and the Waterfront Committee. Particular representatives from the Committee would be assigned to each group and serve as a liaison. The representative would attend an upcoming meeting to introduce the Committee and its interests, and work to set up a formal process for interaction.

Cooper stated the subcommittee would develop an outline that includes a summary of the CAP and the Committee's major goals to present to each group. The outline will be provided to the Committee for review.

### **8-2. Green Albany Day Event Planning – possible partnership with Green Chamber of Commerce**

Kitahara reported that the Green Chamber of Commerce is interested in holding a business-related event the day prior to Green Albany Day. The Committee expressed concern with this, as it would lead to confusion for the actual event on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

Kitahara will contact the Green Chamber to recommend they have a presence at the May 17<sup>th</sup> event and not attempt a separate event.

The subcommittee has identified volunteers interested in assisting with the event, and is awaiting responses from the survey that was mailed citywide. Responses should be forthcoming throughout the month.

The Committee agreed that Green Albany Day should be a primary agenda item on the March agenda.

### **8-3. Wind Energy Discussion (Lieberman)**

Lieberman provided a presentation on wind energy, outlining the opportunity at the waterfront, and also identifying four major issues including: siting, electrons, financing and additionality. Lieberman also identified the contacts made to date the next steps in the research process.

## **9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

### **9-1. Next meeting March 18, 2009 – EDAW – draft CAP measures**

The Committee agreed to include Green Albany Day and the updated food policy on the March agenda.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.