



**SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
Minutes**

**City of Albany Community Development Department  
Large Conference Room  
979 San Pablo Avenue, Albany  
January 21, 2009 – 7:30 p.m.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. ROLL CALL**

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

Members Absent: Miya Kitahara

Staff Present: Nicole Almaguer

Others Present: Ann Chaney, Community Development Director.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

Approved as amended, motion by Smith-Heimer, seconded by O'Keefe.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Preston Jordan commented on the plans for the Albany Pool, which is being constructed by Albany School District. Currently the plans do not include green building standards and the built pools would utilize a significant amount of energy. Jordan is attempting to work with the School Board to encourage a greener design, and encourages the Committee to get involved in this project.

**5. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

**6. PRESENTATION**

**6-1. BART Retrofit Project along Ohlone Greenway (Ann Chaney, Community Development Director)**

Chaney provided background on this project. The project entails retrofit of the BART columns along the Ohlone Greenway. Construction will disturb trees and other vegetation along the greenway. The City has been working with Gates & Associates to draft landscape plans for the retrofit. The landscape plans will include a 14-foot wide bike path, tree replanting, drought tolerant landscaping, and installation of purple pipe to utilize reclaimed water for irrigation when made available. Additionally, the Tree Task Force is recommending particular tree species for the greenway, and demonstration garden areas to promote bay friendly landscaping as well as urban forestry. The City will enter into an agreement with BART prior to initiation of the construction project. Construction is expected to begin in late 2009 or early 2010.

Public Comment:

Preston Jordan commented that Strollers & Rollers support the BART project, however they would like to see bulb outs at each intersection to enhance bike/pedestrian safety.

**7. REPORTS**

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

Smith-Heimer reported that the subcommittee discussed wind power at the waterfront. The subcommittee would like to inquire with Golden Gate Fields to determine their interest in this project, and to identify a contact at PG&E.

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

Schrift reported the subcommittee discussed the Golden Gate Fields proclamation, and how to properly recognize green businesses. The subcommittee also discussed the Green Albany farming proposal, and gray water catchment. Liberman stated it is important to support the existing green business certification program conducted by the county. Cooper suggested the subcommittee identify recognition opportunities for green businesses and/or businesses that have gone above and beyond in greening.

### **7-3. Education Subcommittee/Green Albany Day – update**

Cooper reported the subcommittee developed a questionnaire that will be sent out citywide that serves as a save the date, workshop topic interest, and asks for volunteers. They are also determining how to involve the high school and others in the event. Workshop topics will be finalized in February and publicity will begin in March.

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

Almaguer provided the draft CAP outline. EDAW will return to the Committee in March.

Smith-Heimer asked about the ICLEI inventory, and status of peer review by EDAW.

Almaguer reported that certain areas of the ICLEI inventory have been identified as concerns including the pass-through traffic issues. EDAW has recommended the baseline will be adjusted to make the most accurate reflection of city emissions as possible.

Preston Jordan commented that the Albany Strollers & Rollers have comments regarding the CAP, particularly related to pedestrian/bicycle projects. Albany Strollers & Rollers will submit written comments.

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

### **8-1. Selection of Committee Chair & Vice-Chair**

The Committee agreed to continue with Cooper as Chair and Smith-Heimer as Vice-Chair.

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

Smith-Heimer gave an overview of this item. The subcommittee is creating a policy to enable the Committee to review long-term planning. A draft policy will be provided at the February meeting.

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

O’Keefe stated support for combining the groups, as long as the new commission was comprised of a workable size.

Cooper expressed concern in combining given the many unknown details including potential size of the group. The Committee has a significant workload, and adding additional work items could minimize the effectiveness of the group. Cooper suggested the Committee convey its concerns to City Council, and reiterate that social and economic issues related to sustainability are considered, those not related to sustainability would be difficult to include.

Smith-Heimer motioned the Committee recommend City Council not merge the two groups as the Sustainability Committee has a full workload and a functional work group. Cooper added that social and economic issues are intertwined with a lot of the work the Committee is doing as they relate to sustainability. There are other social and economic issues that are not related to sustainability that the Committee would have difficulty addressing that would perhaps be better served by an ad-hoc group or other.

Yang agreed the groups should not be merged.

### **8-4. Draft Proclamation for Golden Gate Fields Green Efforts – initial review**

O’Keefe provided an overview. Golden Gate Fields has conducted significant greening efforts.

Cooper suggested the subcommittee encourage them to pursue green business certification.

Lieberman stated the existing green business program should be supported, particularly since the standards for certification already exist.

### **8-5. “Green Albany” Urban Farming Proposal – initial review**

Schrift stated the proposal had some good ideas.

O’Keefe agreed, noting the glean component and community engagement.

Cooper suggested the subcommittee identify the items within the proposal that could be worthwhile to pursue.

## **9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

### **9-1. Next meeting February 18, 2009 – Green building guidelines/site drainage – planning staff**

#### **March meeting – EDAW – draft CAP measures**

Green Albany Day will be placed on the February Agenda as a discussion item.

An update will also be provided regarding transportation projects.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.