



**JOINT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 30, 2016**

The Joint Sustainability Committee convened in a regular meeting on March 30, 2016 at 1000 E. 11th Street in Austin, Texas.

Chief Sustainability Officer Lucia Athens called the Board Meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Chair Jim Walker, Vice Chair Kaiba White, Kelly Davis, Tom Donovan, Erin Gooch, Stacy Guidry, Adrienne Haschke, Nhat Ho, Fred McGhee, Joep Meijer, Roberto Rondero de Mosier, Sabrina Santos Joplin

City Staff in Attendance:

Lucia Athens, Zach Baumer, Lewis Leff

1. OPENING REMARKS

Lucia Athens welcomed the group and introduced the Office of Sustainability staff. All committee members introduced themselves and the board or commission they represent.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

There were no speakers for citizen communication.

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. Overview of board purpose (Discussion and/or possible action)

Lewis Leff presented an overview of the board purpose as stated in the Council ordinance that created the Joint Sustainability Committee. No action was taken.

b. Bylaws Template (Discussion and/or possible action)

Lewis Leff presented an overview of the draft bylaws as provided by the City Clerk's Office. Committee members discussed the differences between committees and working groups, and the various ways to inform City Council about recommendations from the group. No action was taken.

c. Election of Chair & Vice-Chair (Discussion and/or possible action)

Jim Walker was nominated to serve as Chair on Committee Member Guidry's motion and Committee Member White's second. After some discussion, he was approved unanimously by the committee. Kaiba White was nominated to serve as Vice-Chair on Committee Member Meijer's motion and Committee Member Guidry's second. After some discussion, she was approved unanimously by the committee.

d. Office of Sustainability – Austin Community Climate Plan (Briefing)

Lewis Leff and Zach Baumer presented an overview and update on the Austin Community Climate Plan. This included the policy background on climate planning, the plan development process with adoption by City Council, a progress update on the recommendations included in the plan. Committee members asked about the prioritization of land use actions and the CodeNext planning process, whether open space and trees were considered in depth while developing the plan as carbon sinks, and they spoke about programs in the community like the community mulch process.

e. Creation of working groups (Discussion and/or possible action)

The committee members spoke about this item in conjunction with item f. No action was taken.

f. Adopt schedule (Discussion and/or possible action)

The committee members spoke about potential options for schedules (monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly) and the need to carefully consider whether to post more meetings and cancel when necessary or only post meetings that they planned to utilize for meetings. They discussed how to ensure the community would be able to know in advance when the committee was meeting so they can be as transparent as possible. Chair Walker suggested that the bylaws, including the creation of committees or working groups and the schedule, should be brought back to a meeting in late April. Committee members would bring ideas and proposals on that plus future agenda topics to the next meeting for debate and consideration. The committee agreed to meet on Wednesday, April 27th at 6PM at a location to be determined central and on the east side if possible.

4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Further review and discussion on the Implementation Plan and related documents
- Proposals for working groups or committees
- Proposals for monthly, quarterly, bi-monthly regular meetings
- Adopt the bylaws
- Determine the key focus for near-term future meeting topics

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Jim Walker adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m. without objection.