



**JOINT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 25, 2016**

**The Joint Sustainability Committee convened in a regular meeting on May 25, 2016 at City Hall in Room 1027 in Austin, Texas.**

**Chair Jim Walker 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, Sabrina Santos Joplin

**City Staff in Attendance:**

Zach Baumer, Lewis Leff, Lucia Athens

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The April 27<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were unanimously approved on Commissioner Meijer's motion and Commissioner Guidry's second.

**2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

There were no speakers for citizen communication.

**3. NEW BUSINESS**

**3d. Discussion of transportation-related projects for a potential future bond, with guest presentations. (Discussion)**

The chair took up this item first. Miller Nuttle from Bike Austin presented on their priorities for a potential fall mobility bond. The committee discussed the various cost comparisons for the corridors and bike and sidewalk plans. The discussion covered affordability, vehicle miles travelled reductions through mode shifts, and other tie in to the Climate Plan. Mario Champion from the Urban Transportation Commission answered some questions about costs and timing of various bond package alternatives. Staff answered questions about timing for Council to call an election. There was discussion about construction and demolition recycling requirements for any construction related to the bond-funded infrastructure. Kristina Hager spoke about her role on the Bond Oversight Commission and discussed the wording and recommendation that that commission sent to Council. Further discussion was about tie-ins to Imagine Austin indicators and how to get a staff briefing from the Capital Planning Office. The staff liaison agreed to try and coordinate a special called meeting for this presentation to occur in June.

**3b. Discuss developing a strategic plan and structure for the Joint Sustainability Committee’s work, including working groups and potential committees (Discussion and/or possible action)**

The discussion began with a focus on the how items are placed on the agenda. Multiple options were presented and the result was that the will of the group is to have all items placed on the agenda as requested by committee members according to the bylaws, and then the chair will lead discussion at the meeting about which items will be prioritized to fit the time allowed at the meeting.

The committee discussed that all working groups can bring items to the full committee. A potential formal committee could be formed about next steps for the climate plan recommendations (especially 3-5 in the plan) and public outreach efforts. There was some discussion about passive house standards and the NYC Climate Plan and whether those topics would be discussed in a committee. No action was taken to form a new committee.

**3a. Continued discussion on the Phase 1 Actions of the Austin Community Climate Plan, including a report back from the three working groups (Electricity and Natural Gas, Transportation and Land Use, Materials and Waste Management) to the full committee (Discussion and/or possible action)**

The Energy and Natural Gas working group met twice, added questions and remarks for staff. They prioritized a few actions for the near-term focus of the JSC.

- RT-2: Ramp down of Fayette Power Plant – debt needs to be paid off at time of closure, need to create a fund, want to recommend starting in FY17 budget. It’s assumed that current debt is \$166M of principal and \$183M of interest remains. The EUC budget presentation is an opportunity to bring this up.<sup>1</sup>
- BIE-11: Dedicate staff, add inspectors for energy code enforcement. Need to know how many inspections three full-time staff could do. Is that a Development Services Department question?

The Materials and Waste Management working group focused on the following actions:

- RR-1: move from low to medium impact
- RR-3: Construction and Demolition ordinance going into effect on October 1.
- OD-1: budget for educational efforts; enhancing organics diversion from residences
- OD-2: Do we recommend organic collection over weekly recycling; ZWAC discussing this and the bill impacts next month (it was stated that some customers would be paying for service before actually receiving it)
- OD-4: Moving from medium to high impact – requires a URO ordinance change for composting to multi-family developments

The chair mentioned that when all working groups have their near-term focus recommendations, he would collate those into a budget memo from the JSC to Council.

**3e. Commission members report back on any relevant discussions from their respective boards and commissions (Discussion)**

---

<sup>1</sup> Note: As these minutes were adopted on 7/27/16, the Committee recognized these numbers were the ones presented at the 5/25/16 meeting but have been clarified as different amounts since May.

Austin Water has adopted a new watering schedule. The Flood Mitigation Task Force report is out, it is extensive and there will be lots of discussion ahead on that.

**3c. Discuss a menu of actions regarding the committee's recommendations and a process for making recommendations (Discussion and/or possible action)**

This item was not discussed.

**4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- July - Working group reports, potential recommendation for support of budget asks, possibly discuss the potential transportation bond
- September meeting – ask for Austin Energy staff to present on energy codes and enforcement

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Jim Walker adjourned the meeting at 8:11 p.m. without objection.