



**JOINT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2016**

**The Joint Sustainability Committee convened in a regular meeting on September 28, 2016 at Terrazas Library 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, Adrienne Haschke, Nhat Ho, Fred McGhee, Joep Meijer, Michael Osborne, Stacy Savage, Patricia Seeger

**Staff in Attendance:**

Zach Baumer, Cavan Merski, Amy Petri (Office of Sustainability), Matt Russell (Austin Energy)

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The July 27, 2016 meeting minutes had a vote of 6-0-3, on Commissioner Meijer's motion and Commissioner McGhee's second. Commissioners Osborne, Savage, and Seeger abstained. This item will come back at the November meeting for approval by the required quorum.

**2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

There were no speakers for citizen communications.

**3. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Welcome new members to the Joint Sustainability Committee**

Commission Members introduced themselves, welcomed new members Michael Osborne and Patricia Seeger.

**b. Staff update on the July 27 Joint Sustainability Committee resolutions and the adopted 2017 city budget.**

The committee reviewed a written summary of Council actions related to committee resolutions in the recently adopted 2017 city budget. It was noted that resolution 20160727-04b was the only resolution that did not result in the recommendations for Council action. An update about the DSD review process and outcome was requested. The committee discussed the possibility of including a statement about the amount of CO2 emissions that could be reduced as part of the Mobility Bond package. The 2016 Mobility Bond web pages were reviewed and it was noted that the bond package language has been posted. It was determined that the committee should work to create a carbon impact tool that can be used in preparing materials for future bond items. Any further actions or reassessments related to committee resolutions will be identified by working groups.

**c. Staff update on the semi-annual update to City Council, including the Public Engagement Plan.**

Cavan Merski from the Office of Sustainability presented data from the semi-annual update to City Council about the projected emissions reduction of Phase 1 Actions by 2020. The committee asked for clarification about the assumptions and methodology that went into the calculations. Matt Russell from Austin Energy provided an explanation of the assumptions behind the Electricity and Natural Gas emissions reductions. The committee suggested that staff conduct a peer review of the models used for future projections. The committee also requested that methodology and assumptions for calculating the 2016 Community Carbon Footprint be provided prior to completing the inventory. The committee is also interested in reviewing each emissions sector's progress on the glide path of reductions to meet the interim target.

Amy Petri from the Office of Sustainability presented the Communications and Outreach Plan for the Community Climate Plan. The committee asked about outreach and engagement strategies for the business community; it was explained that those strategies are still in development. The committee requested copies of materials from the outreach toolkit be provided at the November committee meeting.

The committee requested that future presentations be posted in advance of the meetings and that a small number of copies be provided at the meeting.

**d. Discussion on Community Climate Plan Recommendation 3 – feasibility of a Carbon Impact Statement for major city decisions, and potential creation of a new committee**  
This item was not discussed.

**e. Presentation and discussion on the response to City Council Resolution 20160505-025 regarding increasing the electrification of City fleet vehicles**

Zach Baumer from the Office of Sustainability presented the fleet electrification study findings to the committee. The committee asked questions about the types of vehicles eligible for electrification and the purchase costs associated with gas-fueled vehicles and electric. Questions were also asked about the assumptions behind the number of vehicle charging stations and how long it takes to charge.

Commissioner Meijer proposed a resolution to electrify ~25% of the City fleet. Commission McGhee requested that additional language be included to include public school district buses as well as fleets for higher education. Additional language was included that specified working with business, government, and other organizational entities to electrify their fleets.

A motion was made by Commissioner McGhee to approve the resolution and it was seconded by Commissioner Ho. The committee approved it by a vote of 8-0-1 with Commissioner Seeger abstaining.

**f. Discussion on the process and structure of future Community Climate Plan updates**  
This item was not discussed.

**g. Presentation by Commissioner McGhee and discussion about Passive House and Net Zero building standards**

Commissioner McGhee presented an overview of Passive House standards and how they would apply to retrofitting our existing public housing. Questions were raised about costs for Passive House building standards and how they compare to LEED and Austin Energy Green Building ratings and code requirements.

The committee formed a new working group to review and analyze building standards that could be included in a new resolution. The new working group will include Commissioners McGhee, Seeger, Donovan, and Walker.

#### **4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- a. Staff update on DSD/AE discussions on energy code enforcement
- b. Staff update on Fleet Electrification presentation to the Council Mobility Committee
- c. Review of Communications and Outreach Toolkit
- d. Discussion on Community Climate Plan Recommendation 3 – feasibility of a Carbon Impact Statement for major city decisions, and potential creation of a new committee
- e. Discussion on the process and structure of future Community Climate Plan updates
- f. New building standards working group report back and potential recommendation

#### **5. ADJOURN**

Chair Jim Walker adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m. without objection.