



**JOINT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
January 25, 2017**

The Joint Sustainability Committee convened in a regular meeting on January 25, 2017 at Carver Library in Austin, Texas.

Chair Jim Walker called the Board Meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Chair Jim Walker, Vice Chair Kaiba White, Tom Donovan, Adrienne Haschke, Nhat Ho, Sabrina Santos Joplin, Fred McGhee, Joep Meijer, Mary Ann Neely, Michael Osborne, Roberto Rondero de Mosier, Stacy Savage, Patricia Seeger

Board Members Absent:

Kelly Davis

City Staff in Attendance:

Lewis Leff, Zach Baumer (Office of Sustainability)

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The November 30 meeting minutes were approved 12-0-1 on Committee Member Meijer's motion and Committee Member Osborne's second, with Committee Member Seeger abstaining and Committee Member Davis absent.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

There were no speakers for citizen communication.

3. NEW BUSINESS

3a. Consider a Committee resolution related to adoption of Passive House standards in local building codes (Committee Member McGhee) (Discussion and/or possible action)

Committee Member McGhee introduced the resolution language that recently passed at the Community Development Commission, recommending a study of potential savings from using Passive House standards for all new affordable housing development. He stated other studies on the Passive House standard have shown positive benefits and reduced energy. There was discussion about the building envelope but he stated the standard is not prescriptive on how to reach the goals. Committee members stated their preference to request Council hire an outside consultant through an RFQ. Three community members spoke in favor of the item. One was the president of the local Passive House chapter who stated his desire for a mainstream approach strictly focused on energy use. He was asked about cost and stated that it can be up to a 10% premium for the first project or two but the cost difference goes down as local builders learn how to build to this standard. The second speaker said adopting this standard would keep Austin ahead of the curve and maintain a

leadership position. The last speaker said it could be best for multi-family affordable housing because the owners of the projects typically hold onto them after they are built so the owner will realize the payback from the energy savings. Spoke about a local project by Foundation Communities that went way beyond code but did not get all the way to this standard.

Committee Member McGhee mentioned public facilities are on 60-80 year timeframes so they should be built to a high standard upfront. Austin Energy staff spoke to the comparison of kWh energy usage per person between different types of projects, stated they could support a study to better understand the energy impact, total cost of ownership, and how to implement it locally with our climate.

Committee Member Osborne motioned for approval, Committee Member Seeger seconded. The motion passed unanimously 13-0, with Committee Member Davis absent.

3b. Discussion on the City’s plan for Fleet Electrification and related community-wide efforts (Committee Member Meijer) (Discussion and/or possible action)

Committee Member Meijer presented on electric vehicle goals and the electrification of transportation. Committee Member White mentioned public transportation should be a part of this, and Committee Member Meijer agreed it covered all vehicles. Committee Member Neely stated incentives and affordability are important considerations as this moves forward. The Committee tabled this item as it was related to a proposed resolution with 3c.

3c. Update on the Austin Energy Resource, Generation, and Climate Protection Plan Task Force (Committee Member Osborne) (Discussion and/or possible action)

Committee Member Osborne presented information about the work of the 2016 resource Planning Working Group of the Electric Utility Committee. He presented proposed recommendation language that would increase the goal for the percentage of renewables within the AE generation planning effort. The Committee had robust discussion about the language presented, the process of presenting a new recommendation and passing it in the same meeting, and the use of more general language or recommending a specific percentage number. The final language included a goal of 100,000 EVs in Travis County by 2025, a goal of 50% of all trips achieved through electric drive by 2030, and the City Manager to issue an RFP by 2nd quarter 2017. The recommendation also included increasing the goal for renewables within the AE Resource, Generation, and Climate Protection Plan, with stipulations, to have no greenhouse gas emissions from AE controlled resources by 2030.

Chair Walker moved approval with the amended language, Committee Member Osborne seconded the motion. It passed 12-0-1 with Committee Member Haschke abstaining, and Committee Member Davis absent.

3d. Update on the food systems work by the Food Policy Board (Committee Member Haschke) (Discussion and/or possible action)

Committee Member Haschke mentioned that the next meeting of her working group from the Food Policy Board is occurring the following Wednesday; work product ready in May at the earliest.

3e. Begin discussions on additional actions to supplement the 2015 Austin Community Climate Plan list of actions (Discussion and/or possible action)

Discussed with 4a.

3f. Staff update on CodeNEXT Advisory Group invitation to JSC membership. (Discussion and/or possible action)

Leff mentioned that the CodeNEXT Advisory Group has invited 1-2 members from each Board, Commission, or Committee to join a joint work session on March 4th and provide the sustainable perspective on the draft CodeNEXT documents. Some committee members are possibly going, but Committee Member Seeger will likely go and Chair Walker may join. Committee Members to send questions, comments, or feedback to these two representatives.

4. OLD BUSINESS

4a. Staff report back on draft topics for the Committee’s 2017 meeting schedule (Discussion and/or possible action)

Committee Member Neely asked for a written summary of what the city departments have done over time to reduce emissions. Long-term water plans will be ready for discussion in May; would Austin Water Assistant Director Darryl Slusher come for a discussion? Multiple committee members requested having an item on the March agenda related to the FY2018 city budget; Chair Walker, Vice Chair White, and Committee Member Osborne on a new working group. Some discussion about a working group to work on CodeNEXT ideas. The group had a desire to have an early June special called meeting. The committee decided to move the March meeting to city hall and requested publicizing it.

4b. Staff report back regarding question on Austin Energy GreenChoice program (Discussion and/or possible action)

Not discussed, to be included at next meeting as old business

4c. Working group updates: three standing working groups on the Phase 1 Actions of the Austin Community Climate Plan (Electricity and Natural Gas, Transportation and Land Use, Materials and Waste Management), and the building standards working group (Discussion and/or possible action)

Not discussed

4d. Committee members report back on any relevant discussions from their respective boards and commissions (Discussion and/or possible action)

No updates

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Austin Energy Resource, Generation, and Climate Protection Plan Task Force update
- Review of March Council progress update on Community Climate Plan
- Budget recommendations for March discussion
- Carbon Impact Statement progress update
- Public Engagement Plan update in March
- Water conservation and long-term planning strategies for May
- Committee continues to collect/develop ideas for Community Climate Plan additional actions

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Jim Walker adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m. without objection.