



**JOINT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
March 22, 2017**

The Joint Sustainability Committee convened in a regular meeting on March 22, 2017 at City Hall in Austin, Texas.

Chair Jim Walker called the Board Meeting to order at 6:13 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Chair Jim Walker, Vice Chair Kaiba White, Adrienne Haschke, Nhat Ho, Sabrina Santos Joplin, Fred McGhee, Joep Meijer, Michael Osborne, Patricia Seeger

Board Members Absent:

Kelly Davis, Tom Donovan, Hannah Frankel, Mary Ann Neely, Stacy Savage

City Staff in Attendance:

Lewis Leff, Zach Baumer, Amy Petri (Office of Sustainability), Christine Whitney (Austin Resource Recovery)

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The January 25 meeting minutes were approved 8-0 on Committee Member Meijer's motion and Committee Member Osborne's second, with Committee Members Davis, Donovan, Frankel, Neely, Savage, and Ho absent.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

There was one speaker for citizen communication – Conor Kenny, who serves on the City's Design Commission. His commission is starting to develop City infrastructure design guidelines and wanted to open communication lines with this committee. There was some discussion on Passive House standards and capital versus operational budget misalignments.

3. NEW BUSINESS

3a. Staff briefing on the March 2017 City Council progress update on the Austin Community Climate Plan (Discussion)

Lewis Leff provided a brief update on the process of developing the progress update and the highlights as provided by the departments related to key actions in the plan. Committee members requested the ability to participate earlier in the process and have the ability to provide feedback and/or reinforce the work being done related to the climate plan. Leff explained that the spring memo has typically focused on updates on the actions from the various participating departments and the fall memo has been more of a strategic update in which the Committee could have greater input.

3d. Consider a resolution regarding brownfield redevelopment and affordable housing (Committee Member McGhee) (Discussion and/or possible action)

Committee Member McGhee briefly introduced the language of the resolution. Christine Whitney (Austin Resource Recovery) provided an overview of her office's work. The Committee discussed the intent of this applying to all affordable housing, and the fiscal and workload impacts to the city's office as well as to affordable housing developers. Chair Walker proposed a friendly amendment to change the draft language from forming a new committee to forming a working group, and it was accepted. Committee Members McGhee, Seeger, and Neely will serve on the working group.

Committee Member Seeger moved approval with the amended language, Committee Member Osborne seconded the motion. It passed 9-0 with Committee Members Davis, Donovan, Frankel, Neely, and Savage absent.

3b. Discussions on committee priorities for the FY2018 City budget. (Discussion and/or possible action)

Leff provided an update on the City's budget process and the level of detail we have on department-level budgets at this point. Committee Member Ho mentioned his commission has a multi-layered process for budget review and they have not started yet. Chair Walker mentioned the working group is in place and that they will be crafting ideas based on discussions with the committee. The Committee Members agreed to a June 7th special called meeting with the budget as the primary topic.

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

Committee Members mentioned the actions that have been discussed as potential additions include food and climate related actions, electric and automated vehicles, phasing out fossil fuels for electricity production (reiterating the 2030 zero carbon goal). The chair mentioned there should be a template created on how to add the language for new actions and staff agreed to work on that.

3e. Nomination and election of committee officers (Discussion and/or possible action)

Chair Walker opened up the floor for nominations for officers. Committee Member McGhee motioned to have Jim Walker continue to serve as chair, and Committee Member Seeger seconded it. It passed 9-0 with Committee Members Davis, Donovan, Frankel, Neely, and Savage absent.

Chair Walker opened up the floor for nominations for vice-chair. Committee Member Osborne motioned to have Kaiba White continue to serve as vice-chair, and Committee Member Ho seconded it. It passed 9-0 with Committee Members Davis, Donovan, Frankel, Neely, and Savage absent.

4. OLD BUSINESS

4a. Staff update on the Public Engagement Plan for the Austin Community Climate Plan (Discussion)

Amy Petri (Office of Sustainability) presented on the public engagement efforts related to the climate plan. Committee Members asked about language translation and Petri responded that it is a constant challenge across the city and that there may be more opportunities soon to add languages beyond Spanish for the materials. Committee Member McGhee made the point that much of the

presentation focused on online outreach and that staff should try to get out to schools, churches, and restaurants more often. Vice-chair White requested that staff help to promote public meetings where decisions would be discussed related to major actions in the climate plan. Committee Member Meijer requested the next update to focus on the various personas included in the plan, as this was resident heavy. There was discussion among members related to measuring success and surveying residents to see long-term trends.

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

Leff provided the response from the utility staff about costs to city departments and the language used in marketing materials for the program. Vice-chair White noted that there was no information provided that confirms additionality, and she mentioned her desire to include this in the budget discussions in May. Committee Member Osborne mentioned this could be included in discussions at the Electric Utility Commission's working group and possibly bring back recommendations to this committee.

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)

Committee Member Seeger provided a process update related to CodeNEXT, identified the key discussion points from recent meetings. There was discussion about Council actions related to prior Committee recommendations, and staff agreed to work with the chair to develop some ideas around these requests.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Budget recommendations for March discussion
- Potential additions for the Community Climate Plan, with public input
- Carbon Impact Statement progress update
- Water conservation and long-term planning strategies (Integrated Water Resource Planning task force update)

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Jim Walker adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m. without objection.