



**JOINT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
May 24, 2017**

The Joint Sustainability Committee convened in a regular meeting on May 24, 2017 at City Hall in Austin, Texas.

Chair Jim Walker called the Board Meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Chair Jim Walker, Vice Chair Kaiba White, Kelly Davis, Hannah Frankel, Adrienne Haschke, Nhat Ho, Fred McGhee, Michael Osborne

Board Members Absent:

Tom Donovan, Sabrina Santos Joplin, Joep Meijer, Mary Ann Neely, Stacy Savage, Patricia Seeger

City Staff in Attendance:

Lewis Leff, Zach Baumer (Office of Sustainability), Liz Jambor (Austin Energy)

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The March 22 meeting minutes were approved 8-0 on Committee Member McGhee's motion and Committee Member Osborne's second. A friendly amendment by Vice Chair White was included which clarified the lack of information related to additionality in the Green Choice program. Committee Members Donovan, Joplin, Meijer, Neely, Savage, and Seeger were absent.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

There was one speaker for citizen communication – Scott Johnson. Mr. Johnson presented ideas related to a sustainable tourism plan, which has been brought to light through the Visitor Impact Task Force discussions underway. There were questions from the Committee about heritage tourism, and about additional funding through an increase in the hotel occupancy tax.

3. NEW BUSINESS

**3a. Discussion on committee priorities for the Fiscal Year 2018 City of Austin budget
(Discussion and/or possible action)**

Committee members discussed various concepts that could be included for consideration on the June special called meeting focused on budget. Concepts included resources for ATXN to record the meeting, amending the Community Climate Plan to recognize effects of gentrification and environmental injustice (funding a study to look at impacts), funding a study on cooperative and shared resource housing to limit construction debris and preserve older housing stock, Green Choice program funds, citywide compost collections, electric vehicles, issues related to the Fayette Power Plant, and energy code enforcement.

The committee discussed aspects of the Green Choice program with Liz Jambor from Austin Energy. Discussion included how or if participation is driving additional renewable energy development, inequity in the community related to participation in the program, scale of the City of Austin's involvement in the program compared to the whole customer base, the annual recalibration of the Green Choice rate, and impacts if the City were to pull out of the program and what that would mean to other customers' participation. The Committee plans to discuss all budget items in more depth at the June 7th special-called meeting.

3b. Discussion on Austin Travis County Food Policy Board's "Food and Climate" draft white paper (Discussion and/or possible action)

Zach Baumer and Committee Member Haschke led a presentation about the Food Policy Board's working group's work related to the food system and its ties to climate. Committee Member Ho asked about acreage minimums in code and whether smaller lot sizes would make it easier for agriculture to compete economically in the urban core. Committee Member McGhee mentioned a need to expand on the relationship between food security and climate aspects, and the important role of food pantries in the community. Vice Chair White mentioned restrictions based on state law related to packaging requirements, and Committee Member Ho talked about participation by public entities to move some actions forward.

The working group will continue to finalize a draft of the report and actions and will report back in July to the Committee.

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

The Committee discussed the following for future consideration: Passive House, electric vehicles, the Electric Utility Commission's task force work on recommendations to update the Austin Energy Generation Plan, public engagement. The process would be to create a standalone document that would accompany the originally adopted Climate Plan, and would later be incorporated into the document with the next full revision process.

3d. Set agenda for June 7th special called meeting (Discussion and/or possible action)

Committee Members mentioned items to include on the June 7th meeting: FY18 budget priorities, Green Choice program, and environmental justice related to climate.

4. OLD BUSINESS

4a. Briefing on the April 2017 semi-annual progress update to Mayor and City Council on the Austin Community Climate Plan (Discussion)

No discussion.

4b. 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), brownfield redevelopment working group, budget working group, and the building standards working group (Discussion and/or possible action)

No discussion.

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

Committee Member Ho mentioned his commission's discussions regarding the biosolids contract. Committee Member Osborne mentioned the Electric Utility Commission Resource Planning Working Group is finalizing their work next week and that they'll report those to City Council in June/July. Vice Chair White mentioned the Resource Management Commission has worked on a solar-ready code amendment and it will likely go to City Council in June, and she requested this be an item on the June agenda as well. Committee Member McGhee mentioned the Community Development Commission had a conversation with the CodeNext team and that they received a briefing from someone on the Mayor's Task Force on Institutional Racism.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- July – Update on the Electric Utility Commission Resource Planning Working Group
- Water conservation and long-term planning strategies
- Staff update on the development of a Carbon Impact Statement
- Committee continues to collect/develop ideas for Community Climate Plan additional actions

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Jim Walker adjourned the meeting at 8:09 p.m. without objection.