



**JOINT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**SPECIAL-CALLED MEETING  
June 7, 2017**

**The Joint Sustainability Committee convened in a special-called meeting on June 7, 2017 at City Hall in Austin, Texas.**

**Chair Jim Walker called the Board Meeting to order at 6:22 p.m.**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

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

**Board Members Absent:**

Tom Donovan, Joep Meijer, Mary Ann Neely, Michael Osborne, Patricia Seeger

**City Staff in Attendance:**

Lewis Leff, Zach Baumer, Lucia Athens (Office of Sustainability), Debbie Kimberly, Matt Russell (Austin Energy)

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The May 24<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were approved 8-0 on Committee Member McGhee's motion and Committee Member Ho's second. Committee Members Donovan, Meijer, Neely, Osborne, and Seeger were absent.

**2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

There were no speakers for citizen communication.

**3. NEW BUSINESS**

**3a. Discussion on the City of Austin's participation in Austin Energy's Green Choice program and budget considerations (Discussion and/or possible action)**

Austin Energy Vice President of Customer Energy Solutions Debbie Kimberly presented the background and current program information on Green Choice. Committee Members asked about contract lengths, and there was discussion about how Green Choice commitments do and do not relate to an increase of renewable energy in AE's portfolio. Vice Chair White presented a draft resolution and talked about whether the Green Choice program meets additionality tests as defined by the Stockholm Environmental Institute and ghg management institute. Committee Member McGhee stated that the benchmark should be to decarbonize, and Committee Member Ho asked about new sources to reduce carbon; feed in tariffs and energy storage were discussed as options. The Committee decided to postpone any further discussion until the Resource Management Commission had a chance to discuss the proposed resolution.

**3c. Discussion on the development of an amendment to the City’s Energy Code related to solar-ready rooftops (Discussion and/or possible action)**

The Committee discussed the primary outstanding issue of divergence between the staff recommendation, including that 25% of commercial buildings’ roof space being reserved for solar installations, versus the recommendation from the Resource Management Commission to adjust that part to 35%. Committee Member McGhee made the motion to approve the resolution supporting staff’s recommendation but with the adjustment to the 35% number as supported by the RMC, and Vice Chair White seconded the motion. The motion passed on a 7-0-1 vote with Committee Member Ho abstaining.

**3b. Discussion on the relationship of environmental justice and climate as related to the actions in the Community Climate Plan (Discussion and/or possible action)**

Committee Member McGhee introduced a draft resolution for consideration and gave background and context to the proposed direction. He stated the completed analysis would form a basis for an amendment of the Austin Community Climate Plan. Staff explained that the City has an Equity Office now and that their input would be valuable for this discussion. The Committee decided to postpone any action until the July meeting where the Equity Officer could attend and participate in the discussion.

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

**4a. Discussion on committee priorities for the Fiscal Year 2018 City of Austin budget (Discussion and/or possible action)**

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)**

No discussion.

**5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- July – Update on the Electric Utility Commission Resource Planning Working Group
- July – FY18 budget
- August - Water conservation and long-term planning strategies
- Staff update on the development of a Carbon Impact Statement

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Jim Walker adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m. without objection.