



**JOINT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

**SPECIAL-CALLED MEETING
August 23, 2017**

The Joint Sustainability Committee convened in a special-called meeting on August 23, 2017 at City Hall in Austin, Texas.

Chair Jim Walker called the Board Meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Chair Jim Walker, Vice Chair Kaiba White, Kelly Davis, Hannah Frankel, Adrienne Haschke, Sabrina Joplin, Joep Meijer, Mary Ann Neely, Patricia Seeger

Board Members Absent:

Tom Donovan, Nhat Ho, Fred McGhee, Michael Osborne

City Staff in Attendance:

Lewis Leff, Zach Baumer, Matt Russell (Austin Energy), Pharr Andrews (Austin Transportation), Woody Raine (Austin Resource Recovery)

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The June 7th meeting minutes were approved 9-0 on Committee Member Meijer's motion and Committee Member Haschke's second. Committee Members Donovan, Ho, McGhee, and Osborne were absent.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

There were no speakers for citizen communication.

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

City staff from the three key departments related to the Austin Community Climate Plan (Austin Energy, Austin Transportation, and Austin Resource Recovery) presented their FY18 draft budget items that tie to actions in the ACCP. The Committee asked to include the scale of impact on carbon reductions for next budget cycle in the materials. The committee discussed supporting staff requests as included in the presentation slides. There was discussion on the options included in a staff memo regarding energy code enforcement, and the Committee recognized the efforts of departments balancing priorities but felt strongly about having in-house staff perform the work. Committee members asked about electric and automated vehicle (EV/AV) goals for FY18, as well as the rollout of curbside composting. Committee Member Haschke mentioned the \$105,000 request from the Food Policy Board related to food waste and recovery. Committee Member Meijer moved approval with amended language, seconded by Committee Member Joplin, passed unanimously.

4b. Discussion on the relationship of environmental justice and climate as related to the actions in the Community Climate Plan (Discussion and/or possible action)

Postponed to the next meeting.

3b. Update on the Austin Community Climate Plan from the Climate Program Manager (Discussion)

Zach Baumer and Lewis Leff presented on the updated draft Carbon Impact Statement. Committee members discussed how to quantify actions wherever possible, the challenges of comparing carbon impacts across different types of planned unit development projects, how this might help to inform the public and decision makers about climate impacts of these developments. They mentioned how to provide incentives to get developers to participate and whether it could be included in the city code in the future. Suggestions for items to include: no natural gas hookups because we know the buildings will be around beyond the 2050 net zero goal adopted by the City; consider LEED-ND aspects; consider net-zero energy capable buildings; consider changing the food question to focus on the carbon only, avoid productive agricultural land. Discussion continued about how to ramp this concept up to other City Council agenda items, and whether a working group could work on these items. Staff agreed to update the committee later in the pilot process.

3a. Discussion on the Committee’s Annual Internal Review (Discussion and/or possible action)

Chair Walker laid out the annual review and items for focus over the next year. Committee members agreed to add the carbon impact statement to the work plan for the year. Committee Member Haschke moved approval as amended, Committee Member Joplin 2nd, passed unanimously.

4c. Working group updates and potential creation of new working groups: 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)

The Committee agreed to end the building standards working group, form a Sustainable Tourism working group (Osborne, McGhee, Davis, Joplin, Neely), adjust Materials and Waste members (Haschke, White as chair), adjust Electricity and Natural Gas members (Meijer as chair), and create a carbon impact statement group (Meijer, Joplin, Neely, Walker).

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

Committee Member Meijer spoke about the lack of inclusion of carbon impacts during the Austin Energy Generation Plan update process; wants to discuss a template related to this for the future, and staff agreed to work with them on it.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Equity and climate, economic development policy, meeting frequency and work plan, climate program manager item on carbon cost impact study, look for options for October

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Jim Walker adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m. without objection.