



**JOINT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
January 24, 2018**

The Joint Sustainability Committee convened in a regular meeting on January 24, 2018 at City Hall in Austin, Texas.

Chair Jim Walker called the Board Meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Chair Jim Walker, Fisayo Fadelu, Adrienne Haschke, Nhat Ho, Holt Lackey, Francoise Luca, Joep Meijer, Michael Osborne, Patricia Seeger

Board Members Absent:

Vice Chair Kaiba White, Blythe Christopher de Orive, Kelly Davis, Mary Ann Neely, Sabrina Joplin

City Staff in Attendance:

Lewis Leff, Zach Baumer

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The November 29th meeting minutes were approved 7-0-1 on Committee Member Osborne's motion and Committee Member Seeger's second; Committee Member Lackey abstained. Committee Member Ho arrived after this vote.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

None.

3a. Update on the Carbon Impact Statement Pilot (Discussion and/or possible action)

Lewis Leff with the Office of Sustainability presented an update to the Carbon Impact Statement Pilot. Committee Member Seeger asked about the relationship of this to the existing PUD superiority requirements. Committee Member Meijer discussed how a future approach could analyze major decisions by spend amounts. Chair Walker mentioned long-term conservation easements could be incorporated into a future form, as well as a review when the project is actually built to see how it compares to their original plans. Committee Members Ho and Luca discussed how to make this a higher level policy tool than the existing Green Building program details. Committee Member Lackey proposed a scale for each of the items to better reflect details than a pure 1 or 0 scoring, and discussed how to broaden the applicability of the form. Committee Member Osborne pointed out all points are not equal in carbon impact and staff could consider weighting on future scoring, as well as incorporating Green Choice participation as an item. Staff will work with the Carbon Impact working group and come back to the full Committee at the end of the pilot to provide an update on next steps.

3b. Update on the Austin Community Climate Plan from the Climate Program Manager (Discussion and/or possible action)

Zach Baumer with the Office of Sustainability presented an update on the municipal and community carbon footprints with updated 2016 data. Committee Member Osborne mentioned the importance of specifying that Green Choice participation drove the sharp decline for the municipal footprint in 2011-2012. The Committee requested emissions per capita and a detailed breakdown of the energy and transportation sectors, and discussed how to require mitigation over time and whether the City is limited by state or federal policy. Committee Member Meijer asked about abatement costs for specific industrial emissions and Committee Member Ho discussed the work being done at the Water and Wastewater Commission regarding transparent billing and value provided to the customer through conservation programs.

4a. Potential amendments to the Joint Sustainability Committee by-laws (Discussion and/or possible action)

An amended version of the by-laws was presented that adds the Design Commission as a full voting member, allows boards to designate an alternate if needed, and changes the meeting schedule to monthly. Committee Member Osborne moved approval and Committee Member Ho seconded the motion; it passed 9-0.

4b. Reaffirm support for a study of Passive House standards for affordable housing (Discussion and/or possible action)

The Committee discussed continued support for the study, ensuring it was not limited to just a Passive House approach but for broader efficiency, and for the Council Committee on Housing and Planning to take this item up.

4c. 2018 meeting schedule topics (Discussion and/or possible action)

The Committee agreed to the proposed schedule for the upcoming months, with the caveat that additional items will likely need to be added and would be included on future agendas through the process stated in the by-laws.

4d. 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, budget, carbon impact statement, and tourism (Discussion and/or possible action)

No discussion.

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

Committee Members Meijer and Osborne discussed the electric vehicle purchases happening at Austin Energy and a desire to be involved in the purchasing timeline. Committee Member Luca mentioned the recycling in parks pilot, and Committee Member Osborne discussed water billing issues discussed at the EUC. Committee Member Seeger laid out upcoming dates for CodeNEXT and Committee Member Ho talked about a water cost of service study. Chair Walker mentioned his meeting with staff and the City's Equity Officer and how that topic may be incorporated into future planning efforts.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- February - Austin Strategic Mobility Plan and carbon emissions, Potential addendum of a section on Food and Climate to the Austin Community Climate Plan, Ch. 380 agreements, Natural gas related to code and carbon impact statements
- March - Department ACCP progress reporting
- April – JSC priorities on budget and GO bond process

ADJOURNMENT

On Committee Seeger's motion and Committee Member Lackey's second, Chair Walker adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m. without objection.