



JOINT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING
March 28, 2018**

The Joint Sustainability Committee convened in a regular meeting on March 28, 2018 at City Hall in Austin, Texas.

Vice Chair Kaiba White called the Board Meeting to order at 6:28 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Vice Chair Kaiba White, Kelly Davis, Nhat Ho, Sabrina Joplin, Holt Lackey, Francoise Luca, Joep Meijer, Michael Osborne

Board Members Absent:

Jim Walker, Blythe Christopher de Orive, Fisayo Fadelu, Adrienne Haschke, Mary Ann Neely, Patricia Seeger

City Staff in Attendance:

Lewis Leff, Zach Baumer, Matthew Russell, Kurt Stogdill, Selene Castillo, Tina Bui, Tien-Tien Chan

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The February 28th meeting minutes were approved 8-0 on Committee Member Meijer's motion and Committee Member Osborne's second. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Ashkan Jahangiri presented on his research into regional growth and environmental sustainability implications. The committee asked to add this topic as a potential future agenda item for a future meeting.

3a. Update on the Austin Community Climate Plan from the Climate Program Manager – Cost/Impact Analysis of plan actions (Discussion and/or possible action)

Zach Baumer and Cavan Merski from the Office of Sustainability presented a cost/impact analysis of the Austin Community Climate Plan actions. There was some discussion about the assumptions made in the model about the full potential of costs and impacts. Staff recognized that costs were considered mostly from a City perspective and not on behalf of individual residents. Committee Member Ho mentioned the need to invest in long-term solutions soon because the projections from the analysis show our community will barely meet the target with the model today. With transportation being so critical, Committee Member Luca mentioned the need to recognize the role of Capital Metro in future planning and implementation. Committee Member Meijer and Osborne mentioned the need to have a clear understanding of the City's role in the next year, especially as it relates to transportation actions. Vice Chair White asked staff to add in an aggressive scenario that goes beyond current assumptions so that the committee could back into actions needed to achieve long-term goals. No action taken.

3b. Departmental annual update on actions included in the Austin Community Climate Plan (Discussion and/or possible action)

Department staff from Austin Energy, Austin Resource Recovery, and Austin Transportation presented on the key highlights and challenges for the next year related to Climate Plan actions. Discussion occurred around organics collection beginning in residential curbside before rolling out to multifamily properties. Other comments included the evolution of the business model for utilities and modernizing the electric grid, how the electric bus rollout for the Austin school district would impact emissions over time, and about how this information could inform budget priorities for the committee. No action taken.

3c. Natural gas use in land use development related to city code requirements and carbon impacts (Discussion and/or possible action)

Zach Baumer presented background information about natural gas use and related emissions. The committee discussed the comparison of Austin Energy's mix of renewables in the generation mix and when there would be more carbon reduction than use of natural gas at the household level. Kurt Stogdill with Austin Energy discussed that the process of a standalone code amendment could be 12-18 months but they would still have to follow all of the steps of analysis and stakeholder engagement while running a transparent process with the Development Services Department as a partner in that. There is already a plan to do a 2020 adoption of all technical codes and the staff preference would be to follow that timeline as to not replicate efforts. The committee asked staff to run an analysis to compare when the percentage of renewables would match the carbon impact of natural gas use, and staff said they would report back on a timeline for that at the next meeting. Larry Graham with Texas Gas Service spoke briefly and stated his desire to participate in future discussions on this topic. Sustainability Office staff will come back in May to update on calculations. No action taken.

4a. 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.

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

No discussion.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Committee priorities on budget and a potential 2018 General Obligation bond – April
- Water Forward process update – April/May
- Natural gas additional information and broadened application of the Carbon Impact Statement - May
- CodeNEXT tie to carbon impacts – potential special-called meeting
- Capital Metro and Transportation focused meeting – summer
- Public outreach and engagement – May/June

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair White adjourned the meeting at 8:53 p.m. without objection.