



Item 1

**JOINT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
May 23, 2018**

The Joint Sustainability Committee convened in a regular meeting on May 23, 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, Vice Chair Kaiba White, Nhat Ho, Holt Lackey, Francoise Luca, Adrienne Haschke, Joep Meijer, Michael Osborne, Katie Coyne, Fisayo Fadelu, Kelly Davis

Board Members Absent:

Blythe Christopher de Orive, Patricia Seeger, Sabrina Santos Joplin

City Staff in Attendance:

Zach Baumer, Lewis Leff, Marc Coudert, Rodrigo Leal, Cavan Merski

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Committee Member Ho moved approval of the April 25 minutes, Committee Member Osborne seconded. Committee Member Coyne added a friendly amendment to correct her name misspelling. Motion passed 10-0-1 with Committee Member Meijer abstained.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

None.

3. NEW BUSINESS

3a. Presentation and discussion on the Climate Resilience Action Plan for City Assets and Operations (Discussion and/or possible action)

Marc Coudert and Rodrigo Leal from the Office of Sustainability presented on the Climate Resilience Action Plan for City Assets and Operations. They clarified public safety locations were studied mostly for access to and from their locations, and that with new floodplain maps they would study them again. Committee members asked to be a part of the community co-creation of a community-wide resilience plan. Discussion continued about urban vs. rural planning differences, community relocation as a strategy in next steps, how to measure success, and defining local shocks and stressors with the community – especially those experiencing homelessness and those incarcerated. The Committee asked for progress updates over time. No action taken.

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

Lewis Leff spoke about the City Council adopting the new bylaws, and the changes the Council made to the number of “at-large” seats from 3 to 1. Committee Members discussed the potential to revisit the bylaws again if needed to stress the importance of more “at large” representation. No action taken.

4a. Presentation and discussion regarding the emissions from residential natural gas and electric heating equipment, in relation to the City of Austin Energy Code (Discussion and/or possible action)

Zach Baumer and Cavan Merski presented their analysis on this topic. Committee Members talked about the importance of cost implications as a factor in the discussion, and whether the Resource Management Commission discussed one-off amendments or incorporating this into the next energy code adoption process. One comment was about being a resilient community if all homes relied solely on electric appliances. Larry Graham with Texas Gas Service stated in his opinion this does not really impact many new single family home developments because Texas gas would not have installed natural gas lines in the adjacent right-of-way in anticipation of new development. The Committee reiterated their desire to see something about natural gas included in the carbon impact statement as it evolves in the future.

4b. Discussion on Committee priorities related to the City of Austin Fiscal Year 2019 Budget and potential 2018 General Obligation Bond (Discussion and/or possible action)

There was discussion about prior actions related to increasing code reviewers in the Development Services Department, as well as the amount of dollars included in the 2018 bond for open space and aquatics. Food production on public land was discussed as a potential item to add to the JSC recommendations, and a question was raised about whether the Watershed Protection Department was building a database of assets.

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

No discussion.

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

- Revamp of 380 Agreements – long-term goal is to move towards small and mid-sized projects, to allow compliance easier, to do 50% of tax abatements instead of 100%, using funds from program instead of adding burdens related to sustainability
- TDM at Environmental Commission
- New PUD - Camelback – in discussions now
- Helping those experiencing homelessness
- Austin Water 5 year CIP – retiring debt faster than expected so smart meters will be implemented city-wide faster than we thought originally
- South Central Waterfront regulating plan at Environmental Commission

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Public engagement and outreach for ACCP
- Budget and bond recommendations
- Water Forward update from staff

ADJOURNMENT

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