



Item 1

**JOINT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
October 24, 2018**

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

Chair Jim Walker called the Board Meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

1. **Karen Magid** (Austin Travis County Food Policy Board)
2. **Nhat Ho** (Water & Wastewater Commission)
3. **Patricia Seeger** (Planning Commission)
4. **Kaiba White**, Vice-Chair (Resource Mgmt. Commission)
5. **Jim Walker**, Chair (City Council)
6. **Kelly Davis** (Urban Transportation Commission)
7. **Katie Coyne** (Environmental Commission)
8. **Holt Lackey** (Economic Prosperity Commission)
9. **Fisayo Fadelu** (Community Development Commission)

Board Members Absent:

- **Francoise Luca** (Parks & Recreation Board)
- **Joep Meijer** (City Council)
- **Michael Osborne** (Electric Utility Commission)

City Staff in Attendance:

Zach Baumer, Marc Coudert

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kiaba White moved approval of the September 26 minutes with amendments, Nhat Ho second. All in favor.

Amendments to September 26 minutes:

- Page2: Kaiba: Use the term *inquire* instead of *promote*
- List speakers in beginning: Larry Graham
- No need to quote in the meeting notes – paraphrase conversations

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

No speakers

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. Briefing from Capital Metro on initiatives related to reducing community greenhouse gas emissions
(Discussion and/or possible action)

- Sustainability Officer for Capital Metro
- Briefing on Sustainability including electric busses
- Sustainability is imbedded in Capital Metro's vision, mission and plan
- Part of the Austin Green Business Leaders program and other sustainability rating systems
- Looking into Zero Emission Busses for some time: early fuel cell buses
- Center for Transportation and Environment (CTE) nonprofit that funded early fuel cell and now funding electric bus pilot
- In the United States, most electric bus pilots are small: i.e. less than 5 per city. Largest fleet of electric busses is around 17
- Cities are trending towards purchasing more electric buses. There's been a large increase in bus sales
- Capital Metro planning to implement electric bus pilot
- Plan includes 40 busses over a 3 year period (FY22-FY24)
- Still planning of purchasing diesel bus (\$450,000 for diesel bus vs. \$800,000 for electrical: Cost of diesel fuel more over time)
- Unknown right now is infrastructure cost of new technology
- Advantage of electric busses:
 - i. Fully zero emission
 - ii. Fuel available everywhere
 - iii. Batteries will continue to get better
 - iv. Simplest zero emission vehicle
 - v. Capital/fuel cost can be similar to conventional busses
- Two charging type
 - i. Plug in over night
 - ii. Fast chargers in roads or overhead – expensive and energy intensive but allows constant use
- Proterra and New Flier can now have larger batteries that can charge quickly
- 1-3 MW to charge around 20 busses at a station.
- 10-30 MW to charge 200 busses. Scale up to hundreds of busses charging system is an unknown
- Maintenance cost are unknown. Assume it's low
- Technology obsolescence for new technology a consideration
- Next Steps
 - i. Funding and total cost
 - ii. Research, peer assistance
 - iii. Technology decision
 - iv. Analysis needed
- **Comment:**
 - **Q:** *Does investing in electric busses mean not investing in something else?*
 - **A:** Electric busses are starting to make economic sense and will not take away for projects like rail. It's important to be transparent with public funds
 - **Q:** *What happens with old busses? Do you only remove buses when they are obsolete?*
 - **A:** Yes, we will remove the buses only when necessary
 - **Q:** *Are there other programs CapMetro is doing to reduce GHG?*

- **A:** Yes,
 1. Increase ridership
 2. Use fuel efficiently
 3. Maintain busses and train drivers
 4. Purchase more efficient and cleaner busses
 5. Facility efficiency and green building technology at sites
- **Q:** *How soon for us to have a universal standard?*
- **A:** Plug in interface are all standardized. Overhead charging are more complex. National groups looking at a national standard protocol for electric buses.
- **Q:** *Are you planning to replace electric buses on shorter routes or all buses across the board?*
- **A:** Mueller was a pilot. Cap Metro is determined to electrify last mile routes. Nothing specific right now.
- **Q:** *Is there a hybrid option?*
- **A:** Yes, there are hybrid options. We have 3 hybrids on our fleet now but not the most efficient because of AC load.
- **Q:** *Is Cap Metro analyzing how you are phasing buses and how are you prioritizing routes especially for heat/equity/air quality*
- **A:** 1. look at range of route 2. Whole system needs 3. Opportunity to look at equity and health
- **Q:** *What is the breakdown of heat (AC cost, range) and impact on system*
- **A:** challenge of looking at range because of battery and changing technology
- **Q:** *Can we have Project Connect for next time?*
- **A:** Can make a connection for next time
- **ACTION:** *Plan to have Project Connect come to upcoming meeting*
- b. Update on the Austin Community Climate Plan from the Climate Program Manager (Discussion and/or possible action)
 - IPCC 1.5 Summary for policy makers
 - i. Human activity have caused 1 degree Celsius of warming
 - ii. Heat will persist for centuries
 - iii. Risk to natural and human systems higher with higher temperatures
 - iv. Avoiding 2 degree Celsius is very important
 - v. ...yeah, we're screwed
 - vi. How to fix it? All humans need to be on the same trajectory as the Austin Community Climate Plan
 - vii. If not, things are going to be much worse
 - Community Plan Revision update
 - i. Staff will work on 4 year analysis from 2015 plan
 - ii. Analysis of consumption based inventory
 - iii. Benchmarking of goals/plans from other cities
 - iv. Proposed focus areas and organization
 1. Energy & buildings
 2. Transportation
 3. Consumption
 4. Education **and awareness**
 5. Sequestration (**active removal**) and moonshots
 6. JSC as a steering committee
 7. Committee on urgency and goal setting
 - v. Engaging target audience
 1. Equity office / Quality of life
 2. Businesses and major institutions

3. Neighborhoods and faith based
 4. All districts represented / participating
 5. Community survey on climate issues and awareness
- vi. Comments:
1. **ACTION:** Opportunity to engage Blue Bonnet and beyond. i.e. smaller cities in the Austin area that don't have capacity to do this work.
 2. Monday's meeting was a working group meeting and was not a quorum - so was not public
 3. **ACTION:** Joint Sustainability Committee to draft a letter for council to ask for representative to participate in focus area in community plan update
 4. **ACTION:** Incorporate ecology ecosystem topic into sequestration
 5. **ACTION:** Create scopes for each topic
 6. **ACTION:** Moonshot for all topics?
 7. **ACTION:** Tie mitigation to adaptation/resilience? Need another meeting to discuss
- 2019 Meeting schedule
 - i. Draft schedule for 2019
 - ii. Change November, December – committee will evaluate dates
 - iii. **ACTION:** Committee motioned to accept meeting schedule with the knowledge that the November and December date may shift. Patricia Seeger moved approval of the motion, Katie Coyne second. All in favor.
- c. Discussion of the 2019 Meeting Schedule (Discussion and/or possible action)

4. OLD BUSINESS

- a. 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) – no update.
- b. 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), budget working group, and carbon impact statement. (Discussion and/or possible action) – will collapse the groups based on discussions.
- c. Commission members report back on any relevant discussions from their respective boards and commissions (Discussion and/or possible action)
 - a. **Urban Transportation** will have a upcoming meeting on Project Connect – second Tuesday in B&C at 5PM
 - b. **Water/wastewater** accepted the Water Forward Plan
 - c. **Environmental Commission:** City celebrated 20 years of water quality protection lands
 - d. **Food Policy board meeting:** strategic planning and condense number of working groups

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Austin Strategic Mobility Plan / Project Connect
- Air Quality Plan

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Walker adjourned the meeting at 8:13 p.m. without objection (Katie Coyne first, Nhat Ho second).

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For more information on the Joint Sustainability Committee, please contact Zach Baumer (Zach.Baumer@austintexas.gov or 512-974-2836).