



Item 1

**JOINT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
MEETING
MEETING MINUTES**

REGULAR

September 25, 2019

The Joint Sustainability Committee convened in a regular meeting on September 25, 2019 at 721 Barton Springs Road, in Austin, Texas.

Vice-chair Katie Coyne, called the Board Meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Katie Coyne, Holt Lackey, David Carroll, Kelly Davis, Robert Schneider, Karen Magid, Nhat Ho, Fisayo Fadelu, Karen Hadden

Board Members Absent:

Alberta Phillips, Kaiba White, Melissa Rothrock

City Staff in Attendance:

Phoebe Romero, Zach Baumer

CALL TO ORDER

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. August 28, 2019 meeting of the Joint Sustainability Committee

- b. Motion to Approve (Commissioner Holt) Second (Commissioner Carroll) Approved-7-0

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

The speakers signed up prior to the meeting being called to order will each be allowed a three-minute allotment to address their concerns regarding items not posted on the agenda.

- Scott Johnson
 - Expressed importance of aligning Regional Air Quality Plan and Community Climate Plan revision strategies, and connecting with academia

3. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Austin Area Sustainability Indicators Program – Patrick Bixler, LBJ School of Public Affairs, University of Texas (Discussion and/or possible action) – 45 minutes
 - Exploring ways to use 2004-2018 community survey data for policy action
 - Found overall increase climate change awareness and concern in the Austin area
 - Social Vulnerability Index shows contrast in life expectancy and concern with climate change based on zip code
 - Found that biggest predictor of environmental responsible behavior is not concern, but social trust via community and networks
 - Potential to explore how socioeconomic and cultural factors affect perception and action

- b) Climate Resilience – Marc Coudert, Office of Sustainability (Discussion and/or possible action) – 30 minutes
 - Overview of update on implementation of Assets and Operations Plan to date, and planned strategies for 2020-30
 - Discussed ongoing project to address grassfire emergency management, particularly in the East Side via an ATX Fire real-time smoke map prototype
 - Reviewed Phase 1 of Resilience Resolution response and discussed potential topics of Phase 2
 - Importance of trust in community resilience planning discussed
 - Community Resilience Plan will be a separate process from the Community Climate Plan

- c) Climate Emergency Resolution and Community Climate Plan Engagement – Zach Baumer, Office of Sustainability (Discussion and/or possible action) – 30 minutes
 - Citizen communication – Scott Johnson
 - Discussed potential integration of air quality and climate plans and identifying and mitigating emissions from aviation and tourism
 - Climate Emergency has five main sections: accountability, external engagement, net-zero emissions and mitigation, emergency management and reporting structure
 - Report due on October 1st regarding accountability structure
 - Initial proposal creates Climate and Environment Leadership Team that includes Directors and Assistant City Managers that oversee implementation, meet quarterly and provide updates to council
 - Importance of documenting progress so that budget and planning are adjusted accordingly
 - Discussion on importance of building trust and connecting with resilience

- d) JSC Procedures and Expectations (Discussion and/or possible action) – 10 minutes
 - Established norm of keeping meeting to approximately two hours, with a goal end time between 8-8:30pm
 - Discussed potential retreat/team building event in the coming future

- e) City of Austin sponsorship and promotion of 50th annual Earth Day Austin event in 2020 (Discussion and/or possible action) – 15 minutes
- Citizen Communication- Janis Bookout
 - Discussed opportunity to celebrate the 50th global anniversary of Earth Day via an Earth Day Austin celebration focused on equity
 - Discussed need for funding this year’s projects and last year’s difficulties with weather cancellation and rescheduled festival
 - Discussion on funding needs, timelines and activities of the organization
 - Motion made to approve recommendation for City of Austin to support the Earth Day Austin Festival by Commissioner Hadden, Seconded by Commissioner Davis
 - Motion approved 8-0, Commissioner Magid abstained

4. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Working group updates (Discussion and/or possible action)
- a. none
- b. Commission members report back on any relevant discussions from their respective boards and commissions (Discussion and/or possible action)
- a. none

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Ongoing updates from OOS regarding Community Climate Plan revision
- Adaptation overview from US Forest Service workshop

Motion to adjourn (Commissioner Schneider) Second (Commissioner Ho)

Meeting adjourns at **8:28**

ADJOURNMENT

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice at least 2 days (48 hours) before the meeting date. Please call Zach Baumer with the Office of Sustainability at 512-974-2836, for additional information; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711. For more information on the Joint Sustainability Committee, please contact Zach Baumer at (zach.baumer@austintexas.gov or 512-974-2836).