



Item 1

**JOINT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

**SPECIAL MEETING
November 19, 2020**

The Joint Sustainability Committee convened in a special meeting on November 19, 2020 via videoconferencing.

Chair Kaiba White called the Board Meeting to order at 5:33 pm.

Board Members in Attendance:

Kaiba White Chair, Melissa Rothrock, Karen Magid, Alberta Phillips, David Carroll, Nhat Ho, Rob Schneider, Karen Hadden, Kelly Davis

Board Members Absent:

Katie Coyne Vice-Chair, Fisayo Fadelu, Holt Lackey

City Staff in Attendance:

Zach Baumer, Phoebe Romero

CALL TO ORDER

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

The speakers who registered in advance for public comment have three minutes each to address items on the agenda at this time.

- None

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) October 28, 2020 meeting of the Joint Sustainability Committee
 - Motion to approve (Commissioner Schneider), second (Commissioner Hadden), 7 approved, 0 opposed, 1 abstained. Commissioner Davis was not yet on the dais.

2. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Government Relations Update—Brie Franco, Office of Intergovernmental Relations (Discussion and/or possible action)
- Update provided on the bills filed so far in the Texas 87th Legislative Session
 - Some key issues include a new speaker being elected, Special Session on redistricting, school finance, budget, and COVID-19
 - Some city-related priority issues include super preemption, police reform, COVID-19, employees' rights, zoning, city lobbying, utility deregulation, revenue caps, and annexation.
 - Federal administration changes unlikely to have significant effects on state policy
- b) Presentation on Planet Texas 2050 initiatives—Dave Kramer, UT Austin (Discussion and/or possible action)
- Planet Texas 2050 vision is that of a resilient Texas in the face of challenges from the climate crisis, growth and equity and justice issues
 - Overview of the Bridging Barriers initiatives, which was created to have a multi-year, interdisciplinary research program to address complex problems
 - Currently looking to apply lessons learned from year 1 & 2 and partnering with community organizations to advance justice and move from a community-informed to a community-directed approach
 - Focus areas include water quality, virtual reality and climate change, tropical diseases, and ongoing National Science Foundation-funded climate navigators project partnership with GAVA
- c) Update from the Climate Program Manager – Zach Baumer, Office of Sustainability (Discussion and/or possible action)
- The climate plan will be submitted as a Request for Council Action (RCA) from the Office of Sustainability
 - Office of Sustainability will be presenting to the Mobility and Housing and Planning Council Committees in early 2021, and will submit the item for consideration following these presentations
 - Discussion on ensuring alignment and collaboration with buildings codes process, Project Connect and Water Forward Can still proceed with implementation planning in the meantime
- d) Commission members report back on any relevant discussions from their respective boards and commissions – (Discussion and/or possible action)
- Planning Commission: focused on about housing, density and affordability, and will be thinking further about anti-displacement funding
 - Water and Wastewater Commission: focused on algae bloom, and examining the effects on resilience
 - Resource Management Commission: requested update on solar-ready code enforcement from Development Services Division, discussing how it can be enforced along with other aspects of the energy codes

- Austin-Travis County Food Policy Board: rethinking strategy, including alignment with other commissions on community engagement

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Climate Plan updates

Motion to adjourn (Commissioner Ho), Second (Commissioner Schneider) – 9 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained.

Meeting adjourns at 7:19pm

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).