



Item 1

**JOINT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
June 22, 2022**

The Joint Sustainability Committee convened in a hybrid meeting on June 22, 2022 via videoconferencing and at City Hall, Council Chambers, 301 West 2nd Street, Austin, Texas

Chair Kaiba White called the Board Meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

Board Members in Attendance:

Kaiba White Chair, Diana Wheeler Vice Chair, Richard DePalma, David Carroll, Melissa Rothrock, Karen Hadden, Alexis Taylor, Frances Deviney, Fisayo Fadelu, Haris Qureshi,

Board Members Absent:

Alberta Phillips, Christy Williams, Solveij Rosa Praxis

City Staff in Attendance:

Phoebe Romero

CALL TO ORDER

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

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

- Carlos Soto – Community Advancement Network
 - Provided overview of the community work at CAN, and opportunities for collaboration

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) May 25th, 2022, meeting of the Joint Sustainability Committee
 - Motion to approve (Commissioner DePalma), second (Commissioner Carroll).
Record of the vote: 10 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained.

2. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Rain to River Presentation –Andrea Bates, Watershed Protection Department (Discussion and/or possible action)
 - Rain to River is a strategic plan to protect Austin’s creek and communities
 - Presentation provided insights on goals and metrics, community engagement phases, and projected timeline
 - Overview of priority stakeholders, including historically underrepresented groups, impacted groups, etc.
 - To get involved, community members can take the Community Vision Survey, which includes a mapping component
- b) Zero Waste and Circular Economy Presentation – Ken Snipes, Austin Resource Recovery (Discussion and/or possible action)
 - Provided presentation on current work that relates back to Food and Product Consumption goals in the Austin Climate Equity Plan
 - Will be developing a per capita waste diversion rate goal
 - Working on Circular Cities initiative to work with departments on transforming operations and procurement to a circular economy model; expanding new program offerings and promoting existing programs; trying out on-call bulk pickup program
 - Discussed difficulty with electrifying fleet to meet route distances needed due to limited waste transfer facilities
 - Developed Equity Tool to provide process and questions to guide in ARR initiatives
 - Haris: where would the transfer station be? Ideally north
 - White: why is it difficult? Because of the back and forth routes
 - Wheeler: how can bulk pickup help with repurposing items/redistributing vs. to the landfill
 - Rothrock: extra transfer station hasn’t been popular with ZWAC – pitched good reason; can it be used for other things besides landfill? Yes, for all categories.
- c) Austin Regional Food Plan Presentation– Amanda Rohlich, Office of Sustainability (Discussion and/or possible action)
 - Overview of what constitutes a food system and disparities in food insecurity
 - Collaborating with HSEM to have an emergency operations plan
 - Food plan can comprehensively develop goals and strategies to address aspects of food system – resolution in 2021 asked for the development, and have ARPA funding to complete this

- Creating a food equity toolkit, having different advisory groups for issue areas like production, access, markets, labor, and recovery, and paid community advisory committee
 - Timeline and next steps; overview of ways to get involved
 - Haris: Food deserts tend to be on the east side, short and long term solutions
 - Wheeler – 18/47 zip codes don't have a full service grocery store
 - Karen: have the large grocery retailers been part of this discussion? Will work with smaller markets to have healthy/fresh food (healthy corner store initiative) – these take SNAP
 - Rothrock – how do we balance food access and waste? EPA's hierarchy of food – food access as the first path
 - Carroll – impact and potential of free community fridges
 - White: how does this fit in with climate equity plan?
- d) Fayette Power Plant Recommendation (Discussion and/or possible action)
- Will need to postpone to next month's agenda
- e) Commission members report back on any relevant discussions from their respective boards and commissions – (Discussion and/or possible action)
- None reported

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- ACC Fashion Incubator

Motion to adjourn (Commissioner White)

Meeting adjourns at 8:14 pm

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](mailto:zach.baumer@austintexas.gov) or 512-974-2836).

The minutes were approved at the October 26, 2022 meeting on Commissioner Rothrock's motion, Commissioner Wheeler second on a 10-0 vote.