



**Item 1**

**JOINT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
December 14, 2022**

**The Joint Sustainability Committee convened in a hybrid meeting on December 14, 2022 via videoconferencing and at Austin Energy Headquarters, Mueller Assembly Room 1111ab, 4815 Mueller Blvd, Austin, TX 78723**

**Chair Kaiba White called the Board Meeting to order at 6:05 pm.**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Kaiba White, Karen Hadden, Robert Schneider, Diana Wheeler, Frances Deviney, Alberta Phillips, Haris Qureshi, Rodrigo Leal, Anna Scott, Melissa Rothrock, Kirsha Haverlah

**Board Members Absent:**

David Carroll, Fisayo Fadelu

**City Staff in Attendance:**

Zach Baumer, Phillip Duran

**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.

N/A

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

October 26, 2022, meeting of the Joint Sustainability Committee

- Motion to approve (Qureshi), second (Hadden). Record of the vote: 10 approved, 0 opposed, 1 abstained.

## **2. JOINT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE STRATEGIC PLANNING BRIEF**

Climate Program Manager, Zach Baumer

- Relevant history of the Joint Sustainability committee, resolutions guiding its operation
- Proposals of how the JSC might function moving forward, including one or multiple strategic planning sessions
- Discussion:
  - Deviney: Insights from Food Policy Board – three hours, one meeting, with good facilitation should be sufficient. The next meeting should be to recap what was agreed upon.
  - Scott: A pre-meeting for new JSC meetings for background would be useful
  - Phillips: Concerned about the rise in COVID cases. Hopes for strategic planning meeting to be in a large enough space for distancing.
  - White, Baumer: It would be possible to use such a large enough space for distancing, with hybrid options. As many Commissioners in-person would be most productive.
  - Baumer: Request that Commissioners provide suggestions for facilitators.

## **3. HOUSING AND PLANNING CLIMATE EQUITY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION WORK**

Principle Planner, Housing and Planning Department, Rachel Tepper

- Ongoing work related to the Climate Equity Plan: Transportation and Land Use Goals 1 and 2
  - Complete communities planning and work
  - Rental assistance budgeted for FY23
  - Subsidized and incentivize construction of affordable housing
  - Project Connect anti-displacement budget prioritization through community engagement
  - HPD Equity Action Plan coming soon, to be reviewed by Equity Office
- Discussion:
  - Phillips: What is total amount you have for anti-displacement initiatives? Tepper: \$300 million over the lifetime of the project, \$65 million for first 3 years, \$75 million for the following 3 years. Community Advisory Committee will help prioritize the use of the funds.
  - Scott: Now that you have the Equity Tools, how do you use them in practice? Tepper: Through incorporating the metrics into their work and decision making, using the advice of the Community Advisory Committee.
  - Deviney: How does housing plan take into account the need for and loss of urban agricultural lands in the community? And when those units are being built, is consideration to food access (grocery stores) considered? Tepper: Both are being considered, efforts are underway.
  - Rothrock: On “assisting and supporting homeowners” under HPD’s community engagement budget prioritization, how confident are you that the results are

representative of what the community needs? Tepper: Displacement navigators are meant to fill that gap, to meet and listen to the community where they live.

- Qureshi: “Provide services to residents and preserve local businesses” what does that mean? Tepper: Project Connect will need to buy right-of-way, but efforts will be made to ensure that businesses aren’t overburdened by development.
- White: What is the goal of the district plans? Tepper: [Resolution No. 20201112-043](#). The idea is to create some cohesion and guiding vision for development of the area. White: Does that include green spaces and tree canopy? Tepper: Yes as well as resilience planning.
- White: For affordable housing acquisitions, are efforts made to ensure that the buildings are energy efficient? Tepper: Those acquisitions and new builds do come with strings attached. New builds must meet AEGB standards. Acquisitions will include improvements like adding solar or energy efficiency improvements.

#### **4. AUSTIN PUBLIC HEALTH CLIMATE EQUITY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION WORK**

Manager of Injury Prevention, Austin Public Health, Stephanie Helfman

Interim Manager Community Family Support Unit, Austin Public Health, Michelle Friedman

- Ongoing work related to healthy food access and the Climate Equity Plan: Food and Product Consumption section
- Discussion:
  - White: What is being done to promote and provide access to climate friendly diets (non-meat protein sources)? Helfman: Incentive programs are currently focused on fruits and vegetables, but we do provide materials to inform community members.
  - Qureshi: What efforts being made to provide health services in areas that are underserved? Friedman: We are not the health professionals in our dept, but we do have many efforts in the eastern crescent and other places, professional are engaging in those areas because the private sector might not be present there.

#### **5. COMMISSION MEMBERS REPORT BACK ON ANY RELEVANT DISCUSSIONS FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS – (DISCUSSION AND/OR POSSIBLE ACTION)**

- Qureshi: Zoning Commission Considering rules that allows sites that are zoned for commercial will also be able to have residential units built on them as long as they’re not too close to hazardous sites.
- Schneider: Planning Commission major projects – Statesman PUD, Brodie Oaks PUD over an environmentally sensitive zone.
- White: Rates are going up for residential customers, particularly those that use less energy. This increases the need for assistance and efficiency improvements. Value of solar tariff – community solar will likely have an established rate, fall 2023
- Deviney: Food Policy Board – had a presentation on the budgeting timing and process at the City. Very useful, recommends that the JSC should have the same.

Motion to adjourn (White)

**Meeting adjourns at 8:06 pm**

**ADJOURNMENT**

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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 February 25, 2023 meeting on Commissioner Scott's motion, Commissioner Campbell second on a 10-0 vote.**