



Item 1

**JOINT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
March 29, 2023**

The Joint Sustainability Committee convened in a hybrid meeting via videoconferencing and at PDC.

Chair Diana Wheeler called the Board Meeting to order at 6:08 pm.

Board Members in Attendance in Person: Diana Wheeler (Chair)

Board Members in Attendance Remotely: Kaiba White, Rodrigo Leal, Christopher Campbell, Alberta Phillips, Kelsey Hitchingham, Greg Anderson, Anna Scott, Randy Chapman, Heather Houser, Frances Deviney

Board Members Absent:

City Staff in Attendance:
Rohan Lilauwala

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 FROM THE FEBRUARY 22, 2023 MEETING OF THE JOINT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE.

Anna Scott motions to approve, Heather Houser seconds, passes unanimously.

2. BUDGET DISCUSSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY 2024 CITY BUDGET (DISCUSSION AND/OR POSSIBLE ACTION).

Budget working group met to create and bring budget recommendations to the full JSC. Looked at ACEP implementation dashboard to identify opportunities. Themes and focus areas: equity, refrigerants, mobility.

1. Make equity/outreach position in Office of Sustainability a permanent position (1 FTE) – encourage continuity and trust building with community; demonstrate value and importance of equity
2. Encourage refrigerant management (\$50,000 for a contract)
 - Hitchingham – city-wide or community-wide? White – vision was inventory for city facilities, plan for the community
3. Sustainable Purchasing (\$50,000-\$100,000 for a contract + 1 FTE for a sustainable purchasing manager).
4. Regional collaboration, sustainable finance and grant management (1 FTE) + contract to identify high-potential funding opportunities (\$200,000) – collaborate with surrounding communities + find outside funding (federal, philanthropic, business)
 - Phillips - who would go after grants? Leal – new governance structures being set up in other places with combination of govt staff, CBOs (e.g. Tempe, AZ). New FTE could do this work. Phillips – concern that bureaucracy will slow things down unless someone is actually going after grants. Leal – the position could be a grant-writer. Phillips – tweak language to say ‘pursue’ instead of ‘oversee’.
5. Improve AE/ATD e-bike rebates to encourage further uptake and improve equity outcomes – increase rebates for e-cargo bikes, remove requirements for local dealerships, include a rebate for adaptive e-bikes.
 - Scott – modeled after Denver’s rebates, less tiering
 - Questions around amount of rebates, applicability to e-cargo bikes, adaptive bikes, etc.
 - Chapman – ‘review/update’ instead of ‘increase’. Local bike shops essential needed to repair. Low-income consumers often targeted by predatory outside companies. Scott – need to give low-income consumers the same experience as everyone has – frictionless; open to suggestions to put guardrails on it. Phillips – should have goal to buy local.
 - Leal – suggestion: consider adding to list to include reputable state/national dealers.
 - Phillips, Wheeler – opposed to opening this up to Amazon
 - White – list is not vetted, just minimum requirements need to be met. This does not need to be a budget recommendation; maybe we could revisit this with AE staff in the future.
6. Funding for ATX WBR ambassadors
 - Funding is ending at the end of March. Campbell – unclear how much funding is needed.
 - Scott – 12 ambassadors x less than \$3,000 each.
 - White – At least \$35,000 ‘or sufficient to maintain the program at the level during the planning phase’

Alberta Phillips motions to approve budget recommendations, Kaiba White seconds, passes unanimously.

3. RECOMMENDATION TO ENDORSE THE AUSTIN WALK BIKE ROLL PLAN (DISCUSSION AND/OR POSSIBLE ACTION).

Based on presentation received from ATX Walk Bike Roll team (Feb 22), as well as comments from Commissioner Carroll regarding necessary updates to sidewalk codes.

- Scott – are people comfortable endorsing sidewalk recommendations? White – rely on expertise of Commissioner Carroll + staff.
- White - if we're trying to say we want to encourage sidewalk construction instead of fee-in-lieu, we should say that directly.
- Scott – recommendation addresses the 'hardship exemption'

Anna Scott motions to approve resolution, Heather Houser seconds, passes unanimously.

4. CITY OF AUSTIN SUPPORT FOR ENERGY INNOVATION AND THE FOSSIL FUEL NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (DISCUSSION AND/OR POSSIBLE ACTION)

Proposed treaty models nuclear non-proliferation.

- Leal - Endorsing treaty would show leadership from Austin, solidarity with movement.
- Attach tangible actions to treaty associated with the Climate Equity Plan
- Chapman – agreed with content; thinks this is bad timing to bring this issue with Texas legislature in session. Phillips – agreed; we already have a target on our back. Need to be more nuanced.
- Leal – proposal to decouple treaty resolution with actions proposed

Greg Anderson motions to table this the treaty portion of this resolution to June meeting, White motions to move to May, Anderson seconds. Motions withdrawn.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Board elections at April Meeting

Motion to adjourn (White), seconded (Wheeler).

Meeting adjourns at 8:01 pm

ADJOURNMENT

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