



**JOINT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
MEETING  
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR**

**Feb 28, 2024**

**The Joint Sustainability Committee convened in a hybrid meeting via videoconferencing and at Permitting and Development Center.**

**Chair Kaiba White called the Board Meeting to order at 6:09 pm.**

**Board Members in Attendance in Person:** Kaiba White, Rodrigo Leal, Anna Scott, Jon Salinas, Chris Maxwell-Gaines, Christopher Campbell, Haris Qureshi, Charlotte Davis, Larry Franklin

**Board Members in Attendance Remotely:** Diana Wheeler, Stephanie Bazan, Melissa Rothrock, Amy Noel, Heather Houser, Alberta Phillips

**Board Members Absent:** Yure Suarez, Bertha Delgado

**City Staff in Attendance:**  
Rohan Lilauwala, Zach Baumer

**CALL TO ORDER**

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATION**

- Charlie Mossburger – St. Edwards Civic lab.
  - Spoke about ‘Get Fertilizer Wiser’ program to replace plants that have low fertilizer requirements
- Chioma Okoro – street nurse
  - Spoke about mental health initiatives

**1. Approval of minutes from the Jan 24th meeting of the Joint Sustainability Committee.**

- Qureshi motions to approve, Davis seconds, passes on 13-0 vote (Franklin, Phillips off dais)

**2. Discussion on the benefits of adopting and implementing the Great Streets Initiative –Kevin Howard**

- Presentation on Great Streets Initiative
- Commissioners discussed details and logistics of supporting a measure at length.

**15. Approve a recommendation supporting adoption and implementation of the Great Streets Initiative.**

- Proposed amendments to clarify goals, add safety for bicycles and peds.
- Salinas motions to support goals of Great Streets Initiative. Salinas motions, Davis seconds, passes 14-0 (Phillips off dais).

**3. Discussion of next steps on the Environmental Investment Plan Resolution (Item 25 from 2/15 Council Meeting).**

- JSC will need to hold public hearing in May/Apr
  - Mar – broad, public input
  - Apr – narrow, possible staff draft list
- May 1 – JSC presentation due; May 30 – staff response due
- This is parallel with budget recommendations
- JSC has commissioners over many of the plans. Homework for March meeting – each working group to look at each of the plans related to their group.
- White to write a short message to share with home commissions

**16. Creation of working group to advise on public input and recommendations that are responsive to the Environmental Investment Plan (Item 25 passed by the Austin City Council on 2/15).**

- Office of Sustainability staff support for working group
- White, Leal, Scott, Qureshi, Davis, Salinas, Campbell, Franklin volunteer to be on working group.
- White motions to create a working group, Davis to second, passes 13-0 (Phillips off dais).

**4. JSC Strategic Plan – revisit**

- Hard to define high impact strategies
- Working groups established, and budget recommendations made
- Need a mechanism for specific accountability
- Working groups should set up meetings with council to discuss specific recommendations
- Now-Apr, focus on Environmental Investment Plan
- May-Sep, follow up on recommendations

**12. Approve amendments to the Joint Sustainability Committee bylaws increasing the membership to include a representative from the Public Health Commission.**

- Davis motions to amend bylaws, Qureshi seconds, passes 13-0 (Phillips off Dais)

**13. Approve recommendations to encourage low-carbon foods in the Austin-Travis County Food Plan**

- White motions to approve, Qureshi to second, passes 13-0 (Davis recuses, Phillips off Dais)

## **5. Joint Sustainability Committee budget recommendations**

- Discussions at length on proposed budget recommendations
- Considerations – combining certain recommendations, limiting FTEs, looking for things with maximum impact
- Davis motions to approve low carbon concrete recommendations, Qureshi seconds, passes 14-0 (Phillips off dais).
- White motions to adopt pro-climate, pro-health food recommendations, Rothrock seconds, passes 13-0 (Davis recuses, Phillips off dais).
- Campbell motions to adopt Transportation electrification recommendation + Transportation and land use recommendations (as amended), minus recommendation #3. Scott seconds. Passes 13-0 (Bazan, Phillips off dais)
- Qureshi motions to adopt Consumption/Natural Systems budget recommendations, Scott seconds. Passes 13-0 (Bazan, Phillips off dais).
- Qureshi motions to adopt Sustainable buildings, purchasing and overarching strategies recommendations, Scott seconds. Passes 14-0 (Bazan off dais)

## **17. Approve a recommendation to initiate a study on sustainable / green parking practices.**

- AW update on winter preparedness plan
- Water availability after recent rains
- Qureshi motions to support resolution as amended, White seconds, passes 12-0 (Davis no, Bazan and Houser off Dais)

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10:00 pm, White motions to extend meeting, Qureshi seconds, passes 12-1 (Davis no, Bazan and Houser off dais).

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- TBD

Wheeler adjourns meeting at 10:03 pm with no objections.

## **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).