



**JOINT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
May 22, 2024**

**The Joint Sustainability Committee convened in a hybrid meeting via videoconferencing and City Hall.**

**Board Members in Attendance in Person:** Chris Maxwell-Gaines, Charlotte Davis, Alice Woods, Christopher Campbell, Haris Qureshi

**Board Members in Attendance Remotely:** Melissa Rothrock, Diana Wheeler, Kaiba White, Yure Suarez, Rodrigo Leal, Anna Scott, Jon Salinas, Amy Noel

**Board Members Absent:** Larry Franklin, Heather Houser, Stephanie Bazan

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice-Chair Charlotte Davis called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATION**

1. Kayla Reese – speaking in support of parks being added to Environmental Investment Plan recommendations.
2. Mike Cannatti – speaking in support of parks being added to Environmental Investment Plan recommendations.
3. Scott Johnson – speaking in support of battery electric technology.

**1. Approval of minutes from the April 30<sup>th</sup> special called meeting of the Joint Sustainability Committee.**

- Maxwell-Gaines motions to approve, Campbell seconds, passes 12-0 with Woods abstaining.

**3. Staff update to the response to the council resolution 20240215-025 ‘Environmental Investment Plan’ – Zach Baumer and Rohan Lilauwala, Office of Sustainability**

- Qureshi asks how to disseminate info to the public?
  - Share memo.
- What could be funding mechanism for climate fee?

- Need council support to even have direction, then come up with options
- White: Questioning Decker infrastructure as setting stage for new thermal generation
- Leal: Question around why “other” category
  - A gap now, but TPW will seek funding in the future.
- Campbell: Is there going to be discussion around priorities?
  - Next steps from council
- Noel: What did we learn?
  - Hard to compare projects that meet different goals. i.e. water vs carbon
  - Most funding comes down in silos. In this case – we did things a different way. E.g. land acquisition, city facilities; would require departmental collaborations + thinking beyond budget cycles.
- White: Where is ARR fleet electrification. Should take advantage of if funding is available.
  - Charging network needed first, not enough time to assess fleet cost.
- Davis: Estimates – did they line up with JSC?
  - Not really. Very rough estimates. More work needed to be refined.

**2. Recommendation in support of staff response to council resolution 20240215-025 ‘Environmental Investment Plan’.**

- No action was taken.

**4. Update from the Electric Utility Commission on the Austin Energy Resource Planning Process – Kaiba White**

- AE has hired a facilitator and invited stakeholders to four workshops on the planning process.
- First one – relevant information on generation and resource plan
- Four-month process
  - Implies EUC would consider something in Oct. EUC Pushing back, encouraging a quicker process.

**5. Update from the Design Commission on the status of updated design guidelines and timelines – Jon Salinas**

- Format changing a little, 50 guidelines.
- In phase 2 (creation), wrapping by Sep. Hoping to finalize by February 2025. Available in Design Commission backup from last meeting.

**6. Update from the Water and Wastewater Commission on the Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion contracts – Chris Maxwell-Gaines**

- Last meeting – voted to approve this project. Large, generational investment - \$900m
- 75 mgd to 100 mgd expansion
- Will implement biological nutrient removal and improve effluent quality of discharge.

**7. Update from Planning Commission on recent Land Development Code changes including HOME and ETOD – Alice Woods**

- PC recently considered many of these changes.
- Code changes - Home phase 2 – reduces the minimum lot size, changes to compatibility, and equitable transit-oriented development.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Staff update on EIP process.
- Sustainable Purchasing
- Heat preparedness efforts.

Qureshi motions to adjourn, Davis adjourns meeting at 7:08 pm without objection.

### **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).

**Approved at the June 26, 2024 meeting of the Joint Sustainability Committee on a 10-0 vote (Maxwell-Gaines motions to approve, Qureshi second).**