



**JOINT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
June 26, 2024**

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

Board Members in Attendance in Person: Charlotte Davis, Haris Qureshi, Jon Salinas, Chris Maxwell-Gaines

Board Members in Attendance Remotely: Heather Houser, Anna Scott, Alice Woods, Rodrigo Leal, Diana Wheeler, Yure Suarez

Board Members Absent: Larry Franklin, Amy Noel, Christopher Campbell, Kaiba White, Melissa Rothrock, Stephanie Bazan

City Staff in Attendance:
Rohan Lilauwala and Zach Baumer

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Charlotte Davis called the meeting to order at 6:16 pm.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

- Kathy Mitchell – On behalf Community Investment Budget. Includes support for Climate Equity Plan + Food Plan. Looking for JSC endorsement before August.

1. Approval of minutes from the May 22nd meeting of the Joint Sustainability Committee.

- Davis correction – on item 2, reflect that no action was taken.
- Maxwell-Gaines motions to approve, Qureshi second, passes 10-0.

2. Recommendation of investments the City should fund as part of council resolution 20240215-025 ‘Environmental Investment Plan’.

- Item struck from agenda

4. Update on regional climate planning efforts as part of the EPA’s Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program – Mali Calvo, Office of Sustainability

- Qureshi - will we be doing county-specific workshops? Do we have ideas on how

- We're doing outreach to different municipal/county governments.
- How are we pursuing funding for four measures not applied for a grant?
 - We're opportunistic, looking for funding where available. Supporting EPA Community change grant for trees + AE Solar for all.

5. Climate Fee Best Practices – Rohan Lilauwala, Office of Sustainability

- Qureshi – in support of progressive rather than regressive taxation
- Salinas – what is the large retailer fee in Portland?
 - 1% surcharge on companies with more than \$1 billion in annual revenue and more than \$500,000 in revenue in Portland
- Leal - Is Legal department looking into more comprehensive fee approaches?
 - Unclear at the moment
- Woods – are these on utility bills?
 - Yes
- Scott – could projects with revenue/savings be compatible with a climate fee?
 - Yes, but there could be other revenue streams (green bank, revolving funds) that those projects could fund
- Maxwell-Gaines – could hotel tax fund this? Or other tourist taxes fund this?
 - Potential pushback from hospitality industry
- Salinas – is there revenue from micromobility? Could energy/water rates be tiered further?
 - Fee could be put on higher tier.
- Is there a way to generate revenue from the airport?

5. Recommendation in support of a ‘Climate Fee’ as outlined in the staff response to council resolution 20240215-025 ‘Environmental Investment Plan’.

- Discussion around who this should fall on – residents, businesses, corporations, and/or visitors.
- Franchise fee for Texas Gas.
- Discussion to balance ability to sell this to home commissions and council.
- Scott motions to approve with amendment to the last line to state ‘Discussion around who this should fall on – residents, businesses, corporations, and/or visitors.’

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm with a loss of quorum.

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).

Approved at the July 8, 2024 special called meeting of the Joint Sustainability Committee on a 10-0 vote (Salinas motion, Scott second, Qureshi off dais).