



**JOINT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
August 28, 2024**

**The Joint Sustainability Committee convened in a hybrid meeting via videoconferencing and at Austin Energy Headquarters.**

**Board Members in Attendance in Person:** Heather Houser, Kaiba White, Rodrigo Leal, Haris Qureshi, Natalie Poindexter, Charlotte Davis

**Board Members in Attendance Remotely:** Jon Salinas, Anna Scott, Melissa Rothrock, Chris Campbell, Diana Wheeler, Yure Suarez, Amy Noel

**Board Members Absent:** Larry Franklin, Alberta Philipps, Chris Maxwell-Gaines, Lane Becker

**City Staff in Attendance:**

Zach Baumer  
Braden Latham-Jones

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Kaiba White called the meeting to order at 6:10pm.

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

N/A

**1. Approval of minutes from the July 8<sup>th</sup> special called meeting of the Joint Sustainability Committee.**

Qureshi motion, Houser second, passes 12-0 with Suarez off dais.

**1. Sustainable Purchasing Update – Amanda Mortl, Office of Sustainability**

- a. Scott – When will we see the first purchase from this work?
  - i. Mortl – Landscaping example, have a list of upcoming contracts and are monitoring when they expire/up for renewal, looking ahead to mid-2025 as the next opportunity. Current contracts have updated preference language.
- b. White – Can you share preference language?
  - i. Mortl – Can do so, yes.
- c. White – Can you speak to the upcoming concrete contract opportunities?

- i. Mortl – Can direct you to that plan.
- d. White – No progress to changes to that plan?
  - i. Mortl – Not able to speak to that fully, but that’s the latest that I’m aware of.
- e. Yure – Those first few slides, those are based on spending model?
  - i. Mortl – Industry-wide averages
- f. White – Any other product areas you’ll be moving on to next?
  - i. Mortl – These two pilots are based on Council priorities, are currently doing those.

**2. Updates from Environmental Investment Plan effort and City Budget; JSC next steps.**

- a. White – What will quarterly briefings look like?
  - i. Baumer – Still in the process of creating that, I expect that we’ll present on the Environmental Investment Plan as the first quarterly briefing
- b. Qureshi – Since the resolution directs City Manager to update Council on Climate Bond and Environmental Investment Plan. Is there a timeline for that?
  - i. Baumer – We’ll be playing a role because we’re coordinating the comprehensive Climate Equity Plan implementation. My hope is that we have multiple departments participating in these briefings moving forward.
- c. Poindexter – With part of land acquisition include multiple goals. When we’re looking at this acquisition, will that include public health concerns and affordable housing?
  - i. Baumer – My understanding is that there will be a holistic approach, so part of the goal is layering multiple goals with each purchase.
- d. Discussion on next steps related to the bond, including Bond Advisory Task Force and future City budgets
- e. Discussion on potential policy changes, such as:
  - i. Austin Climate Equity Plan;
  - ii. Land acquisition purchases;
  - iii. Food waste and food insecurity;
  - iv. Affordable housing;
  - v. Sustainable buildings, including solar on city buildings;
  - vi. Sustainable purchasing;
  - vii. Future City budgets;
  - viii. Climate fee
- f. General agreement to restart working groups

**3. Update from the Resource Management Commission on recommendations regarding advising on gas utility matters and support of progressive natural gas rates. – Charlotte Davis**

- a. Scott – Are natural gas utility rates in the jurisdiction of the Resource Management Commission or the Public Utilities Commission?

**4. Update from Urban Transportation Commission on recent recommendation to update the Urban Trails Plan map – Diana Wheeler**

**5. Update from the Electric Utility Commission on Austin Energy Resource Planning, solar program development, and Austin Internation Energy Conservation Code update – Kaiba White**

6. **Update from the Environmental Commission on the ATX / Travis County Food Plan, Cities Connecting Children to Nature, Infill site plan lite, how Watershed measures water quality, Umlauf Museum Plan, and Kunming Montreal biodiversity framework – Haris Qureshi**

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Heat island mitigation and heat management
- Public transportation and frequency of bus routes

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

### **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).