



MINUTES

SUNNYVALE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

MARCH 19, 2012

The Sustainability Commission met in regular session in the West Conference Room at 7:00 p.m. with Vice Chair Regina Wheeler presiding.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Commission Members Present:

Commission Chair Sue Harrison
Commission Vice-Chair Regina Wheeler
Commissioner Barbara Fukumoto
Commissioner Gerry Glaser
Commissioner Amit Srivastava
Commissioner Dan Hafeman
Commissioner Joe Green-Heffern

Council Liaison: Councilmember Tara Martin-Milius

Staff Present: John Stufflebean, Director of Environmental Services
Melody Tovar, Regulatory Programs Division Manager
Mark Bowers, Solid Waste Division Manager
Tim Kirby, Revenue Systems Supervisor
Kathryn Cooke, Recycling Outreach Assistant
Andy Miner, Principal Planner
Diana Perkins, Permit Center Coordinator
Dustin Clark, Environmental Sustainability Coordinator, Staff Liaison

SCHEDULED PRESENTATION

Kathryn Cooke, Recycling Outreach Assistant, provided the Commission information about outreach efforts to businesses related to the recently adopted Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance. The presentation addressed details of the ordinance, why the ban was enacted, current outreach efforts and frequently asked questions.

Tim Kirby, Revenue Systems Supervisor, provided the Commission an update to his February 21 presentation on efforts to reformat the water bill design and the City's water rate structure. The presentation included an overview of how the City structures and establishes the water rate.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice Chair Wheeler opened the public hearing to public announcements.

There were no announcements.

Vice Chair Wheeler closed the public hearing.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1.A. Approval of draft minutes of Sustainability Commission meeting of February 21, 2012.

Commissioner Fukumoto requested pulling the minutes from the consent calendar for discussion. Commissioner Fukumoto requested a minor modification to clarify a comment regarding her view of the options for the future WPCP upgrade. Commissioner Glaser moved and Commissioner Srivastava seconded a motion to approve the meeting minutes from February 21 with minor modifications. The changes have been reflected in the February meeting minutes.

VOTE: 6-0-1 (Commissioner Hafeman abstained due to his late arrival at the February meeting)

1.B. Approval of Sustainability Commission 2012 Master Work Plan

Commissioner Glaser moved and Commissioner Green-Heffern seconded a motion to approve the Sustainability Commission 2012 Annual Master Work Plan.

VOTE: 7-0 (Vote was unanimous)

PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS

1. ACTION: Green Building Ordinance

Andy Miner, Principal Planner and Diana Perkins, Permit Center Coordinator presented the Commission the Green Building Program draft staff report. Commissioners asked questions and provided comments regarding the staff recommendation. Commissioner comments and questions mainly focused on how the city arrived at the 80 point Build It Green requirement. Staff indicated that while there is a desire for regional consistency, the City Council has stated that the City should also be a leader. Staff felt that the 80 point threshold showed leadership while at the same time not being too burdensome on residents and builders. Staff also explained that this is an ongoing process, and while having a higher requirement than some surrounding communities, the requirement was manageable from the perspective of staff time and customer service at the One-Stop.

Vice Chair Wheeler opened the public hearing to public comments.

There were no comments.

Vice Chair Wheeler closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Green-Heffern moved and Commissioner Harrison seconded a motion to recommend Council adopt the Staff recommendation in the Update to Green Building Program draft staff report.

Commissioner Green-Heffern spoke to his motion. Commissioner Green-Heffern thought the staff recommendation was appropriate as it appears to be a balanced approach that the Planning Department has thought about over a several year period, including tradeoffs, and is a gradual escalation that seems like a reasonable approach.

Commissioner Fukumoto supported the motion and commented that the staff recommendation appears to be a solid incremental step forward. Commissioner Fukumoto liked elements of the recommendation including the increase in the number of Build It Green Points required, requirement for electric car charging, that some requirements extend to remodels.

Commissioner Wheeler supported the motion and commented that the recommendation was a step in the right direction, but would like to see more concrete evidence to why the 80 point requirement was derived. Commissioner Wheeler thinks the City needs to figure out a way that Sunnyvale can be more of a leader in these areas.

Commissioner Glaser commented on why he would oppose the motion. Commissioner Glaser indicated that he viewed the Green Building Ordinance as being more about education than regulation and having a higher Build It Green value requirement forces people to think about how they will get to that higher level by learning more about it. Commissioner Glaser did not believe that field inspections have been proven to be cost effective yet or that they achieve the result better than doing it the current conventional way. Commissioner Glaser would like to see the process go faster with even more Build It Green points being required.

VOTE: 6-1 (Commissioner Glaser Opposed)

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Oral Comments

Commissioner Glaser provided the Commission an update and information of meeting and webinar attended. Commissioner Glaser attended a meeting on the impacts of sea level rise in the Bay Area. The main take away from the meeting was the fundamental reality that sea level rise has become for planners and plan checkers and what they will do with projects.

Commissioner Glaser listened in on a webinar about Community Choice Aggregation. The takeaway message he received is that a CCA is something the City could potentially do. If the City were to develop a CCA there is the potential that it could be the largest in the country. Commissioner Glaser suggested Community Choice Aggregation as a topic for the April Sustainability Commission meeting.

STAFF Oral Comments

Due to the length of Sustainability Commission meetings, staff inquired with the Commission whether they would be interested in beginning their meeting at 6:30 p.m. instead of 7:00 p.m. The general consensus was that they did not want to change the meeting time, but could make time management a focus during the meetings.

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dustin Clark, Environmental Sustainability Coordinator

Reviewed by: John Stufflebean, Director of Environmental Services
Melody Tovar, Regulatory Programs Division Manager