



MINUTES

SUNNYVALE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION March 18, 2013

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Commission Members Present:

Commission Chair Sue Harrison
Commissioner Barbara Fukumoto
Commissioner Andy Frazer
Commissioner Gerry Glaser
Commissioner Dan Hafeman
Commissioner Joe Green-Heffern
Commission Vice Chair Amit Srivastava (7:40 p.m.)

Council Liaison: Councilmember Pat Meyering (present)

Staff Present: John Stufflebean, Director of Environmental Services
Melody Tovar, Regulatory Programs Division Manager
Mark Bowers, Solid Waste Division Manager
Karen Gissibl, Environmental Program Manager
Debi Sargent, Administrative Analyst
Dustin Clark, Sustainability Coordinator

Guest: Councilmember Tara Martin-Milius

SCHEDULED PRESENTATION

None

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Harrison opened the public hearing to public announcements.

There were no announcements.

Chair Harrison closed the public hearing.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1.A. Approval of draft minutes of Sustainability Commission meeting of January 22, 2013.

Commissioner Green-Heffern moved and Commissioner Fukumoto seconded a motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 19, 2013.

VOTE: 6-0 (Vote was unanimous. Commissioner Srivastava absent)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Harrison opened the public hearing to public announcements.

There were no announcements.

Chair Harrison closed the public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Discussion and Possible Action: Zero Waste Strategic Plan

Solid Waste Division staff brought to the Sustainability Commission the draft Zero Waste Strategic Plan Report to Council for comments. Staff provided a presentation of the Zero Waste Strategic Plan and addressed comments and questions from the Commission.

Chair Harrison opened the public hearing to public comments.

There were no comments.

Chair Harrison closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Hafeman made a motion that the Sustainability Commission supports the staff recommendation, option two, with the addition that the City set a goal for home diversion of food scraps. Commissioner Frazer seconded the motion.

Commissioner Hafeman commented that of the four options it would be nice to have a more aggressive program, but thinks the program that is being identified is really well thought out and doable. Commissioner Hafeman commented that he does not like the idea of the City taking no action. Commissioner Hafeman thinks that home composting should be emphasized more.

Commissioner Frazer commented that he agreed with the home composting idea, and would prefer the City encourage home composting versus trying to enforce home composting.

Commissioner Glaser commented about the need for a system approach in looking at solid waste along with other waste the City has. Commissioner Glaser commented that it is important the City evaluate our energy needs as time goes on and making sure they are included in the calculations. Commissioner Glaser commented that energy yielded from the waste stream should be included in the calculation, including gains made as a result of energy recovery. Commissioner Glaser commented that it is much easier to change system behavior than personal behavior. Commissioner Glaser commented that he is supportive of setting the goals, but the method of setting of goals should be systematic as opposed to being reliant on personal choice. Commissioner Glaser commented that personal choice can take a long time whereas systematic changes, like changing the way the City sorts garbage, has been proven to be successful.

Commissioner Fukumoto commented that her main concern is getting the organics out of the waste stream as soon as possible. Commissioner Fukumoto commented on the timetable for implementation and inquired whether there is any way to accelerate efforts, especially related to organics, because of their impact on greenhouse gas emissions.

Commissioner Harrison commented that she is interested in the conversion technology portion of the plan as it appears to have a big impact.

VOTE: 6-0-1 (Vote carries; Commissioner Fukumoto abstained)

2. Action: Approval of Sustainability Commission Annual Workplan

Chair Harrison opened the public hearing to public comments.

There were no comments.

Chair Harrison closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Green-Heffern made a motion to approve the Sustainability Commission Annual Workplan. Commissioner Srivastava seconded the motion.

VOTE: 6-0-1 (Vote carries; Commissioner Glaser abstained)

3. Discussion and Possible Action: Discussion and Possible Action: Sustainability Commission Presentation to Council Regarding Climate Change and the American Mind: Opinion Survey by Yale and George Mason University.

No action was taken.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Oral Comments

Commissioner Glaser reported that the CCA Subcommittee provided a presentation to staff. The Subcommittee received input from staff regarding the presentation and a future presentation to Council.

Commissioners Glaser and Harrison reported attending a meeting regarding Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and the BRT Environmental Impact Report.

Commissioner Hafeman reported attending a meeting regarding the Mary Avenue Bicycle Lane Study. Commissioner Hafeman commented that the study presented two different options for providing bike lanes. One option would create a "road diet," creating a dedicated turn lane and creating two five-foot bike lanes. The second option would be to preserve four lanes of traffic, eliminate on-street parking on one side of the street and create two four-foot bike lanes.

Commissioner Fukumoto commented that Sunnyvale Cool will be hosting a meeting on Ecodistricts on April 17 at the Sunnyvale Heritage Museum.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dustin Clark, Environmental Sustainability Coordinator

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