



MINUTES

SUNNYVALE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION April 15, 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 7:02 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 Members Absent:

Commission Vice Chair Amit Srivastava (Excused)

Council Liaison: Councilmember Pat Meyering (Absent)

Staff Present: John Stufflebean, Director of Environmental Services
Mark Bowers, Solid Waste Programs Division Manager
Dustin Clark, Sustainability Coordinator

Guest: Gustav Larson, Planning Commissioner
Deborah Marks, Sunnyvale resident

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 March 18, 2013.

Commissioner Glaser moved and Commissioner Hafeman seconded a motion to approve the meeting minutes of March 18, 2013, with minor modifications.

Commissioner Glaser commented that he talks a lot and that the minutes reflect the fact that he talks a lot.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Harrison opened the public hearing to public announcements.

Deborah Marks, Sunnyvale resident, addressed the Commission regarding her concern of the loss of trees in Sunnyvale. Ms. Marks commented that she would like to see Sunnyvale have a better policy for protecting mature trees. In cases of redevelopment where it is not possible to save mature trees, Ms. Marks would like to see a balance reached where the developer plants five smaller trees for every mature tree that is removed. Ms. Marks also commented that if it is not possible to plant additional trees that the developer pay the value of the mature tree and the City plant trees elsewhere in the City.

Chair Harrison closed the public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Discussion and Possible Action: Agreement Creating the Santa Clara County Recycling and Waste Reduction Technical Advisory Committee (Study Issue ESD 09-14C)

Mark Bowers, Solid Waste Division Manager brought to the Sustainability Commission the draft Report to Council regarding an Agreement Creating the Santa Clara County Recycling and Waste Reduction Technical Advisory Committee (Study Issue ESD 09-14C). Staff presented the report 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 recommends Council support the staff recommendation, alternative one, and take steps to strengthen the new structure expecting to improve the education and outreach aspect of waste reduction. Commissioner Frazer seconded the motion.

Commissioner Hafeman spoke to his motion commenting that he is looking forward to this resolution strengthening the public outreach capabilities of the program.

Commissioner Frazer commented this resolution really focuses on the process and the process needs to be in place to make all the things the City wants to accomplish easier. Commissioner Frazer commented that he supported Commissioner Hafeman's comment to emphasize some goals upfront, if that is allowed.

Commissioner Glaser commented that it is easier to move from the proposed structure to a Joint Power Authority (JPA) versus trying to go from a JPA to a less formal structure.

VOTE: 6-0-1 (Vote was unanimous; Commissioner Srivastava absent)

2. Discussion and Possible Action: Proposal of Study Issues

No action was taken

3. Discussion and Possible Action: Sustainability Commission Communication to Council

Commissioner Glaser raised the issue of creating a standing rule for the Sustainability Commission to handle communications to Council.

Commissioner Glaser made a motion that a standing rule be added to the Sustainability Commission that were a Commissioner or Commissioners to propose the Commission as a body support a position or submit a review on a topic of importance for submission to the City Council, that in advance of the commission meeting they shall submit a position overview or summary paper accompanied with a short presentation with references that can be consulted for further information. The write-up should clearly state the issue, why it is of importance, the Commission's position or insights, and identify the key facts in a clear and concise fashion. In no more than 15 minutes of discussion, the Commission will determine if it can come to consensus on support; and if it cannot, the position will be either rejected or be reconsidered in an altered form at some future meeting. Commissioner Green-Heffern seconded the motion.

VOTE-5-0-1 (Motion carries; Commissioner Hafeman abstained)

Commissioner Glaser made a motion to forward Commissioner Fukumoto's letter regarding research conducted by Yale and George Mason University researchers, as a statement of the Commission's understanding and public sentiment that is occurring, to Council. Commissioner Green-Heffern seconded the motion.

Commissioner Glaser commented that he believes that what Commissioner Fukumoto's letter does is exactly what the Commission needs by bringing the research to the Commission, outlining the key points as she saw them rather than the key points pointed out by others. Commissioner Glaser commented that, as a Commissioner, he is happy to support all of the key points pulled out by Commissioner Fukumoto. Commissioner Glaser commented that Commissioner Fukumoto's letter is a very good model for what the Commission should be doing.

Commissioner Green-Heffern commented that he liked Commissioner Fukumoto's letter because it is focused and concise. Commissioner Green-Heffern commented that Council, who gets so much paper, can get an overview in two pages and the letter provides the tools for them to dig deeper if they want.

Commissioner Frazer commented that he agreed with Commissioner Green-Heffern's comments that the letter was clear and concise and that Council would appreciate that considering how much material they get.

VOTE 6-0 (Vote was unanimous)

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Oral Comments

Commissioner Glaser presented the Community Choice Aggregation presentation, recently provided to staff, to the Commission.

Commissioner Frazer reported that he attended the Council study session on the new J. Paul project at Moffett Park.

Commissioner Fukumoto reported that she participated in a webinar on Missoula, Montana's Municipal Climate Action Plan. Commissioner Fukumoto provided a link to the webinar and slide presentations as she could not do justice to the presentation in a short summary. The presentation is accessible at Sonoran Land Institute: Climate Change Communication-<http://www.sonoraninstitute.org/planning-in-the-west-webinars-adapting-to-rising-temperatures-series/webinar-climate-communications.html>. Commissioner Fukumoto reported that the takeaways included that Missoula's municipal carbon footprint reduction goals for government were 10% below 2008 levels by 2015, 30% by 2017, 50% by 2020 and carbon neutral by 2025, which seems very aggressive. Commissioner Fukumoto commented that Missoula's tip was that without a full-time energy conservation coordinator it is hard to get to where the goals are.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dustin Clark, Environmental Sustainability Coordinator

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