



MINUTES

SUNNYVALE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION June 17, 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 Andy Frazer
Commissioner Gerry Glaser
Commissioner Dan Hafeman (7:03)
Commissioner Joe Green-Heffern
Commissioner Amit Srivastava

Commission Members Absent:

Commissioner Barbara Fukumoto (Excused)

Council Liaison: Councilmember Pat Meyering (Present)

Staff Present: Melody Tovar, Regulatory Programs Division Manager
Dustin Clark, Sustainability Coordinator

SCHEDULED PRESENTATION

As part of the annual recognition of Commissioners that have completed a term on the Sustainability Commission, Councilmember Meyering presented a certificate of recognition to both Commissioner Frazer and Commissioner Harrison and thanked them for their service on the Sustainability Commission.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Harrison opened the public hearing to public announcements.

There were no announcements from the public.

Chair Harrison closed the public hearing.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1.A. Approval of draft minutes of Sustainability Commission meeting of May 20, 2013.

Commissioner Glaser moved and Commissioner Green-Heffern seconded a motion to approve the meeting minutes of May 20, 2013.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Harrison opened the public hearing to public comments.

There were no comments from the public.

Chair Harrison closed the public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Discussion and Possible Action: Community Condition Indicators

The Commission reviewed and discussed the Community Condition Indicators (CCI), which are included as part of the annual budget document. The Commission began identifying new Community Condition Indicators related to sustainability for consideration of inclusion in the CCIs in the future. Staff created a table to capture the CCIs discussed and will screen the identified CCI measures for the availability of data and connectivity to the draft Climate Action Plan.

Chair Harrison opened the public hearing to public comments.

There were no comments.

Chair Harrison closed the public hearing.

No action was taken.

2. Discussion and Possible Action: Proposal of Study Issues

Commissioner Hafeman proposed a study issue regarding water rates and the impact on vegetable gardening in Sunnyvale. Commissioner Hafeman commented that during the growing season, water usage beyond the base level is on its way to making vegetable gardening unaffordable for low to moderate income residents. Commissioner Hafeman suggested a study is warranted to change water rate calculations using a running average.

Commissioner Glaser suggested a restatement of the issue to achieve Commissioner Hafeman's goals. The problem statement is that today the City bases water rates on monthly behavior. The recommendation being proposed is that, because of the wide seasonal difference in water use experienced by customers with gardens, the rate charged be based on annualized behavior instead. Commissioner Glaser commented that the study issue is to find out how to do that.

Commissioner Hafeman concurred and will work with staff to refine the wording of a motion for discussion at a future meeting.

Commissioner Srivastava commented that he would like additional information from staff regarding what constitutes low income and whether other cities are doing annualized water billing.

No action was taken.

Commissioner Hafeman raised the issue of banning gasoline powered leaf blowers in Sunnyvale. Commissioner Hafeman discussed the negative environmental impacts of gas-powered leaf blowers. Commissioner Hafeman reported that there are numerous cities that have banned or restricted leaf blowers, including the local communities of Berkeley, Los Altos and Menlo Park.

Chair Harrison opened the public hearing to public comments.

There were no comments.

Chair Harrison closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Hafeman made a motion to propose a study issue to ban the use of gas-powered leaf blowers throughout the City. Commissioner Green-Heffern seconded the motion.

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

Commissioner Srivastava proposed a study issue of replacing City Fleet vehicles that are being retired with alternative fuel vehicles.

Commissioner Glaser commented that part of the consideration for replacing fleet vehicles with alternative fuel vehicles is to include an evaluation of the true cost of using traditional vehicles.

Commissioner Hafeman commented that the evaluation should take into consideration the carbon footprint of City operations and the City's motivation to reduce it. Commissioner Hafeman commented that if the City has a motivation to reduce its carbon footprint, because there is a motivation to reduce the carbon footprint, then going to a clean vehicle there would be motivation to do that.

Commissioner Frazer commented that Sunnyvale may want to consider taking the economic hit of alternative fueled vehicles in order to support the market in creating economies of scale that further drive down the cost of alternative fuel vehicles.

No action was taken.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Oral Comments

Commissioner Glaser reported that he attended the WEST Summit 2013 on Thursday, May 23 at NASA Ames Research Center.

Commissioner Glaser reported that he will be attending the Precourt Institute of Energy- Silicon Valley Energy Summit on June 28, 2013 at Stanford.

Commissioner Green-Heffern reported attending the Sunnyvale Cool Cities presentation on Community Choice Aggregation. The presentation was given by Commissioner Glaser. Commissioner Glaser reported that 37 people were in attendance and that he has received a number of inquiries from other communities for presentations or additional information.

Commissioner Green-Heffern reported that he will be attending the Peninsula Watershed Forum on Sea Level Rise.

Commissioner Hafeman reported that he attended the Keystone XL Pipeline protest in Palo Alto on June 6.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dustin Clark, Environmental Sustainability Coordinator

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