



MINUTES

SUNNYVALE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION September 16, 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 Bruce Paton (7:03)
Commissioner Gerry Glaser
Commissioner Dan Hafeman (7:03)
Commissioner Petya Kisyova

Commission Members Absent

Commission Vice Chair Amit Srivastava (excused)

Council Liaison: Councilmember David Whittum (Present)

Staff Present: John Stufflebean, Environmental Services Director
Melody Tovar, Regulatory Programs Division Manager
Elaine Marshall, Environmental Programs Manager
Dustin Clark, Sustainability Coordinator

Guest: Alice Kawaguchi, Health Educator, Santa Clara County Public Health Department

SCHEDULED PRESENTATION

Health Educator Alice Kawaguchi with the Santa Clara County Department of Public Health provided the Commission a presentation on the Safe Routes to School program (SRTS). Sunnyvale schools have been participating in the program for three years. The SRTS program engages schools, students and their families to promote programs to encourage walking and bicycling to school. In Sunnyvale, approximately 57% of elementary school students live within a half mile of school. Approximately, 3% of students walk or bike to work, 10% carpool and 77% are driven to school. The program has funding from VTA through the 2013-2014 fiscal year and from Caltrans through the 2014-2015 fiscal year, for selected school.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Harrison opened the public hearing to public announcements.

Resident and BPAC Commissioner Kevin Jackson announced to the Commission that a new law requiring a three foot passing break for bicyclist has gone to the Governor's desk for signature, a bike sharing program started about three weeks ago in five bay area cities, Duane Avenue bike lanes have been approved and that Mary Ave lanes go to Council next week.

Chair Harrison closed the public hearing.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1.A. Approval of the draft minutes of Sustainability Commission meeting of August 19, 2013.

Commissioner Glaser moved and Commissioner Fukumoto seconded a motion to approve the minutes for the meeting of August 19, 2013 with a minor edit.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Resident and BPAC Commissioner Kevin Jackson spoke to the Sustainability Commission about the study issue process and raised a concern about when a Board or Commission has the opportunity to see the staff write up of a study issue and the inability of the body to make changes.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Discussion and Possible Action: Sustainability Commission Communication to Council
 - a. Energy 2030: Recommendations to Double U.S. Energy Productivity by 2030, Alliance Commission on National Energy Efficiency Policy Report

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 forward Commissioner Fukumoto's summary of the Alliance Commission on National Energy Efficiency Policy report, *Energy 2030: Recommendations to Double U.S. Energy Productivity by 2030*, to the Council. Commissioner Paton seconded the motion.

VOTE: 6-0 (Vote was unanimous)

2. Discussion and Possible Action: Reconsideration of Study Issue Motions to Address Excessive Lighting Downtown

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 rescind the study issue he proposed at the previous meeting to study the impact of turning off half of the lights on the Mathilda Overpass, Sunnyvale Avenue and elsewhere in the downtown area with excessive lighting, in favor of the similar subsequent motion that was approved for a study issue to study the impact of reducing excessive lighting on the Mathilda Overpass, Sunnyvale Avenue, and elsewhere in the downtown area so that it gives the right message to the community. Commissioner Glaser seconded the motion.

VOTE: 6-0 (Vote was unanimous)

3. Discussion and Possible Action: Review of Proposed Study Issues

Chair Harrison opened the public hearing to public comments.

There were no comments.

Chair Harrison closed the public hearing.

No action was taken.

4. Discussion and Possible Action: Proposal of New Study Issues

Commissioner Fukumoto provided the Commission a draft idea for a study issue for including the cost of carbon emissions in major purchasing decision in City Operations. The intent of the study would be to develop the procedures and practices necessary to incorporate the price of carbon into major purchasing decisions.

Chair Harrison opened the public hearing to public comments.

There were no comments.

Chair Harrison closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Hafeman made a motion for a study issue that would establish a reasonable price for carbon emissions (in \$/ton of carbon of the lifecycle of the product) to be factored in when the City purchases vehicles and major equipment. Commissioner Paton seconded the motion.

VOTE: 5-1 (Vote carries; Commissioner Glaser dissents)

Commissioner Harrison provided a draft idea to the Commission for consideration as a study issue to identify the most appropriate measure of “flood plain” to be adopted by the City.

Chair Harrison opened the public hearing to public comments.

There were no comments.

Chair Harrison closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Harrison made a motion for a study issue to evaluate which measure of “flood plain” is most appropriate to adopt for required building requirements and if those required building requirements need to be amended. Commissioner Kisyova seconded the motion.

VOTE: 6-0 (Vote was unanimous)

Commissioner Hafeman raised the issue of the water rate tiered billing structure and whether it is possible to examine a tiered water rate structure that can be created for those that conserve water during the winter in order to offset costs from summer usage.

Chair Harrison opened the public hearing to public comments.

There were no comments.

Chair Harrison closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Hafeman made a motion for a study issue to study the water rate system which would use an annualized water usage to determine the pricing tiers. Commissioner Glaser seconded the motion.

VOTE: 5-1 (Vote carries; Commissioner Harrison dissents)

5. Discussion and Possible Action: Co-sponsorship of BPAC Proposed Car Sharing Study Issue

During the August Sustainability Commission meeting, the Commission was approached by resident and BPAC Commissioner Kevin Jackson about the possibility of the Sustainability Commission cosponsoring a Car Share study issue with BPAC. The Department of Public Works provided study issue language developed for the BPAC on a Car Share for consideration by the Sustainability Commission. Because BPAC had not officially adopted the language, the Sustainability Commission version would be forwarded to them for consideration as cosponsors.

Chair Harrison opened the public hearing to public comments.

Resident and BPAC Commissioner Kevin Jackson addressed the Commission on the study issue. Mr. Jackson provided language for consideration in the car sharing study issue.

Chair Harrison closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Paton made a motion for a study issue to investigate policies and actions to foster establishment of Car Share businesses or programs in Sunnyvale offering an alternative to car ownership, likely reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and resultant GHG emissions and likely reduce demand for parking and congestion. Commissioner Hafeman seconded the motion.

VOTE: 6-0 (Vote was unanimous)

6. Discussion and Possible Action: Recommendation to Council to Alter Sustainability Commission Start Time

Chair Harrison opened the public hearing to public comments.

There were no comments.

Chair Harrison closed the public hearing.

This item was deferred to the October meeting.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Oral Comments

Commissioner Fukumoto reported that Sunnyvale Cool will be hosting a Candidate Forum September 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the Heritage Park Museum.

Commissioner Fukumoto reported that there is a walking tour planned for October 12 at 9:00 a.m. on the south side of the train tracks at Lawrence Station to highlight and discuss the ongoing planning process Lawrence Station area.

Commissioner Glaser and Commissioner Hafeman reported attending a Sunnyvale Cool hosted discussion on Caltrain Electrification with Friends of Caltrain and the Silicon Valley Leadership Group on September 12 at the Sunnyvale Heritage Park Museum.

Commissioner Glaser reported being invited to speak about Community Choice Aggregation to community groups in Mountain View and Palo Alto and the Los Altos Hills Environmental Commission.

Staff Comments

Sustainability Coordinator Clark provided the Commission an update on the timeline for possible Climate Action Plan adoption. Mr. Clark indicated that the EIR is expected to be out at the end of the year or at the start of the new year, with the draft Climate Action Plan going to Council in mid-to-late spring.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dustin Clark, Environmental Sustainability Coordinator

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