



**JOINT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
February 27, 2019**

The Joint Sustainability Committee convened in a regular meeting on February 27, 2019 at City Hall in Austin, Texas.

Chair Jim Walker called the Board Meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Chair Jim Walker, Vice Chair Kaiba White, Joep Meijer, Michael Osborne, Melissa Rothrock, Karen Magid, Katie Coyne, Kelly Davis, Nhat Ho, Fisayo Fadelu

Board Members Absent:

Francoise Luca, Patricia Seeger, Michael Ybarra

City Staff in Attendance:

Zach Baumer, Cavan Merski

CALL TO ORDER

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Motion to approve (Joep Meijer) Second (Michael Osborne) Approved 8-0.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

- None

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. Presentation of Climate Reality Project (Discussion and/or Possible Action)

- World temperatures are becoming warmer and extreme precipitation has become heavier and more frequent.
- Austin is in flash flood alley and major floods have occurred in 2013, 2015. Major drought in 2011-2015 and Bastrop had major wildfires in 2011.
- CRP urges Austin to reduce emissions faster, harden city infrastructure and invest equitably across the city.

b. Update on At-Large Appointments to Joint Sustainability Committee (Discussion and/or possible action)

- This will be Jim Walker and Joep Meier's final meeting on the JSC

c. Resolution on eliminating energy code requirement for natural gas connections in Austin. (Discussion and Possible Action) SPONSORS: Kaiba White & Joep Meijer

- Sponsors want to begin the process to remove the Local amendment to the Austin Energy Code.

- This would not force anybody to use electricity but simply remove the mandate to connect to natural gas.
- Joep Meijer – Can we go further to analyze code to see if there are any other similar policies that can be adjusted when there's a larger code revision in 2020? Perhaps this can be a part of the Climate Plan.
- Paul Robbins – OOS figures in previous natural gas cost / emissions analysis were incorrect, so the OOS should redo the model with actual figures from AE rebates in order to correct this issue.
- DSD Staff is aware of this item and this was brought up in the last code revision.
- Michael Osborne motions to table this item, Jim Walker seconds. 3 For / 8 Against Table fails.
- Kaiba White motions to pass amended resolution with several amendments, Karen Magid seconds. Vote passes 9 For / 2 Against.

d. Strategic Mobility Plan

- Email Zach specific questions about transportation that can help them focus their presentation to what the JSC wants to hear about.
- Some ideas to discuss:
 - Electrification vs. Congestion could be an interesting topic
 - Generally how will the ASMP integrate landscape adaptation ecosystem services to your design and your design services across the system.

e. Sustainable Tourism in Austin

- Email interest to Zach and Kaiba to see if there's interest in the Sustainable Tourism group

4. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Working group updates and potential creation of new working groups: three standing working groups on the Phase 1 Actions of the Austin Community Climate Plan (Electricity and Natural Gas, Transportation and Land Use, Materials and Waste Management), budget working group, and carbon impact statement. (Discussion and/or possible action)

No updates

- b. Commission members report back on any relevant discussions from their respective boards and commissions (Discussion and/or possible action)

- Water/Wastewater commission: in year 2 of installing smart water meter
- Food Policy Board: Engagement process for the food policy addendum
- Resource Management Commission: DSD update on code amendment to natural gas connections

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Crosswalk on Bloomberg grant
- Austin Strategic Mobility Plan
- Public announcement on Atlas 14

Meeting adjourns at 8:00

ADJOURNMENT

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice at least 2 days (48 hours) before the meeting date. Please call Zach Baumer with the Office of Sustainability at 512-974-2836, for additional information; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711. For more information on the Joint Sustainability Committee, please contact Zach Baumer at (zach.baumer@austintexas.gov or 512-974-2836).