



**JOINT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
November 30, 2016**

**The Joint Sustainability Committee convened in a regular meeting on November 30, 2016 at Carver Library in Austin, Texas.**

**Chair Jim Walker called the Board Meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Chair Jim Walker, Vice Chair Kaiba White, Kelly Davis, Adrienne Haschke, Nhat Ho, Fred McGhee, Joep Meijer, Sabrina Santos Joplin, Michael Osborne, Roberto Rondero de Mosier, Stacy Savage

**Board Members Absent:**

Tom Donovan, Mary Ann Neely, Patricia Seeger

**City Staff in Attendance:**

Lewis Leff, Marc Coudert (Office of Sustainability)

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The July 27 meeting minutes were unanimously approved on Committee Member Meijer's motion and Committee Member Savage's second.

The September 28 meeting minutes were unanimously approved on Committee Member Savage's motion and Committee Member Osborne's second.

**2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

There were no speakers for citizen communication.

**3. NEW BUSINESS**

**3a. Discussion on the process and structure of future Austin Community Climate Plan updates (Discussion and/or possible action)**

The Committee has expressed the desire to include actions not identified in the current Community Climate Plan. Future Committee meetings will provide a forum to provide addendums or amendments to the plan. Any amendments should go through a public process with multiple opportunities for input. Committee Member Ho suggested a full Committee meeting dedicated to review additions or changes to the plan, and the next meeting to adopt the package of changes. Joint Sustainability Committee members are encouraged to take changes back to other boards and commissions for review. Working groups will work on items not listed in the current plan to bring to the commission. Items may include such topics as more stringent building codes for building codes. Chair Walker asked staff to detail a monthly schedule with a fall draft of new actions for the

plan ready tied to the budget adoption process. Committee Member Osborne mentioned a desire to have the Austin Energy Resource, Generation, and Climate Protection Plan Task Force update as a future agenda item. Committee Member Haschke spoke about aligning Food Policy Board working group reports with this timeline as well. The Committee requested adding a link of the plan to the Joint Sustainability Committee's website.

**3b. Discussion on 2017 Committee meeting schedule and frequency (Discussion and/or possible action)**

Staff reviewed the Committee's decision in the spring of 2016 to meet every other month due to many other commitments and allowing for time for working groups to meet in-between meetings. Some of the committee members expressed the need to meet more often to respond more quickly to timely matters. Leff stated that increasing the frequency to monthly Committee meetings would require more staff resources and time for administrative activities. The chair reiterated that he can call a special meeting for items that need immediate attention as long as 8 committee members can attend. Committee Member Haschke made a motion to meet every month, seconded by Commissioner White. The motion failed on a 7-3 vote with 1 abstention. Those voting aye were Committee Members White, Haschke, Savage, Meijer, Walker, Joplin, Osborne. Those voting nay were Committee Members McGhee, Mosier, Ho. One abstention was Committee Member Davis. Committee Members Donovan, Neely, and Seeger were absent. With fewer ayes than required by quorum (8), the motion did not pass. Regularly scheduled meetings to remain on a bi-monthly (every other month) schedule.

Additional Committee discussion centered on meeting location and the need for more visibility. In order to have access to ATXN video recording, Committee Member Osborne suggested they meet at City Hall or Town Lake Center. Leff responded that the Commission originally decided on an eastside community meeting space to allow for easier access for the public and it was easier for committee members to get to at 6PM on a weeknight. He stated that meeting room availability at these two locations are extremely limited, but he would check in again to see if there have been any changes for 2017.

**3c. Discussion on Austin Community Climate Plan Recommendation 3 – feasibility of a Carbon Impact Statement for major city decisions, and potential creation of a new committee (Discussion and/or possible action)**

Leff presented the Carbon Impact Statement briefing including information on community-wide and municipal GHG emissions, similar frameworks from other cities and states, and next steps to research policy and program implications and opportunities. Committee Member White provided feedback about the Zero Waste Commission reviewing a contract to provide geolocation on waste trucks to reduce emissions and increase efficiency. This could be an opportunity to pilot a carbon impact statement. Committee Member White raised a question about Austin Energy's Greenchoice program and whether it still met additionality for new renewable energy. Leff stated more work is needed to make sure criteria and process is clear for the Carbon Impact Statement. Staff still have more internal conversations planned to determine methodology and process of the program. Committee members stated that if it's going to be advisory at first, city staff should try to make it stringent and based on a consistent methodology and criteria. It should be with a goal to be in code in the long-run. Leff agreed to present on progress in March.

#### **4. OLD BUSINESS**

##### **4a. Staff update on Austin Energy and Development Services Department staff discussions regarding energy code enforcement (Discussion and/or possible action)**

Leff provided an update on the additional resources needed to specifically enforce all aspects of the energy code, and that DSD and AE plan to include this discussion in the 2018 business planning process. Committee Member White stated that Council will take up code updates in the spring, including the concept of “solar ready” homes. In the meeting she attended, she said DSD staff stated a need for increase in staff of 6 for inspection, 3 for plan review for commercial projects, and 1-2 for expedited plan review and 6 for inspection on residential projects. After some discussion and review of the Committee’s resolution from the summer budget process, Committee Member McGhee makes a motion for the Joint Sustainability Committee to reaffirm its previous resolution for additional positions for energy code enforcement at a level determined by staff, seconded by Committee Member Savage. Chair Walker added a friendly amendment to specify that the Committee is doing this in light of the recent increase in necessary positions as stated by City staff. The motion passed unanimously 11-0. Committee Members Donovan, Neely, and Seeger were absent.

##### **4b. Staff update on Fleet Electrification presentation to the Council Mobility Committee (Discussion and/or possible action)**

Leff presented on the Council Mobility Committee discussion and their recommendation to forward staff’s recommendation to the full Council, while including future discussion on increasing the pace of electric vehicles purchases for the City of Austin fleet. Committee Member Meijer reiterates that this effort is a good step to reduce citywide GHG – and is also a money saver for the municipality. He stated that an implementation plan is needed and that there should be a Committee item in January related to this before the next Council Mobility Committee meeting. Committee Member Osborne stated that the new Austin Energy Resource, Generation, and Climate Protection Plan Task Force may recommend something related to this too, so there should be an item for the Committee to discuss complimentary strategies to those recommendations at January’s JSC meeting.

##### **4c. Staff update on the methodology and calculations used in the September Austin Community Climate Plan update to Council (Discussion and/or possible action)**

Leff reiterated that he has sent the data and sources to the Committee by email, so if anyone is interested, Cavan Merski, with the Office of Sustainability, is available to meet and discuss methodologies and protocols used for calculating community-wide greenhouse gas emissions.

##### **4d. Working group updates: 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), and the building standards working group (Discussion and/or possible action)**

No updates

##### **4e. Commission members report back on any relevant discussions from their respective boards and commissions (Discussion and/or possible action)**

Committee Member Ho stated that in the spring Austin Water will provide a recommendation to increase the use of smart metering and other measures to control demand.

Committee Member McGhee stated he will bring a resolution to the Community Development Commission to have all affordable housing be built to passive house standards. Also looking to

have all affordable housing projects conduct a phase 1 brownfield assessment. He plans to bring a resolution on this to the JSC in January for consideration.

## **5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- January
  - Building code/Passive house resolution from Committee Member McGhee
  - Fleet electrification plan
  - Review progress of the Austin Energy Resource, Generation, and Climate Protection Plan Task Force and relevant recommendations
  - Food policy board wants to include food systems items into the Community Climate Plan amendments package. The Food Board plans to create a white paper on the topic to be rolled into the plan.
- March
  - Nhat Ho recommended we have a special meeting in March in preparation for a June public meeting.
  - Calculation used for the March Council update, progress on Carbon Impact Statement, and water conservation strategies
- April
  - Chair Walker wanted to start the discussion about a public open house related to the Committee and the Community Climate Plan at the April Earth Day celebration at Huston-Tillotson University.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Jim Walker adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m. without objection.