



**Item 1**

**JOINT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
December 6, 2021**

**The Joint Sustainability Committee convened in a special called meeting on December 6, 2021 at the Austin Energy Headquarters on 4815 Mueller Blvd. Austin, TX 78723.**

**Chair Kaiba White called the Board Meeting to order at 6:04 pm.**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Kaiba White Chair, David Carroll, Diana Wheeler, Solveij Rosa Praxis, Christy Williams, Richard DePalma, Karen Magid, Audrey Barrett

**Board Members Absent:**

Alexis Taylor, Fisayo Fadelu, Alberta Phillips, Melissa Rothrock, Karen Hadden

**City Staff in Attendance:**

Zach Baumer, Phoebe Romero

**CALL TO ORDER**

**CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

The speakers who registered in advance for public comment have three minutes each to address items on the agenda at this time.

- None

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a) July 28, 2021 and August 25, 2021 meetings of the Joint Sustainability Committee
  - a. Motion to approve both minutes (Commissioner Praxis), second (Commissioner Wheeler). Record of the vote: 7 approved, 0 opposed, 1 abstained.

## 2. NEW BUSINESS

### a) Approve 2022 Schedule – (Discussion and/or possible action)

- Motion to approve (Commissioner DePalma), second (Commissioner Barrett).  
Record of the vote: 8 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained.
  - a. Commissioners approved meeting on November 16<sup>th</sup> and December 14<sup>th</sup> on the alternate months.

### b) JSC Bylaws Revision – (Discussion and/or possible action)

- Need to finalize changes Bylaws with the primary change being an additional 5 members who will be nominated by the mayor
- Discussed quorum issues and some reformatting
- Will request Audit and Finance Committee take a look at Article 3 to evaluate:
  - Whether quorum can be based on majority of members appointed
  - Rethinking appointing members in March, could lead to shorter terms
- Motion to approve (Commissioner Wheeler), second (Commissioner DePalma).  
Record of the vote: 8 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained.
- Recommendation:
  - The JSC recommend that Audit and Finance Committee ensure that:
    - Article 3, Section C aligns with council terms and appointments
    - Article 7 – Section F – consider whether or not a quorum can be defined by 50% + 1 of the appointment membership
- Motion to approve (Commissioner White), second (Commissioner DePalma). Record of the vote: 7 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. Commissioner Magid left the dais.

### c) Austin Climate Equity Plan Implementation Planning – (Discussion and/or possible action)

- Community oversight of climate plan implementation should involve Equity Office and new Equity & Inclusion Program Managers; will need to adapt the equity evaluation tool for the implementation process
- Should consider compensation for community members and explore variety of recruitment avenues
- Office is hiring Climate Equity Engagement Associate for new ambassadors' program and will need to figure out new scope of ambassadors to move forward implementation
- Motion to create the Austin Climate Equity Plan Implementation Working Group of up to 6 members of the JSC and up to 15 members of the Public, along with city staff with future procedures and rules to be adopted. Motion (Commissioner DePalma), second (Commissioner Wheeler).
  - Record of the vote: 7 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. Commissioner Magid was off the dais.

- d) Fleet Electrification – Will O’Connor, Fleet Mobility Services (Discussion and/or possible action)
- Provided an overview of Fleet Department actions and goals, national trends, and electric vehicle and charging port inventory
  - Discussed fleet turnover schedule, challenge areas with medium and heavy-duty vehicles, range needed with some departments, and limits to charging infrastructure in leased buildings
  - Commissioners discussed potential of solar chargers, inquired on telemetric usage on fleet, battery repair, and educating local businesses on fleet electrification
- e) Transportation Electrification – Cameron Freberg, Austin Energy (Discussion and/or possible action)
- Provided overview of electric vehicle goals within the climate plan and the five focus areas of the AE Emerging Technologies group, including community programs and infrastructure
  - EV for Schools program and curriculum is now offered in Spanish, and is starting to influence curriculum across the country
  - Commissioners inquired on grid forecasting, influencing off-peak charging, EV-readiness for buildings, and grappling with challenges of charging infrastructure on existing buildings, where the City stands against its climate goals, and how to increase transparency at dealerships
- f) Commission members report back on any relevant discussions from their respective boards and commissions – (Discussion and/or possible action)
- Parks and Recreation Board
    - Working on Zilker Revision Plan which will be ready in draft by April, joint report on concessions on Ladybird Lake, approval of Pease Park Conservancy plan, Hancock Golf Course plans, Oak Hill Cemetery wildflower issues, and with Cities Connecting Children to Nature on toxicity issues.
  - Urban Transportation Commission
    - Had a presentation on the Red Line, which will run up to Leander and looking to expand service to new FC stadium
  - Water and Wastewater Commission
    - Completed the after-action report for Winter Storm Uri; includes actions for wastewater plants and snowplows
  - Environmental Commission
    - Working on Development Services erosion and sediment control issues for controlling runoff from sites that have ongoing construction; just hired someone for this specific task and have a hotline to call to increase inspections, capacity, and enforcement. Also developing working group for the Statesman building and the Brodie Oaks shopping area.

- Design Commission
  - Commission to rewrite Urban Design guidelines. could take 18 months to do that correctly. Will be incorporating equity and sustainability, can provide updates as it gets further.
- Resource Management Commission
  - Has created a working group along with Electric Utilities Commission to come up with solutions regarding the Fayette Coal Power Plant and AE's new plans to not retire it by 2022

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Vice Chair Election

Motion to adjourn (Commissioner White)

**Meeting adjourns at 8:59 pm**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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For more information on the Joint Sustainability Committee, please contact Zach Baumer at ([zach.baumer@austintexas.gov](mailto:zach.baumer@austintexas.gov) or 512-974-2836).