

CITY OF CUPERTINO SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION  
Environmental Education Center 22221 McClellan Road

Thursday, June 15, 2017 4:00 PM

**MINUTES**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

The meeting convened at 4:03pm.

Commissioners Present: Angela Chen, Anna Weber, Vignesh Swaminathan, and Meera Ramanathan (arrived @ 4:10)

Commissioner Absent: Gary Latshaw

Staff: Misty Mersich, Sustainability Manager; Gilee Corral, Sustainability Program Coordinator

Guests: None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Draft minutes of May 18, 2017 meeting approved. Motion by Commissioner Swaminathan, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Weber. Motion passes 3-0-2 with Commissioners Ramanathan and Latshaw absent.

**POSTPONEMENTS**

None.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Subject: GHG Inventory Update**

Misty Mersich distributed the 2015 greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory narrative which is scheduled to be presented to City Council on June 20<sup>th</sup>. Staff reported that the direct access issue discussed at last month's meeting has been resolved through a conversation with Apple. Community emissions have decreased 13.1% since 2010, and the City is on track to meeting its CAP goal of 15% below 2010 levels by 2020. Municipal emissions have decreased 22.8% from 2010 to 2015. Misty noted that GHG inventory methodology has changed to the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission

Inventories (GPC) since the 2010 inventory was developed. The 2015 inventory was developed according to the GPC protocol, and 2010 baseline figures recalculated accordingly to enable an apples-to-apples comparison.

Commissioner Weber suggested ways that staff could share these results and our green fleet efforts with other agencies, such as the Cupertino school district.

Staff also distributed a new colorful summary flier on the CAP progress update. Cupertino is exceeding its CAP goals for 2020 in solar installations, water reduction, and new net trees planted. After Council approves the report next Tuesday, the final version will be on the website.

## **2. Subject: Sustainability Commission Budget**

The Commission has spent about \$1,000 on supplies in the 16/17 fiscal year and has about \$6,500 left to spend. Staff suggested rolling this amount over to next year's budget and that the Commission come up with a plan to spend the money. The Commission discussed ideas on how to use the money, including fees for conferences and speakers, funding projects such as Sustainability Heroes idea, student awards, and small community grants. The Commission will continue this discussion in July.

## **3. Subject: Sustainability Commission Work Plan**

The Commission added items to the Work Plan and discussed several possible items to address in FY 2017/18:

- Bike to Shop Day event, in coordination with Silicon Valley Bike Coalition and the Bicycle & Pedestrian Commission. Commissioner Swaminathan will reach out to the Bicycle & Pedestrian Commission to start planning for this.
- Outreach / promoting the CAP progress report: Commissioner Ramanathan will forward information to Misty on the Housing Commission Chair's idea to include the CAP progress report summary in a real estate flyer. Other potential avenues discussed were the Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club.
- Work with Public Works to address questions about compost bins and liners. Commissioner Ramanathan will forward these questions to Misty, who will get input from Environmental Services staff.
- Ways to address gaps in the CAP, i.e. an energy or resiliency master plan or cost related to the CAP implementation goals, and preparing the city for autonomous vehicles.
- Building reach code to go above and beyond the State standards under Title 24.

The Commission established new subcommittees as follows:

- Environmental Jeopardy Game Subcommittee: Commissioners Weber and Ramanathan. The Subcommittee will report back in the January meeting.
- Building Reach Code Subcommittee: Commissioners Ramanathan and Swaminathan.
- Sustainable Schools Subcommittee: Commissioners Ramanathan and Weber.

In the interest of collaborating with other City Commissions on mutual projects and ideas, the Commission assigned liaisons to reach out to the following City Commissions and report back on the results of their collaboration in the December meeting:

- Commissioners Chen and Latshaw – Library (they are already working with the Library Commission on a Sustainability Speaker Series Subcommittee)
- Commissioner Weber - Teen
- Commissioner Ramanathan - Housing
- Commissioner Swaminathan – Bicycle & Pedestrian and Parks & Rec

The Work Plan discussion will continue at the July meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **4. Subject: AB262 Buy Clean California**

Misty read an email from Commissioner Latshaw regarding his input on this subject. Commissioner Latshaw recommended removing the middle paragraph of the draft letter of support that references cement and concrete, but to support the legislative action in general. The Commission discussed the item at length, and Commissioners expressed confusion over what the bill was proposing, what the City of Cupertino would be supporting by signing the letter, and why Lehigh Southwest Cement Company was copied onto the letter. The Commission wished to see the revised letter with this language removed as proposed by Commissioner Latshaw before forwarding to the Legislative Committee for consideration.

**Action Item:** Commissioner Swaminathan moved to approve the letter of support for AB262 after being revised by Commissioner Latshaw and to recommend the revised letter for consideration by the Legislative Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ramanathan and carried with 3-0-1-1 with Commissioner Weber abstaining and Commissioner Latshaw absent.

## **STAFF AND COMMISSION REPORTS**

Staff updates:

- Misty's planned maternity leave is July 17<sup>th</sup> through November 17<sup>th</sup>. Jaqui Guzman, Deputy City Manager, will oversee the Sustainability Division.

Katy Nomura will lead staff team meetings and Gilee Corral will be the staff liaison to the Sustainability Commission. Misty's duties will be split and assigned among the Sustainability Division staff.

- July 1<sup>st</sup> is the start of the second round of enrollment in Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVCE). There is an upcoming SVCE community meeting in Cupertino on June 27<sup>th</sup> at Quinlan Community Center at 6:30pm.
- Misty will ask the City Clerk to clarify policy around Commissioners using personal phone numbers for Commission business.
- Mayor Vaidhyanathan signed the Climate Mayors letter, which over 300 cities nationwide have signed, and is also a signatory on the "We Are Still In" movement.

Commissioner updates:

- Commissioners Weber and Ramanathan and staff met with Kevin Jenkins with the Cupertino Union School District to discuss ideas on how they can help further sustainability actions within Cupertino schools. They also have a meeting set up with staff from Fremont Union High School next week.
- Commissioner Ramanathan reported that she attended the Mayors Commission meeting in June in place of Commissioner Chen. Updates from the meeting include:
  - Granny units are restricted to 700 sq. ft. or less; Rebuilding Silicon Valley has grants available for home projects; the Library has Photoshop software on its computers for free use; an emerging artists program is making designs for the park. The next Mayor's meeting on July 5<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled. Commissioner Chen will send an email report to the Mayor in lieu of the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT-** 6:09pm.