

CITY OF CUPERTINO SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
Environmental Education Center 22221 McClellan Road

Thursday August 17, 2017 4:00 PM

MINUTES

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

The meeting convened at 4:17 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Angela Chen, Anna Weber, and Meera Ramanathan (arrived @ 4:17)

Commissioners Absent: Gary Latshaw and Vignesh Swaminathan

Staff: Roger Lee, Assistant Director of Public Works; Cheri Donnelly, Environmental Programs Manager; Katy Nomura, Management Analyst; Lauren Dickinson, Environmental Outreach Coordinator; Gilee Corral, Sustainability Program Coordinator

Guests: City of Sunnyvale guest presenters: Mark Bowers, Solid Waste Programs Division Manager; Karen Gissibl, Environmental Programs Manager

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Action Item: Draft minutes of July 20, 2017 meeting approved. Motion by Commissioner Weber, 2nd by Commissioner Ramanathan. Motion passes 3-2 with Commissioners Latshaw and Swaminathan absent.

POSTPONEMENTS

None.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Subject: Approval of FY 2017/18 Work Plan

The Commission amended the draft Work Plan as follows: add to the September 21, 2017 meeting a staff presentation on the draft Recology amendment and draft Zero Waste Policy. An executive summary of the draft Recology amendment will be emailed to Commissioners prior to this meeting.

Action Item: A motion to approve the FY 2017/18 Work Plan as amended was made by Commissioner Weber and seconded by Commission Ramanathan. Motion passed 3-2 with Commissioners Latshaw and Swaminathan absent.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Subject: Update on Sustainable Waste Strategies & Recology Agreement and Special Presentation from City of Sunnyvale

Roger Lee, Assistant Director of Public Works, provided context for the discussion and reviewed progress on updating the City of Cupertino's agreement with Recology. Staff is looking ahead to plan for changes in the Recology agreement, which expires in 2019. Staff is considering an amendment to extend the agreement to January 2021 and is scheduled to take this draft amendment to City Council on October 17th. A rate increase is not anticipated at this time; however, staff is looking into options that might increase costs, such as waste characterization studies, a pilot program to explore the split cart system, and working with the Sunnyvale Materials Recovery and Transfer Station (SMaRT Station). The Commission will have an opportunity to review an outline of the draft Recology amendment before it is presented to City Council.

Mark Bowers, Solid Waste Programs Division Manager for the City of Sunnyvale, gave a presentation on Sunnyvale's SMaRT Station and FoodCycle composting program.

Highlights:

- SMaRT Station has excess capacity and could take on waste from other jurisdictions, including Cupertino.
- SMaRT Station diverted 31% of waste that came through the landfill stream last fiscal year.
- Sunnyvale's FoodCycle program has a residential split cart that separates food and yard waste. Food waste is converted to nutrient-rich animal feed and yard waste is converted to compost.

The Commissioners expressed interest in taking a tour of the SMaRT station; Gilee will look into the logistics of setting this up.

NOTE: Before the meeting began officially, Joan Chin, Cupertino resident, gave the following comments on this Agenda Item:

- Informed the Commission about a Zero Waste for Homes event coming up in Sunnyvale on August 30th.

- Noted that there were comments on NextDoor on the new split cart system in Sunnyvale and recommended that Cupertino ensures a social media process is in place to address concerns before piloting a split cart system.

3. Subject: Festival Planning (Fall Festival & Diwali Festival)

In the interest of time, the Commission focused on plans for Fall Festival and will discuss the Diwali Festival at a future meeting. For Fall Festival: Sustainability Commission members will work in shifts to cover the Sustainability table and run the Environmental Jeopardy Game. Commissioner Ramanathan will take the morning shift and Commissioner Weber will take the afternoon shift. (Commissioner Chen is tabling at a booth already). Gilee will email Commissioners Swaminathan and Latshaw to see when they can cover the booth. If the Environmental Jeopardy Subcommittee creates new questions for this game in time, they will forward these to Gilee. Staff will email all Commissioners with the final shift schedule and logistics closer to the festival date.

STAFF AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Commission Reports:

The Sustainable Schools Subcommittee received two proposals for waste audits and will convey this information to the schools to see how they wish to proceed.

The Sustainable Speakers Series Subcommittee met and discussed possible topics for the series, including water recycling and waste, and discussed ideas for the essay contest. Commissioner Chen asked if a student who is not a Cupertino resident would be eligible for receiving an award; Gilee will check on this. Next, the Subcommittee will discuss how to advertise the speaker events and check into the possibility of connecting with the City Speaker Series.

Staff Updates:

- Carpool Pilot: staff is looking for volunteers to help count cars as part of a carpool app pilot. Contact Gilee or Katy Nomura if interested in volunteering.
- Silicon Valley Clean Energy staff will give a presentation at the November 16th Commission meeting.
- SunShares: the following providers are offering discounts:
 - Solar providers: PetersenDean, Skytech Solar, Solar Technologies

- Electric vehicles: Toyota Mirai & Nissan Leaf

Commissioner Ramanathan noted that there was an issue with SunShares in a past year: with one of the solar distributors, the cost per kWh increased for some customers above the advertised price when it came to install the solar panels. Gilee will bring up this concern with the SunShares program administrator.

- The City of Cupertino will receive the following Beacon Spotlight Awards from the Institute of Local Government this year: Gold Level Award for 13% Community Greenhouse Gas Reductions; Platinum Level Award for 23% Agency Greenhouse Gas Reductions. The awards will be presented as part of the League of California Cities conference on Sept. 14th.
- City Council voted to approve the AB262 Letter of Support.
- Sustainability Commission budget carryover of \$5,993 from FY 2016/17 was approved.
- Cheri announced an upcoming event of interest: Zero Waste Home - Sunnyvale Speaker Series, Aug. 20th 7:00-8:30p.m., City Council Chambers, Sunnyvale.

ADJOURNMENT- 6:16 p.m.