

CITY OF CUPERTINO SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Environmental Education Center 22221 McClellan Road

Thursday July 18, 2019 4:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

At 4:04 p.m. Chair Weber called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Anna Weber, Gary Latshaw, Angela Chen, Meera Ramanathan, Vignesh Swaminathan

Staff: Gilee Corral, Acting Sustainability Manager; Cheri Donnelley, Environmental Program Manager

Guests: Bruce Karney, Anne Ng, other member of the public.

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Draft minutes of June 20, 2019 meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Chen moved and Commissioner Latshaw seconded to approve the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

**POSTPONEMENTS** - None.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Anne Ng, Cupertino resident, introduced herself to the Commission.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS** - None.

Chair Weber moved and Commissioner Chen seconded to reorder the agenda items as follows: New Business before Old Business. The motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**6. Subject: Presentation on greenhouse gas emissions inventory metrics with consultant DNV GL**

Chair Weber opened Public Comment and the following individual spoke:

Bruce Karney spoke in favor of conducting annual greenhouse gas emissions inventories and setting annual goals, with consequences if the City fails to meet its goals.

Chair Weber closed Public Comment. Commissioners asked Karney clarifying questions and discussed the possibility of purchasing carbon offsets as potential consequences for not meeting GHG goals.

The DNV GL consultant, Ben Butterworth, gave a presentation on GHG inventory metrics via conference call and responded to Commissioners' questions. Issues raised by Commissioners included: accuracy of inventory methodology, how direct access emission factors are calculated, verification of data, setting per capita targets, etc. The Commission discussed these issues as well as the merits and drawbacks of an annual approach to conducting GHG inventories and potential of including consequences for not meeting GHG targets.

## OLD BUSINESS

2. **Subject: Discuss Green New Deal legislative efforts on the federal and state level and consider making a recommendation to the City Council to sign a resolution in support of H.R. 109 (Representative Ocasio-Cortez) and S. Res. 59 (Senator Markey) and AB 1276 (Assemblymember Bonta)**

Gilee Corral recommended that the Commission decide if they wished to endorse the bills to City Council or decide to create a local Green New Deal (GND) resolution. The Commission discussed the pros and cons of these options. Commissioner Latshaw noted potential benefits of supporting GND efforts, including: may influence other support for the bills, possible connection to the City's declared Climate Emergency, etc. Commissioners expressed concerns that the GND bills covered areas outside their purview, how to implement a local GND, and the legislative advocacy adding too much to their work load. The Commissioners agreed to watch the GND legislation action at the federal level and see where the bill ends up in the House.

Commissioner Swaminathan moved and Vice-Chair Latshaw seconded to take up the Green New Deal discussion at a future Commission meeting.

3. **Subject: Sustainability Speaker Series planning**

The Commission discussed details of the Bea Johnson / Zero Waste event and agreed to aim for a 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. timeframe with one hour talk and thirty minutes for Q&A. The Speaker Series Subcommittee will meet with staff to plan logistics and report back at the next Commission meeting.

4. **Subject: Discuss and select agenda topics for upcoming Sustainability Commission meetings**

Commissioners discussed with staff the upcoming items to be scheduled, including the reach code update and a Green Stormwater Infrastructure plan. Commissioner Latshaw passed out a handout on a recent presentation by Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVCE) staff on the model reach codes.

The Commission agreed to the following agenda topics and meeting dates:

August 15 Commission meeting:

- Green Stormwater Infrastructure plan update from staff
- CAP Report update from staff
- Speaker Series Subcommittee update on Bea Johnson event planning
- Fall Festival tabling

August 29 Commission meeting:

- The Commissioners agreed to add a Special Meeting on August 29 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm to discuss the SVCE model reach codes and the CALGreen Tier 1 and Tier 2 options. Staff will schedule SVCE staff and Building Division's consultant to attend and contribute to this discussion.
- The Reach Code Subcommittee (Commissioners Swaminathan and Ramanathan) will meet and report back at this meeting.

October 17 Commission meeting:

- Green New Deal

Chair Weber moved and Commissioner Swaminathan seconded to approve the agenda items and dates as agreed. The motion passed anonymously.

**5. Update on Buy Clean California Act policy development and Bay Area low carbon concrete codes initiatives**

Corral gave an update on regional efforts to create model code addressing low carbon concrete requirements. She passed out a handout on a draft version of low carbon concrete building code developed by the County of Marin.

**STAFF AND COMMISSION REPORTS**

**Commission updates:**

- Commissioner Swaminathan gave an update on his travels and sustainable practices he observed in Singapore. He announced that he has been elected to serve on a Citizen Advisory Board to the Santa Clara Valley Transport Authority (VTA). He updated the Commissioners on upcoming bike-related events: Silicon Valley Bike Coalition Summit and a pop up bikeway event on August 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Speaker Series Subcommittee members Vice-Chair Latshaw and Commissioner Chen will meet to discuss the Bea Johnson event and possible topics for other events.

**Staff updates:**

- The City of Cupertino will be receiving the full Beacon Award this year. More details to follow.
- Administrative items regarding the Sustainability Commission budget and City email system.
- Sustainability Division will have a new Sustainability Manager in early August.
- Silicon Valley Clean Energy has launched its FutureFit heat pump water heater program.

**ADJOURNMENT-** 6:29 p.m.