



MINUTES
Environmental Sustainability Commission
Regular Meeting of March 5, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 4:06 p.m.

Present: Richard Godfrey, Nate Ivy, Carolyn Obata, Daniel O'Donnell, Paul Kelley, Shreya Ramachandran (arrived at 4:20pm), John Rennels (arrived at 5:14pm)

Absent: Shiva Swaminathan

Oral Communications:

- Lynn Miller, Tri-City Urban Forestry Alliance (TUFA) shared the following:
 - TUFA is working closely with City of Fremont staff member Kit Jory as his teams works on the Urban Forestry Master Plan.
 - A Citywide tree survey is currently underway.
 - TUFA is trying to organize small tree plantings in neighborhoods, providing residents with care instructions.
 - There will be a community tree planting event on April 25 at Sabercat Creek.
 - TUFA would like to develop a volunteer group to care for young trees.
 - TUFA has a webpage: www.tufatrees.org
- Kelly Abreu, Mission Peak Conservancy, shared the following:
 - Parking is the biggest unmanaged issue in Fremont. It is a poor land use activity.
 - Governments can tax assets, monetizing and incentivizing change.
 - We could implement a congestion management program by setting parking limits and maximums.
 - Mobilize the Bay is proposing a parking tax that would help to fund transportation projects.
- Lisa Danz, Citizens Climate Lobby, shared the following:
 - The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (HR 763) has bipartisan sponsorship.
 - HR 763 will reduce Americas emissions 40% in the first 12 years.
 - The price for the carbon dividend in HR 763 is based on IPCC targets.
 - 10 cities in the Bay Area have endorsed HR 763.
 - Bay Area representatives Anna Eshoo, Jackie Speier, Mark DeSaulnier and Barbara Lee have co-sponsored HR 763. It does not yet have any co-sponsors representing Fremont.

Approval of Minutes:

- Special meeting minutes of December 5, 2019. Motion to approve with correction by Commissioner Kelley; second by Commissioner Obata. Minutes approved unanimously.

Scheduled Items:

5.1 Staff Updates

- Fremont Earth Day Event is still planned for April 18th at Washington Hospital, but it could be cancelled for health concerns.
- All other updates reported under agenda item 5.4.

5.2 Commissioner Announcements

- Student Commissioner Ramachandran
 - The 2020 FIERCE Student Sustainability Dinner was held on February 28th at the Teen Center. The event had 50 signups and 37 attendees. The Tri-City Voice featured the event in their podcast, found [here](#) (minutes 8:10 to 11:35).
 - A Climate Strike/March is being organized by the Tri-City Climate Council for April 18th.
 - The Greywater Project has been running an Earth Day Art contest, and submissions will be on display the week of Earth Day.
- Commissioner Ivy
 - In FUSD's monthly newsletter for teachers, we can feature environmental events and updates.
- Commissioner Kelley
 - Mayor Lily Mei shared a post on LinkedIn about our continued work on climate action and the CAP update.

5.3 Report Out on Reach Code Outreach

City of Fremont Economic Development Manager Donovan Lazaro shared with the Commission details on outreach conducted with Fremont developers, landlords, and manufacturers on reach code opportunities. Businesses outreached to included Soraa, SLD Laser, National Boiler, Boehringer Ingelheim, Seagate, Kimco, Prologis, and Hurricane Electric. A presentation was also made to the Economic Development Advisory Committee.

Generally, these stakeholders considered electrification of buildings an important target, but had concerns about eliminating a mixed fuel option. There was stronger support for higher efficiency requirements rather than the elimination of gas in new building design. In addition, it is important to note that construction costs have increased 50% in the last three years.

In mixed-use projects in particular, there is a perceived impact on the ability to market to restaurants who are looking for a gas supply line for their kitchen equipment. Also, in

advanced manufacturing, gas is often necessary for processes, including industrial boilers used in semiconductor and pharmaceutical manufacturing as well as high-purification HVAC systems in clean rooms.

Two specific comments received during the feedback sessions include:

- “An all-electric building requirement would preclude a business like ours from operating a new building in Fremont.”
- Electrification is “easy for office, very challenging and costly for our type of manufacturing”

After this report out, the Commission had the following questions/comments/concerns:

- Commissioner Kelley – The concerns around the marketability of all-electric retail spaces must be weighed against the benefits of higher efficiency building design
- Commissioner Godfrey – How can we maximize the motivation for commercial/industrial developers to build sustainably?
- Commissioner Ramachandran – Can we require more solar to be added to an industrial building at a point later in time? Can we require a building to source its energy from 100% renewables via the grid (such as EBCE Renewable 100 rate)?
- Commissioner Ivy – for “speculative developments” where the end user/occupant of the building is unknown, could the cost of solar be put into some type of escrow account that could be tapped into at a later date? Perhaps the requirement should be that “gas is allowed only for processes that require an open flame” and not allow gas for the heating of air or water?
- Commissioner O’Donnell – wanted clarification that the industrial needs for gas are for high capacity boilers for steam production, and for intensive HVAC systems for clean rooms.

5.4 Climate Action Plan 2.0 Outreach

Staff provided an overview of recent and upcoming outreach and engagement opportunities with the Commission, including:

- Staff has completed a handful of interviews with Fremont residents to gain a deeper understanding of their views, ideas, and concerns.
- Staff has spoken to over 100 community members in community spaces such as the library, senior center, and grocery store about their ideas for a sustainable Fremont.
- Specific surveys for the business sector and for youth have been developed and will be distributed in the coming month.
- Past outreach events include presentations to the League of Women Voters, Tri-City Interfaith Council, Safe Routes to School Task Force, and FIERCE.
- Upcoming outreach includes presentations to the Kiwanis Club, Fremont Chamber of Commerce, and tabling at the Fremont Earth Day, Lam Research Earth Day, and LEAF Earth Day events.

- Internal engagement has included discussions with the City Leadership Team, Human Services Department, Environmental Services Division, and Economic Development Advisory Committee.

Staff also requested the formation of a subcommittee of Commissioners to support the planning and implementation of this CAP 2.0 community workshop, and Commissioners said they would follow up via email on their commitment to a subcommittee.

The meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

APPROVED BY:



Rachel DiFranco
Sustainability Manager