



**MINUTES**  
**Environmental Sustainability Commission**  
**Regular Meeting of March 7, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 4:08 p.m.

**Present:** Richard Godfrey, John Rennels, Paul Kelley, Daniel O'Donnell, Nate Ivy, Shreya Ramachandran, Carolyn Obata

**Absent:** Shiva Swaminathan

**Oral Communications:**

- None

**Approval of Minutes:**

- Special meeting minutes of January 10, 2019. Motion to approve by Commissioner Rennels; second by Commissioner Kelley. Minutes approved unanimously.

**Scheduled Items:**

**5.1 Reappointments**

- Commissioners Rennels moves to re-appoint Commissioner Godfrey as Chair of the Environmental Sustainability Commission. Commissioner O'Donnell seconds. All approve.
- Commissioner Ivy moves to reappoint Commissioner O'Donnell as Vice-Chair of the Environmental Sustainability Commission. Commissioner Kelley seconds. All approve.

**5.2 Staff Updates**

- Carbon Neutrality Resolution passed by City Council on February 19.
- Tesla Electric Patrol Vehicle Pilot Project launched on March 6.
- East Bay Community Energy – Fremont opt-out rate stands at 2.4%.
- FIERCE – students volunteered to sheet mulch with LEAF on February 24.
- Bike/Scooter share program – Contract with Lime cancelled; City is searching for a new provider.
- Microgrid Celebration at Fire Station #6 will be held on April 2.
- Earth Day Festival will be held on April 20.
- BAAQMD electrification study – RFP released March 4; proposals due March 26.
- Acknowledge John Rennels for his work on the Mobility Action Plan.

### **5.3 Commissioner Announcements**

- Shreya Ramachandran
  - Visited India for the “20 Under 20 Youth Award” for young environmental advocates. Featured in local publication.
  - Will record a webinar on wastewater reuse to share with Commission.
- Nate Ivy
  - Sent carbon neutrality resolution and presentation slides to AP Environmental instructors throughout FUSD.
  - Raul Parungao, Associate Superintendent of Business Services at FUSD, has left for a position with the Alameda County Office of Education (ACOE).
- Paul Kelley
  - Described free Harvard online class on Health Effects of Climate Change.
- Richard Godfrey
  - Attending CalPERS meeting on socially responsible investment on March 18.

### **5.4 Climate Action Plan “2.0” Brainstorming**

At this regular meeting, Rachel DiFranco updated the Commission on City Council’s adoption of the Carbon Neutrality Resolution in February and provided an overview of the proposed timeline of the Climate Action Plan “2.0” update process.

CAP Update Proposed Timeline:

- The City has \$100,000 in funding available to assist with the CAP update, of which \$5000 will be spent on a USDN “Innovation Fund” project with HIP investors to assess funding and financing opportunities of CAP measures.
- By spring/summer 2019, staff intends to release an RFP for consultant assistance with the technical and financial analysis of potential CAP actions.
- Through the summer, staff will be conducting community outreach to inform Fremont residents of the CAP the update process and help to identify additional actions to consider. Staff may also decide to bring in a consultant to help with specific elements of stakeholder engagement.
- By fall 2019, staff plans to begin a preliminary draft of CAP “2.0”.

Using the Framework for a Post-Carbon Community that was adopted by City Council, the Commission then brainstormed additional action ideas the City could take to reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions.

Brainstorming Discussion:

- Municipal Actions
  - Streamline permitting and send price signals for electrification to replace natural gas. Highlighting indoor air quality and development impact fees could work.
  - Local ordinance for parking lots to restrict size.

- Partner with Economic Development to work within the framework and market Fremont as a “Green Tech City”.
- Ban gas-powered garden equipment throughout the City due to high emissions and air/noise pollution.
- Ban use of glyphosate (“RoundUp”) and other chemicals in landscaping.
- Energy Actions
  - Measure solar usage on-site vs. amount sent back to grid.
  - Require parking lots to include solar carports.
  - Ensure resilience of power grid in case of disasters.
  - Get rid of fossil-fuel/gas.
- Mobility Actions
  - Host joint CAP update meetings with Planning Commission and Mobility Commission. Schedule work sessions well in advance.
  - Continue making streets safer and bike friendly. Those who walk or bike are not reimbursed for commute mileage. Create program for City employees.
  - Require developers to pay for construction demolition and any associated environmental costs.
- Carbon Sequestration & Restorative Ecology Actions
  - Use mulch instead of glyphosate (“RoundUp”) and other chemicals.
  - Engage in “carbon farming” - applying compost to the soil to help with carbon sequestration (example: [Marin Carbon Project](#)).
  - Analyze capacity of ecological methods to sequester carbon.
  - Prevent maintenance crews from blowing away mulch (leaves, grass clippings, topsoil, etc.) with power tools.
  - Consider requiring contractors to adhere to/participate in Rescape California’s [Landscape Training & Qualification Program](#).
- Green Infrastructure Actions
  - Start a green roof project (45 million sq. ft. of roof space in Fremont).
  - Implement an urban forestry program/initiative (example: [Canopy](#) in Palo Alto).
  - Protect trees during construction/development, especially older, native trees of significance. Issues with overhead utility wires when replacing trees.
  - Plant native trees. Design policy to replace a fallen/removed tree with “x” amount of new trees.
  - Develop tree inventory.
  - Create a “free-cycle” network for plants. Share amongst Fremont.
  - Plant fruit trees in Central Park. Develop food share program.
  - Create volunteer network to monitor heritage trees.
  - Encourage local food production without waste.
  - Consider implementing hands on programs to bring education and awareness to important ecological infrastructure such as the Alameda Creek and tidal marshes (example: Resilient by Design’s [Public Sediment](#) project).

- Elimination of Waste
  - Introduce pilot program for reclaimed materials (example: [UrbanOre](#) in Berkeley)
  - Introduce legislation to regulate/eliminate plastic waste.
  
- Community Outreach
  - Host more [Sustainability Dinner](#) type of events for various age groups where participants can feel like environmental leaders.
  - Partner with local business and home owners willing to demonstrate their climate-friendly buildings.
  - Push the [Fremont Green Challenge](#).
  - Identify underrepresented groups and bring them to the table. Who is vulnerable in Fremont to climate change? Check Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and use Cal-Enviro-Screen
  - Develop a community green awards program to recognize individuals, classrooms, organizations, businesses, etc. for their efforts to improve environmental sustainability.
  - Set goal of 100% climate literate population. Children can influence their households to change behaviors.

Public Comment on item 5.4:

- Ernie Pacheco of Communication Workers of America reported that the Sierra Club California Regional Conservation Committee (CNRCC) passed a [Climate Change Literacy Resolution](#) in 2016 with the goal that by 2030, all high school students would understand the fundamentals of climate literacy, including:
  1. causes of climate change;
  2. its potential for harm;
  3. what is required to avoid climate destabilization;
  4. actions needed to ensure a livable future; and
  5. the key people and institutions involved in implementing those actions.
- Based on State of California adopted goals, the electrification of bus fleets should happen by 2030.

Adjourned at 6:24pm.

APPROVED BY:



Rachel DiFranco  
Sustainability Manager