



MINUTES
Environmental Sustainability Commission
Regular Meeting on September 5, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

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

Absent: None

Oral Communications:

- William Yragui, Mission Peak Conservancy
 - Explained the purpose of Mission Peak Conservancy is to advocate for improved and increased access to multi-use trails in Fremont, and discussed the possibility of the East Bay Greenway Trail.
 - East Bay Greenway:
 - The East Bay Greenway Trail Project currently extends from Oakland to Hayward and is funded by the Alameda County Transportation Commission (<https://www.alamedactc.org/programs-projects/bicycle-and-pedestrian/eastbaygreenway/>).
 - Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) owns a section of land that could enable 1.7 miles of East Bay Greenway trail possible in Fremont from Alameda Creek to Central Park near Mission Creek to extend the East Bay Greenway (<https://fremont.gov/3133/East-Bay-Greenway-Rails-to-Trails-Projec>).
 - The City of Fremont considered purchasing the land from UPRR earlier this year, but withdrew from negotiations.
 - Mission Peak Conservancy feels the City should pursue the purchase of the UPRR land to enable the East Bay Greenway project.

Approval of Minutes:

- Special meeting minutes of June 3, 2019. Motion to approve by Commissioner Rennels; second by Commissioner Obata. Minutes approved unanimously.

Scheduled Items:

5.1 Staff Updates

- The City bikeshare program began rolling out in August through partnership with HOPR. The first deployment is conventional bicycles, which will be followed later by e-bikes and scooters.
- The City received an \$860,000 grant from CalFIRE to conduct a comprehensive

- urban tree inventory and develop an urban forestry master plan. The City has hired one permanent and one temporary Urban Forest Manager to oversee this project.
- The City initiated a new residential collection cart rollout in May to meet the updated standard color theme: black for garbage, blue for recycling, and green for organics/compost.
 - The Bay Area SunShares Program is available through November 15, with discounts for solar PV and EVs being offered to Fremont residents. On Saturday, October 5, the City will host a Residential Solar Workshop, followed by a Solar Homes Tour where interested homeowners can visit other households who have installed solar and other green features to better understand the benefits.
 - The third Niles Canyon Stroll & Roll will take place on Sunday, Sept 22. The City will have a booth promoting sustainability programs and asking attendees to complete the CAP Update Survey.
 - The CAP Update Survey is live at www.fremont.gov/OpenCityHallClimate. So far, a few hundred responses have been received. The City will keep the survey open for several months to try and collect as much feedback as possible, and staff will share results with the Commission at a future meeting.
 - Next steps for CAP update process

5.2 Commissioner Announcements

- Shreya Ramachandran:
 - Brought up the global youth climate action strikes that are being coordinated in the month of September, and shared that she will be collecting signatures at the Niles Canyon Stroll and Roll for participants to pledge their walk/roll in support of the climate.
- John Rennels:
 - Stated his level of happiness with the bicycle infrastructure improvements being made in Fremont to increase the safety of riders.
 - Reminded the Commission of the Green Business recognition event scheduled for the upcoming October 1 City Council meeting.
- Nate Ivy:
 - Discussed how some sidewalks are overgrown with weeds, making it challenging for pedestrians to use those sidewalks safely without having to step into the street. Staff responded that any issues like this can be reported to Code Enforcement through the City's online form.
- Richard Godfrey:
 - Mentioned Stivers Lagoon, where a few months ago the City conducted landscape maintenance that seemed contradictory to the local ecosystem. Fremont Community Services Director Suzanne Wolf has since walked the area with members of the Tri City Ecology Center to discuss possible restoration efforts.
- Paul Kelley:
 - Mentioned the recent Deconstruction Ordinance passed in Palo Alto to enforce salvaging of building materials and the Gas Ban passed in Berkeley to prohibit gas lines in new construction projects.

5.3 Climate Action Plan 2.0 Key Strategies Presentations

Staff presented on the 2019 California Building Code Update, which will become effective January 1, 2019. Fremont must adopt the California Building Code in its entirety as Municipal Code, and cannot make local amendments to the code that would be *less* restrictive than the state code. The City can, however, make revisions that are *more* restrictive so long as City Council finds that those amendments are reasonably necessary due to local climatic, topographical, or geological conditions.

In Fremont, the Building and Fire Departments will recommend the 2019 Building Code (with amendments and/or revisions) to City Council, with a first reading scheduled October 15 and a second reading to occur in November. While some local amendments primarily related to the Fire and Plumbing Codes will be recommended to Council at that time, amendments to the Energy and Green Building Code will require additional analysis by staff and the Commission and will therefore be recommended at a later date.

Staff reviewed with the Commission some of the major changes in the 2019 Building Code as they relate to sustainability, including the following:

- Single-family homes will use about 7% less energy through energy efficiency than under 2016 standards.
- Single-family homes will now require the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems. With the addition of PV, homes will use about 53% less energy than they did under 2016 standards.
- New homes will cost about \$9,500 more to construct, but will save \$19,000 in energy and maintenance costs over 30 years.
- Nonresidential buildings will use about 30% less energy than under 2016 standards, due mainly to lighting upgrades.

Under the 2016 Building Code, Fremont made local amendments to require mandatory solar PV systems in residential construction and more efficient lighting in nonresidential construction. With the changes to the 2019 Code, these “reach codes” Fremont adopted in the last building code cycle will be absorbed into the base code. The additional requirements Fremont adopted for EV charging readiness are still more robust than the 2019 base code requirements, so Fremont’s local amendments for EV readiness will be carried forward.

There are many local jurisdictions adopting reach codes for the 2019 Building Code cycle, and our local CCA East Bay Community Energy is supporting these efforts by offering model code language for all-electric building design and higher levels of EV readiness. In addition, there are opportunities for water efficiency, cool roofs, electric-ready construction, and existing building upgrades.

After reviewing some examples of these with the Commission, staff was asked by the Commission to provide further details on opportunities in the following areas:

- All-electric building design, either as mandatory or as a preferred pathway

- Electric vehicle readiness for most or all parking spaces
- Pre-plumbing for greywater systems
- Water efficiency requirements
- Mandatory solar beyond residential construction, including in parking lots
- Required or readiness for battery storage systems
- Green roof requirements
- “Better” concrete options, such as permeable pavement and low carbon concrete
- Enhanced bike parking requirements
- Enhanced building deconstruction and demolition requirements

A Special ESC meeting will be scheduled on October 17 to further review these options.

Adjourned at 6:36pm.

APPROVED BY:



Rachel DiFranco
Sustainability Manager