



MINUTES
Environmental Sustainability Commission
Regular Meeting of March 3, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Chair Godfrey.

Present: Richard Godfrey, Carolyn Obata, Daniel O'Donnell, Nina Moore, John Rennels, Hetav Gore

Absent: Shiva Swaminathan

Oral Communications: None.

Approval of Minutes: Meeting minutes of December 10, 2015 – Approved unanimously.

Scheduled Items:

5.1 Nominate and Appoint Chair and Vice Chair of the Environmental Sustainability Commission:

According to Fremont Municipal Code, at the first regular meeting held during a calendar year, the Commission is to elect a chairman and a vice-chairman for such calendar year.

- Commissioner Rennels nominated current Chair Godfrey to continue his roll as Chair of the Commission, and Commissioner Gore seconded the motion. The nomination was approved unanimously.
- Commissioner Rennels nominated Commissioner O'Donnell as Vice Chair of the Commission, and Commissioner Moore seconded the nomination. The nomination was approved unanimously.

5.2 Presentation from City of Fremont Building Official David Chung, or his designee, on sustainability-related code changes in California Building Code Update:

In response to the Commission identifying solar photovoltaics, electric vehicles, and energy efficiency as priority areas of focus, staff invited City of Fremont Building Plan Check Manager David Basinger to present on the California Building Code update process, with a focus on opportunities for increased sustainability measures:

- The current code version that the City of Fremont has adopted is the 2013 CA Building Code. The 2016 CA Building Code is currently being drafted, and will be released in its final version on July 1, 2016. Local jurisdictions will

have the ability to review it at that time and add to or amend it before they adopt it.

- In Fremont, the Building and Fire Departments will recommend the 2016 Building Code (with amendments and/or revisions) to City Council for approval by November, and it will enter into force January 1, 2017.
- The 2016 CA Building Code, and the Energy Code contained therein (Title 24), will increase minimum energy and water efficiency by approximately 15% from the 2013 Building Code.
- There are possibilities for recommending the City to go beyond the minimum standards and adopt “reach codes” under tier 1 or tier 2 “Cal Green” Standards, particularly around energy and water efficiency, solar photovoltaics, and electric vehicle charging requirements for new development. Recommendations for reach codes on sustainability topics can be made as recommendations from the Sustainability Commission to City Council when the 2016 CA Building Code is recommended to Council in the fall.
- The specific details for various reach code options will be published with the 2016 Building Code release on July 1, at which point the Commission can review in further detail.

5.3 Presentation from Fremont City Engineer Hans Larsen, or his designee, on existing and future sustainable transportation policies and programs.

In response to the Commission identifying sustainable transportation as a priority area of focus, staff invited new Public Works Director Hans Larsen, Principle Transportation Engineer Noe Veloso, and Senior Transportation Engineers Sheila Marquises and Rene Dalton to present on existing and planned future policies and programs as they relate to sustainable transportation options. Some of the topics highlighted included:

- Recently passed Alameda County Measure BB provides \$8 Billion for transportation programs, including funding the bicycle-pedestrian bridge in Warm Springs in collaboration with BART, building out the East Bay Greenway, and improving the Alameda Creek Trail.
- Updates are being made to the bicycle and pedestrian master plans, and all pavement maintenance on City streets will include re-striping of bike lanes to 6’ wide with a 3’ buffer between the bike lane and vehicle traffic.
- Fremont submitted a concept paper to the Department of Transportation’s Smart Cities competition that will award \$50 Million to one city in the US for transportation infrastructure. While Fremont has not been selected to move forward in the competition, the concepts put forth in our application related to on-demand transportation, electric vehicle mobility, and complete streets designs will remain key topic areas for Fremont moving forward.
- The City has developed a Vision Zero 2020 policy to significantly reduce fatalities and severe injuries related to traffic incidences. The Vision Zero Action Plan calls for a re-engineering of the City’s transportation systems, enhancing traffic enforcement and education programs, and accelerating the

deployment of crash avoidance technologies in order to promote “Safer Streets, Safer People, and Safer Vehicles.”

5.4 Presentation from Lisa Altieri of Community Climate Solutions showcasing the proposed Fremont Green Challenge online community engagement platform.

At the March 15, 2015 regular Environmental Sustainability Commission meeting, Lisa Altieri of Community Climate Solutions, a Palo-Alto based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, presented on her concept of an online platform called “Go CO2 Free” where residents can commit to saving energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions through a variety of action items. Now, the platform is nearly complete and will be launched at the Fremont Earth Day festival at: www.FremontGreenChallenge.org.

5.5 Presentation from Tom Cosgrove of Clean Energy Associates discussing the possibilities of hosting an employee and resident engagement Green Fair.

Clean Energy Associates, a Berkeley-based firm, provides professional event production services for outdoor green fairs. Tom Cosgrove has been in communication with the management of the Pacific Commons shopping center to host a Green Fair that would engage local clean tech and green product companies to showcase their offerings to the Fremont Community. The event would likely include a solar vendor expo and/or an electric vehicle ride-and-drive component.

5.6 Commission Consideration of recommendation to City Council to support a second annual Niles Canyon Stroll & Roll Event for 2016.

On October 11, 2015, Alameda County Supervisors Richard Valle (District 2) and Scott Haggerty (District 1) jointly organized the first “Niles Canyon Stroll & Roll.” The event showcased a potential multi-use trail through Niles Canyon that would create a paved, 10-foot wide path for pedestrians, bicyclists and possibly equestrians to travel the picturesque canyon. Planned to coincide with the CalTrans closure of Niles Canyon Road (Route 84) for annual maintenance, the event provided vehicle-free access to 6.4 miles of highway between Old Canyon Road in Fremont and Main Street in Sunol for pedestrians and bicyclists. An estimated 10,000 participants attended the event between the hours of 8am and 2pm.

Consistent with the Environmental Sustainability Commission’s duties and responsibilities, which include advising City Council on emerging policy issues related to environmental sustainability and assisting the city with marketing, public education, outreach, and promotion activities related to sustainability, Chair Godfrey proposed that the Commission make a formal recommendation to City Council to support a second annual Niles Canyon Stroll & Roll Event for 2016.

Commissioner Rennels motioned that the Environmental Sustainability Commission make a formal recommendation to City Council to support a second annual Niles Canyon Stroll & Roll Event for 2016. Commissioner O’Donnell seconded the motion. The item was approved unanimously.

5.7 Staff Updates:

Staff updated the Commission on the following items:

- The City of Fremont is planning to participate in a second round of the SunShares residential group solar purchasing in partnership with the Business Council on Climate Change in San Francisco. The program is slated to roll out in the late summer or early fall.
- City owned and operated publicly-accessible electric vehicle charging stations will be installed this year in Downtown Fremont.
- Another round of the California Youth Energy Services program will be offered this summer to Fremont residents, offering them free “Green House Calls” to install energy and water saving devices.
- An Energy Efficiency Workshop will be held at the Fremont Main Library on Tuesday, March 15 from 6:30 – 8pm (FremontEnergy.eventbrite.com)
- “Let’s Go Green Together!” Fremont Earth Day Celebration will take place on Saturday, April 23 at Washington Hospital’s Conrad E. Anderson, M.D. Auditorium from 11am – 3pm (Fremont.gov/EarthDay)

5.8 Commissioner Announcements: None.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

Rachel DiFranco
Sustainability Coordinator