



MINUTES
Environmental Sustainability Commission
Special Meeting of December 10, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m. by Chair Godfrey.

Present: Chair Richard Godfrey, Vice-Chair Shiva Swaminathan, Carolyn Obata, Daniel O'Donnell, Nina Moore, John Rennels, Hetav Gore

Absent: None

Oral Communications:

- Chair Godfrey welcomed new Student Commissioner Hetav Gore to the Commission.
- Owen Shen, Irvington High School student and President of FIERCE gave a brief presentation about the organization, a District-wide high school environmental club that hosted a well-attended Green Summit last year and is currently working with the Silicon Valley Talent Partnership on a mentoring program.
- Fremont Planning Commissioner David Bonaccorsi (speaking as an individual, not as a representative of the Planning Commission) proposed that the Commission make a referral to Council to expand the number of representatives on the ESC, potentially to include a member of the Planning Commission and the Human Relations Commission to act as liaisons between their respective Commissions.

Approval of Minutes: Meeting minutes of September 3, 2015 – Approved unanimously.

Scheduled Items:

5.1 Discuss Priorities for next 12-24 months:

Facilitated by City staff Dan Schoenholz and Rachel DiFranco, the Commission held a brainstorming session to discuss the status of current projects and come up with priorities for the Commission to focus on for the next 12-24 months.

First, each Commissioner had the opportunity to present their thoughts and ideas to the rest of the Commission. The Commission then went through a prioritization process: the list below summarizes the priorities decided upon by the Commission, with the highest priorities listed first:

1. Encourage Sustainable Transportation Options:
 - Focus on transportation demand management programs including carsharing, shuttles, and carpooling to reduce reliance on automobiles.
 - Develop a last mile connection program for the Warm Springs BART Station for both current employees and future residents of the area.
 - Continue to encourage the adoption of electric vehicles and other alternative vehicles and support this with public infrastructure.
 - Increase programming around bicycle safety and improve bicycle infrastructure.
2. Encourage Renewable Energy (Solar) Installations:
 - Develop and launch a second round of a residential solar education and group purchasing program such as East Bay SunShares.
 - Encourage solar in new development projects either on a voluntary basis or through the creation of reach codes
3. Encourage More Sustainable Land Uses:
 - Improve the City’s current policies and programs around trees to encourage a sustainable urban forest that demands less water, increases biodiversity, and acts as a local carbon sink.
 - Encourage local community gardening efforts, water-efficient landscaping, and Bay-Friendly/native plant selection.
4. Encourage Energy and Water Efficiency in Existing Buildings:
 - Increase outreach to home and business owners regarding the availability of rebate programs such as Energy Upgrade California and financing products such as PACE programs for energy and water efficiency in existing buildings.
5. Increase Community Awareness of Sustainability Efforts:
 - Market the Georgetown Prize under the branding of the “Fremont Green Challenge” more widely through public messaging.
6. Encourage Sustainability Education and Practices in Schools:
 - Collaborate with the School District to encourage energy and water efficient facility upgrades as well as deepen public school curriculum that discusses the effect of climate change and local solutions.

Staff will follow up with relevant departments, such as Transportation, Building, and Landscaping, to dive deeper into each of these topics in subsequent ESC meetings.

5.2 Staff Updates:

Staff provided an update on the following topics: Georgetown University Energy Prize quarterly standings, the development of a Fremont Green Challenge residential online platform, the publication of neighborhood-level residential energy usage data maps, the results of the East Bay SunShares program, and the planned deployment of publicly accessible EV charging stations.

5.3 Commissioner Announcements:
None.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rachel DiFranco', written over a horizontal line.

Rachel DiFranco
Sustainability Coordinator