

## **Sustainability Advisory Committee**

### **Meeting Minutes**

March 15, 2023

#### **A. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM

#### **B. ROLL CALL**

Present: Adelita, Catalina, Jake, Mark, Raul, Robert, Rolf

Absent: Liza, Sarah

Staff present: Spencer Bowen

#### **C. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Alan Hirsch: Encourages Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) to discuss the I-80 managed lanes project. Concerned that I-80 project is oversold as fixing congestion. Suspects that it will not fix congestion problems, but rather increase congestion and greenhouse gas emissions. Request to put I-80 project on next SAC agenda, hear from Caltrans representatives, and talk about the project and consequences.

#### **D. MEMBER REPORTS**

Mark: Question: is the Alternative Transportation Plan congruent to what SAC recommended to council on March 4th? Was it pre-existing? If so, why was it not brought up at the last meeting? Expresses general feeling that City sustainability efforts are not well communicated with SAC.

Spencer clarifies that no plan is finalized yet, hopeful that funding recommendations will be congruent with plan. Plan will be finalized by the end of calendar year 2023.

Rolf: There was a tree planting on Arbor Day – March 11<sup>th</sup>. There were about 20 volunteers from Sacramento Valley College Corps. Planted 75 trees despite soggy soil. 1 more tree left to plant to meet CalFire grant target. Planted 50/52 trees in lower income parts of Woodland.

Jake: Pro bono consulting on Cal Fire Grant. Green School Yards program is moving forward. Working on getting an application in partnership with Texas Tree Foundation. Will provide tree plantings and outdoor learning spaces at schools.

Robert: Presentation on ARP funding to council retreat went well. Getting up to speed on Active Transportation Plan. Working on a joint committee meeting with Planning Commission to align planning commission goals.

#### **STAFF REPORTS**

Spencer: Thanks members who attended Council retreat. Appropriate city staff will take SAC recommendations, and bring back substantive recommendations. SAC will then further refine the recommendations, and staff will bring those to City Council. Announcing a save the date for the California Honey Festival on Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup> to support outreach. Waiting for the first draft report outline from Berkeley Public Policy students, they are in information gathering phase – research and

interviews. Civic Fellowship Program application opens this week, it is the City's first summer workforce development program to get people involved in public service. There are 8 total positions throughout the city that run from June – August. No update on zoning plan update yet.

## **E. MINUTES**

1. RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION: Staff recommends that the Sustainability Advisory Committee Approve its meeting minutes from February 15, 2023.

Mark asks a question regarding the public comment from the previous meeting: Was there any follow-up? Asks to receive regular updates on remote participation for meetings.

Spencer clarifies that he reached out via email but did not hear a response.

Jake motions to approve, Adelita seconds, passes unanimously

## **F. PRESENTATIONS**

No presentations.

## **G. BUSINESS ITEMS**

2. RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION: Staff recommends that the Sustainability Advisory Committee discuss and improve its 2023 Work Plan.

Based on SAC feedback, Spencer made updates to draft. The key SAC priorities are:

- 1) ARP funding recommendation to City Council
- 2) CAP reporting, visibility, & implementation
- 3) Preparing for a CAP update, GHG inventory
- 4) Sustainable leadership network in Woodland community
- 5) Continuing public events & outreach

Spencer reviews key changes to the plan: actions & activities merged into tasks, removed things that were accomplished and added activities, and edited for clarity.

Public Comment from Alan Hirsch: recommendation to prioritize implementation of the CAP, noticed a lack of follow through on CAP and urban forest management plan, and to focus on smart tree planting.

Committee discusses urban forest management plan. Mark notes that there are areas in Woodland that lack shade, particularly certain bus stops that could use tree planting. Spencer notes that he is working to find tree planting progress. Mark notes that Berkeley does an annual tree report, and that it is difficult to find that information in Woodland. Expresses that the city can do a better job of presenting these climate and sustainability numbers.

Discussion of how SAC and the City can ease the transition from gasoline powered tools due to the new CARB law banning gasoline powered tools. It is an equity issue, and there is a role that the City and SAC can play in easing the transition, focusing on word of mouth to support education, incentives, or rebates.

Discussion of how urban forestry can be improved given Woodland's limitations – work closely with the City, plant more in parking lots, plant native trees, and plant drought tolerant trees. California Native Plant Society has just started a Yolo chapter, they could help assist with planting native trees.

Spencer notes that there is a feasibility study in the Downtown corridor for bike lanes, and that there may be an opportunity to recommend native trees in the development later on.

Adelita recommends that video use be incorporated in outreach plan.

Adelita motions to approve with addition to review Urban Forestry Management plan, Mark seconds, passes unanimously.

Adelita notes that response to public engagement should be recorded, and publicized.

3. RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION: Staff recommends that the Sustainability Advisory Committee finalize and approve its 2023 meeting schedule.

Jake motions to approve, Robert seconds, passes unanimously.

Public comment from Alan Hirsch: Encourages SAC to put I-80 winding project on long range calendar.

## **H. WORK GROUP UPDATES**

Raul: Gives update on cost-analysis of the City going ultra-green. Per year, it would be approximately \$130, 000 (\$10,800/month). Must consider rising energy costs, and the City's budget constraints. Mark asks how many basic accounts could go to ultra-green, and what would the carbon reduction be? Need to compare the current sources vs. ultra green costs and carbon reduction to determine cost-benefits.

## **I. LONG RANGE CALENDAR**

4. RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION: Staff recommends that the Sustainability Advisory Committee receive the Long Range Calendar for informational purposes only.

Spencer recognizes note from public to bring up I-80 project. Mark notes that the City of Woodland is the largest contributor for total solid waste going into the landfill, requests that a landfill representative speak to SAC to better understand this. Recommends that a representative from the Active Transportation Plan come in, and someone from the Planning Commission. Proposes to hear about the I-80 project in April or May, and the landfill in May. Will send some questions to the city tree people and will decide if a presentation would be beneficial.

## **J. ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.