

Sustainability Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2023

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 6:04 PM.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Adelta, Catalina, Mark, Jake, Robert, Liza

Absent: Rolf, Sara, Raul (resigned)

Staff present: Spencer Bowen

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Alan Hirsch: Asserts that Caltrans has approached cities to sell greenhouse gas emissions as carbon offsets to widen the freeway to meet the VMT mitigation requirements. Presents data projections on traffic congestion with freeway widening and impact on transportation mitigation efforts. Urges SAC to stand up against Caltrans buying out CAPs from cities and put the discussion on the agenda.

D. MEMBER REPORTS

Jake: School district submitted CalFire grant for green schoolyards program – tree planting, outdoor learning sites, and more for schools in most disadvantaged parts of the community.

Liza: Organizing at the district continues, reorganizing after discussion about pesticides. Potential to align pesticide requirements at the City and school district. District staff need support for a similar project to the City's CAP analysis by the Berkeley Public Policy students. Thinking about how to organize more carpooling efforts and build a community around that effort in Woodland.

Catalina: Did outreach at the Honey Festival, had a lot of visitors at the table. Should consider more engagement at the Honey Festival considering its large size. Wants to push outreach for the first Yolo County Community CAP Workshop on June 20th from 6-8pm to get a strong Woodland presence.

Mark: Suggestion to consider appointing a Vice Chair following Raul's resignation and discuss role in reviewing Climate Action Plan following the Berkeley student report.

Robert: Working with California Native Plant Society to set up a new chapter in Yolo and Calusa, there will be more events here.

E. STAFF REPORTS

Spencer: Those who want to continue serving on SAC must reapply by Friday May 19. Thank you to those who helped at the Honey Festival, it was successful in getting supplies out and collecting emails for the newsletter. This Saturday is the annual water-wise landscape tour that begins at City Hall at 8 am. EnviroWoodland will be co-promoting an Earth Day Pledge with CoolDavis. AB 557, which the city officially supports, would make declaring future emergencies to move to remote operations easier and last longer – passed in the assembly, onto the senate. AB 817, which the city also supports, would allow advisory meetings and commissions to meet remotely – still in progress. No updates on comprehensive

zoning update, expected to be complete in Fall. At last night's council meeting, there was a presentation on YoloTD's microtransit "BeeLine" project and a report from the Berkeley students on their CAP analysis. Staff received a funding recommendation for an eventual Woodland Bike Loop. Local road safety plan is out for public comment until June 4th. The Active Transportation Plan will be complete by the end of the calendar year which includes possible bike loops – they received great responses on the community outreach tool. There are multiple next steps to take following the Berkeley student report– suggestion for SAC to put an item on next month's agenda to review and discussion of the next steps to recommend to council.

F. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. SUBJECT: Sustainability General Fund Resources Originally from ARP

RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION: Staff recommends that the SAC receive a report on possible funding allocations and consider a recommendation to the City Council

Spencer provides staff update: Active Transportation Plan will identify low-hanging fruit for projects that enhance bike safety and accessibility. Lays out three options for ARP funding:

- 1) The ATP will be complete by the end of the year and funds could be saved until then to complete the identified projects.
- 2) Save some funds for the ATP identified projects, and then use some funds for a smaller project in the near-term (some ideas include bike racks, storage, and education).
- 3) Not save any funds for the ATP projects and use all the funds for a near-term larger project, or multiple smaller projects.

Robert: Prefers to go with option number 3.

Jake: Prefers to go with option number 1 so that the funding complements the ATP and the community outreach efforts that have been done through that planning process.

Liza: Suggests some small projects to promote biking – a school bike check-in program (example in Davis), and bike boulevards using lower speed limits and traffic calming (examples in Berkeley).

Staff reiterates ARP funding ideas: refreshing bike lanes, traffic calming, painting big stickers on the road "Share the Road", etc. Focusing on fixing what we already have rather than doing new things.

Question – any input from Maria at the Bike Campaign? Spencer: She recommended bike loop, and Bike Campaign applied for the same grant for additional bikes for school programs.

Committee comments:

Woodland needs more education about how to bike safely for bikers and drivers.

East Main St. striping has done a good job of clear directions.

Question: are there any additional funding needs for the Woodland Bike Loop? Spencer: Potential grant funding will cover signage, and promotion (partnering with the Bike Campaign). Another question: When do we need to decide on the ARP funding? Spencer: By the end of next year, but ideally before that.

Adelita mentions that she will share this with the City Council: She saw some children at Target who could not park their bikes due to a lack of bike parking and were not allowed in the store with their bike. Concludes that bike storage is critical.

Question: does this money have to go towards or infrastructure or could it go towards bike safety (like flags)? Spencer clarifies that it is not limited to infrastructure, but the committee has generally decided on bike safety.

Concludes that bike parking and signage is a priority. Brainstorms that next steps would be for Spencer to research details (costs, locations, etc.).

Also requests that Spencer research the school bike check-in system.

Agrees with school bike check-in system because it aligns with previous interest to increase bike use.

Spencer: Asks if there should be a focus on the general downtown corridor? Committee confirms that downtown and surrounding area is of interest for bike parking and bike lanes, and to look at areas for fixing striping. Spencer confirms he will return with a staff report in a month.

Notes that bike parking on parklets could be favorable as it is flexible and they can be easily changed.

Notes that it is also important to consider security around bike parking since bike theft is a concern.

Notes that there should be emphasis on connecting bike routes to local bike shops.

G. WORK GROUP UPDATES

No work group updates.

H. LONG RANGE CALENDAR

1. SUBJECT: Long Range Calendar

RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION: Staff recommends that the SAC receive the Long Range Calendar for informational purposes only.

Spencer reviews long range calendar. Next agenda will be a continued discussion of the ARP funding and a discussion of the Berkeley student report and broader Climate Action Plan.

I. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM.