

**TOWN OF FAIRFAX
CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE (CAC)
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

DATE, TIME, PLACE:

Tuesday, January 16, 2024, 7:00 PM, at the Fairfax Women's Club

CALL TO ORDER

- Chair Timms called the meeting to order at 7.05 pm.

ROLL CALL

- CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Jody Timms (Chair), Joe Hewlings (Vice Chair), Sheryl Shakeshaft, Patrick Costello, Liz Gottlieb,
- CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Bruce Ackerman (Council Liaison, Acting Secretary)
- STAFF: none
- GUESTS: Gabriel Yetnikoff, Neil Krauss

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

- Was read by Vice-Chair Hewlings

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

- Motion to approve the agenda and affidavit of posting (Motion: Costello; second: Shakeshaft). AYES all.

OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC EXPRESSION

- None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 2023 REGULAR MEETING

- Motion to approve; (Motion: Costello, Second: Shakeshaft). AYES All

STAFF UPDATE-SEAN YOURA, CLIMATE ACTION COORDINATOR

- Not present, now attending quarterly – next at March 2024 meeting.

TOWN COUNCIL UPDATE

- Not present due to meeting conflict
- Council passed approval of purchase of EV/Chevy Bolt for Building Official on consent calendar 1.10.24

CHAIR'S REPORT

- Reviewed staff Priority Projects in light of current CAC Annual Action Plan:
 - Chair noted that some priority projects overlap with CAC goals, whereas others do not. Proposed discussing in more detail at the CAC retreat to identify whether any CAC work might expedite deferred projects.

- Noted that any efforts requiring a budget will need to be requested from the Council by March to be able to be budgeted for the next FY. Priority at Retreat is to identify items requiring budget requests.
- Discussed preparation for Annual Retreat/Annual Action Report (progress-to-date on goals, and consider tentative goals for next fiscal year).
 - Chair distributed worksheet and draft report subcommittees for review of progress on goals during this FY. Subcommittees to review and provide input to Chair on additional achievements for inclusion.
 - Chair distributed early draft of FY24-25 annual action plan for subcommittee review and preparation for Annual Retreat.
 - Retreat set for 10am-1pm on Sunday January 21.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES

- Discussed library events: Feb 15, May 15:
 - Shakeshaft distributed flyers for Feb 15 event for distribution by members. Archie Williams High School students will discuss their work and opportunities to engage. Sean Youra will discuss his work for the Town and with the County. Jenny Callaway, District Director for Congressman Jared Huffman will talk about the Congressman's work.
 - It was suggested that this meeting be recorded for accessibility and posterity. Shakeshaft will check with the Library.
 - May 15 is reserved for another presentation; no agenda yet, Shakeshaft requested suggestions for topics.
 - Shakeshaft noted a goal of improving attendance at Library events.
 - Costello asked if any survey of Fairfax residents' climate concerns/priorities had been distributed; Chair said that one was done during the working-up of the Climate Action Plan.
 - Discussion of some type of workshop with a show involving multiple committees/groups/vendors/artists/schools around a topic such as heat pumps, solar, or batteries.
- Update on conversation with AWHHS student and Council Liaison:
 - Shakeshaft and Ackerman met with a student at Archie Williams High School, and discussed ways of getting information to residents on actions they can take. Student noted that Archie has town halls and weekly bulletins in which pertinent information could be distributed.
- Discussed Town Newsletter:
 - Next Town newsletter will include flyer for Feb 15 library event, information on landscape rebates and information on Carbon-Free Homes.
 - Chair mentioned that notice of the Annual Retreat has been included in the Town Newsletter twice, with solicitation for input from residents; no input received to date.
 - Chair requested news items be sent to Staff on an ongoing/regular basis to maintain CAC presence in the Town Newsletter.
- Discussed tabling:
 - Chair requested input on tabling (dates, times, location). Requires further consideration and discussion by CAC.

- Discussed future use of CAC website & social media:
 - Kraus discussed with AWHs student promoting induction stove lending program among students. Discussion of how best to promote the program.
 - Induction stove cooking seminar upcoming, January 27.
<https://allevents.in/santa%20rosa/north-bay-induction-cooking-expo/200025935912038?ref=footer-up-cityhome>

TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVES

- Shakeshaft reported on Orange Outlet pilot program:
 - There is plenty of help out there, the issue is how to get multifamily property owners interested. Two property owners had been contacted but have not responded to a survey or emails from CAC or Staff. Shakeshaft will continue attempts to engage multifamily property owners.
 - In addition to CAC's pilot, Cool the Earth/Carleen Cullen is developing a County pilot (eventually there will be focus groups with property managers, owners and renters); EX Charging in MFH subcommittee meets every two weeks, had presentation by PG&E (primarily for low income complexes).
 - Chair noted that Carleen Cullen had a meeting on December 15 with staff from various towns in Marin, for a lively discussion of multifamily EV chargers. Chair offered to distribute recording to those interested.
- Costello discussed E-Bike Incentive Program:
 - Proposed mirroring CARB strategy (\$1k for regular e-bikes, \$2k for cargo bikes); Discussion of how and whether to apply income threshold and how to verify eligibility (e.g. proof of participation in some low-income program). To be discussed in more detail at the Annual Retreat.
 - Gottlieb noted that TAM is planning an e-bike sharing program around SMART.
- Chair reported on Smart Growth (T-8) high-density housing:
 - CAP calls for support of higher-density transit-oriented housing.
 - Costello met with representative for School Street Plaza owners regarding potential housing development. Raised EV charging, provisions of existing businesses at the Plaza.
- Discussion of public transit low-income fairs:
 - Costello noted that there is now free transit for students and \$1 (instead of \$2) for under-18 and \$1 for seniors.

BUILT ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVES

- Discussion of County's Building Electrification Roadmap
 - County is in process of engaging town councils and compiling a draft (due March 1) of the plan; Town Staff expected to bring to CAC for discussion in March.
- Discussion of Home Energy Audits:
 - Much discussion in the County's Electrification Roadmap workshops of the value of these.

- Discussion of ongoing work to engage local schools on electrification plans; suggestion from Chair to support electrification of schools within Fairfax.

SEQUESTRATION INITIATIVES

- Discussion of Trees:
 - Chair reported that Ray Moritz has provided information on existing trees, and she is seeking a list of town-owned parcels to identify sequestration opportunities.
- Discussion of Water Reduction
 - Yetnikoff is working on waterways: rebates from MMWD for greywater, cash-for-grass (up to \$3/square foot to replace lawns with native plants).

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- CAC Special Meeting / Annual Retreat: January 21, 10-1pm, Women's Club.
- CAC Regular Meetings: February 20, March 19.

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Timms adjourned the meeting at 9.10 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED by Joseph Hewlings, vice-chair.