

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

DATE, TIME, PLACE:

Tuesday, May 18, 2021, 7:00 PM, via Videoconference

PURPOSE OF MEETING:

Regular Monthly Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Chair Vernon called meeting to order.

2. ROLL CALL

- CAC MEMBERS PRESENT: Walt Vernon, Jody Timms, Bruce Ackerman (Mayor), Stephanie Hellman (Vice Mayor), Joanne Lasnier, Chris Lang, Kiki La Porta, David Haskell
- CAC MEMBERS ABSENT: Jennifer Hammond
- GUESTS: Greg Smith (West Marin Climate Action), Rick Hamer, Beth Verdekal, Ben Berto (Dir of Planning for Fairfax), Shoshana Wangerin (EMC), Richard James (EMC), Ande Flower (EMC)

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

- M/S: Lang/Ackerman, Motion to approve the Agenda and Affidavit of Posting
AYES: All

4. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

- *The Fairfax Climate Action Committee acknowledges that we are located on the un-ceded ancestral lands of the Coast Miwok people of present-day Marin County. We honor with gratitude the land itself, and all of its ancestors: past, present, and emerging.*

5. OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC EXPRESSION

- No comments.

6. ELECT NEW CAC SECRETARYP UPDATE

- Mayor Ackerman and Vice Mary Hellman exchanged on the unconventional nature of her serving. Ackerman asked committee if anyone else is willing to step up? No response.
- M/S: Haskell/LaPorta, Motion to elect Hellman as Secretary of CAC.
AYES: All

7. PRESENTATION BY EMC RE HOUSING ELEMENT

- Chair Vernon welcomed the EMC Planning Group and Ben Berto.
- Ben provided background on the state requirements for Housing Element (“HE”):
 - as 1 of 7 mandatory elements of the General Plan.
 - must be updated by law every 6-8 years, now in its 6th cycle.
 - This cycle is controversial the state allocation focus or emphasis is on “high opportunity areas” which are those having good schools, jobs, multimodal transportation.
 - Fairfax allocation is 490, 304 to be in the low, very low and moderate income.
 - Town hired EMC Planning group to lead the effort.
- Ande Flower (EMC) walked through a presentation.
 - EMC looking for our participation as part of their overall outreach strategy and encourages us CAC to share public participation for sharing.
 - Safety Element is “triggered” by this HE update. The Racial Justice one is not.
 - 3 areas of Climate Action Plan identified as particularly relevant to HE update:
 - T-8 Smart Growth Development
 - R1 Building and Appliance Electrification
 - E2 Streamline Permit Process and Provide Tech Assistance.
 - Ben advised they are looking for our input and expertise related to these.
 - What are the existing program gaps in meeting the housing need?
 - Provided data emphasizing the town is “aging” as well as opportunity for housing in certain segments who live / work in Fairfax.
 - Kiki asked if the 490 unit allocation includes the unfulfilled RHNA from prior years? Ben responded that the town build over 90 and the allocation was 61 (although the 90 were not in the assigned income brackets) – town exceeded in lower income segment allocation due to Victory Village. Zoning actions for 5th cycle did not occur. They took an alternate approach and rezone Victory Village. He shared Marin County, a “high resource areas” has an unmet need of 441K housing units.
 - Ben emphasized on the (data slide) point that a large % (over 1/3) of homes in Fairfax were built 1939 or prior when there was no insulation, etc. Much opportunity for retrofit although this does not qualify for new unit (to be counted against the 490). ADU’s and JDU’s do qualify.
 - Mr. James added that most of the housing stock was built before energy codes existed.
 - Chris shared it’s common sense that we don’t have enough water and this should be considered a “constraint”.
 - Ande presented a glimpse of the HE website which will be branded “Fairfax Speaks” and will encourage public participation.
 - Jody asked is there a deliverable for CAC? The response from Ben was: please share best practices, feedback and specifics such as if new buildings should be carbon neutral.

8. CAP SUBCOMMITTEE

- Timms and Joanne presented latest red-lined changes to CAP and captured further minor edits from CAC.
 - Timms highlight that section T-8 includes additional language: “and support new zoning as needed”.
- M/S Lang, LaPorta: Motion to approve CAP and present to town council.
AYES: All

- Regarding upcoming topic discussion of inclusion of CAP in the General Plan. Hellman reminded the group to collect feedback for a CAC agenda topic.
 - Jody shared most of her discussions yield it's not necessary. Ackerman advised it would be a huge project to distribute the CAP sections throughout the General Plan (GP) and suggested talking to Ben Berto and Planning Commissioner Michele Rodriguez. Also raised the possibility of adding legal content to GP to keep the documents separated. Walt said we don't know enough and suggested we get feedback from EMC. Hellman mentioned she had already requested this and will follow up.

9. ENGAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

- May 27th Electrify Your Ride Event hosted by Drive Clean Bay Area - brief update and discussion on how to promote. We have promo fliers and will continue to distribute at Fairfax Farmer's Market. Walt offered to write a blog and post on FB and ND. Beth can no longer post on Next Door.
- Clean Energy Rebate program. Hellman and Vernon presented (via share screen). Group discussion and edits captured. Ackerman will add to CAC list of budget items for May 27 town council budget meeting.
 - M/S Timms, Lang: Motion to approve and present to town council.
AYES: All

10. MINUTES FROM APRIL 20.

- Timms had a minor edit (captured during meeting).
 - M/S Timms, Lang: Motion to approve with change and present to town council.
AYES: All

12. ADJOURNMENT

- Chair Vernon adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED by Stephanie Hellman, Secretary