

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

DATE, TIME, PLACE:

Tuesday, November 16, 2021, 7:00 PM, via Videoconference

PURPOSE OF MEETING:

Regular Monthly Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Chair Vernon called meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

- CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Walt Vernon (Chair), Bruce Ackerman (Council Mayor), Stephanie Hellman (Council Vice-Mayor), Joanne Lasnier (Secretary), Kiki La Porta, Christopher Lang, David Haskell, Jennifer Hammond, Arthur Lueck (Youth Member)
- CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Jody Timms, Mitch Greer

3. 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.*

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

- M/S: Lang/Hellman motion to approve the Agenda
AYES: Vernon, Hellman, Ackerman, Lang, Lasnier, La Porta, Haskell, Hammond

5. OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC EXPRESSION

- N/A

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JULY SPECIAL AND REGULAR MEETINGS, AND OCTOBER REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – LASNIER

- M/S Lang/Hellman – motion to approve July Special and Regular Meetings minutes, and October Regular Meeting Minutes.
AYES: Vernon, Hellman, Ackerman, Lang, Lasnier, La Porta, Haskell, Hammond

7. REPORT FROM INTERIM PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR JONATHON GOLDMAN

Jonathon Goldman could not attend tonight's meeting but provided the following written updates.

MCEP:

- There wasn't a quorum at the October MCEP meeting, so the minutes are not yet available. The agenda for the November 4 MCEP meeting included these items:
 - Update: Resilient Neighborhoods
 - Discussion: Shared Services Contract for Drive Clean Bay Area Campaign
 - Discussion: Draft Countywide EV Readiness Plan
- Jonathon was unable to attend the November 4 meeting due to a conflicting SB 1383 implementation meeting.

TOWN ELECTRIFICATION:

- The Town has solicited quotes from three vendors for replacement of the natural gas heater at the Women's Club with one or more heat pump ductless units. Two have declined to quote and the third is expected shortly. The Town was offered a used inductive cooktop/electric oven and Staff is evaluating it. I have priced alternatives and will determine what to replace the gas range with shortly. Similarly, the gas water heater will be replaced with either a smaller electric unit, or with a storage unit to be heated by one of the ductless HVAC heat pumps.
- Design development for the backbone of an EV vehicle charging system for Town fleet is in development. Plan is to have a recommendation for design and construction as part of the Town's 2022-2023 budget process.
- Have requested contact from fuel vendor for renewable diesel to replace petroleum diesel for Public Works equipment. Nothing to report on that yet.
- Assuming the vendor for Women's Club works out, the Corp Yard has natural gas heaters and one or two very old window air conditioning units – I'm going to try to replace those, too. Pavilion may have to wait until we get the foundation replaced and the seismic structural reinforcement done. Town Hall is another candidate, but I need to get the sanitary sewer lateral replaced first.

STATUS OF SHARED CLIMATE ACTION COORDINATOR

- Jonathon will check on the Sustainability Coordinator hiring.
- Bruce complimented Jonathon's efforts as Interim Public Works Director; particularly the progress on building electrification.
- Kiki re: MCEP – emphasized importance of Fairfax, SA and other Marin jurisdictions working together to support common goals; suggested asking Jonathon to bring that message to MCEP.
- Walt agreed, noting three categories of groups working towards same goals: MCEP (staff people), climate action committees (volunteers), and those elected to office. Coordinating all efforts could have greater impact.
- Stephanie gave oral summary of Jonathon's Town electrification update for benefit of members of the public.
- David noted importance of addressing energy efficiency /weatherization needs of town buildings before proceeding with electrification.
- Bruce: working with Jonathon on an implementation plan for Town electrification, taking above comments into account.
- Kiki: commented that weatherization of buildings should be completed before ordering appliances; effective weatherization could allow purchase of less costly appliances.
- Jody and Chris support going ahead with weatherization and replacement of appliances in parallel.

Public Comment: N/A

8. UPDATE ON TOWN FLEET ORDINANCE – ACKERMAN

- Bruce reported the item should be included on a Town Council Agenda early next year.

9. REVIEW PROPOSED GENERAL OPERATING PRINCIPLES – VERNON

- Walt walked through proposed operating principles/guidelines document with edits from Bruce; applied a few more suggested edits.
- Chris supports the guidelines.
- Kiki asked about process for resolving issues when ad hoc subcommittee members don't all agree: The Climate Action Committee is delegating responsibility for acting to the subcommittees. It is the responsibility of the subcommittees to engage in respectful debate, to make decisions, and to implement. It is not necessary that every decision of every subcommittee be unanimous.
- Bruce brought up example of an ad hoc subcommittee drafting an ordinance or budget proposal for recommendation to Council. Chair would bring those back to full Climate Action Committee for review and approval. Walt agreed the ad hoc subcommittee chairs would be responsible for bringing significant issues to full committee when needed.
- Beth mentioned engagement subcommittee plans to create new branding; this would need approval from all committee members, but subsequent use of the branding for specific communications would not need to be approved by the full committee.
- Walt affirmed his monthly meeting with ad hoc subcommittee chairs would provide opportunity to review current projects and decide what items require approval from full committee members.
- Kiki suggested setting a threshold for proposed budget expenditures by subcommittees; if above the threshold, approval from all members might be required. After discussion, it was decided this wasn't needed; monthly meeting of chairs would address any questions about expenditures.

Public Comment: N/A

- M/S Lang/La Porta to approve the operating guidelines with noted edits.
- AYES: Vernon, Ackerman, Hellman, La Porta, Haskell, Lang, Lasnier, Hammond

10. AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS: *Include YTD accomplishments, focus for remainder of the year, and additional support needed*

- Buildings – Vernon
 - Reviewed Building A3. Some budgeting plans were affected by plans for allocating ARPA funds; all-electric ordinance for new buildings was adopted; some efforts for building upgrades were postponed due to Covid restrictions.
- Transportation – Timms
 - Joanne reported for Jody – two key items that need attention: ask Adam to request the \$4500 from TAM, then recommend Fairfax turn over those funds to Ride and Drive Clean Bay Area to enable them to promote and present three major EV events along with TAM funds from other Marin jurisdictions. Also, there are Marin-wide projects that support several other of our transportation goals, waiting to hear more before we take action on our own.
 - Chris mentioned he's working on process for updating and implementing Fairfax bike/pedestrian in collaboration with Marin Bicycle Coalition
- Engagement – Craig
 - Working on producing 30-second video to run before feature films in Fairfax Theater. Creative team is working on this, annual budget is \$6K. Increasing MCE Deep Green signups is a key opportunity. Arthur will be lead for messaging on Instagram. Walt suggested having Arthur give a demo at December CAC meeting.

- Jennifer suggested sharing information between Resilient Neighborhoods and Climate Action Committee Instagram account.
- Kiki reported on email outreach; want to find a way to push blogs to all email addresses, and encourage community contacts and CAC members to help us add emails to our list.

Public Comment: N/A

11. BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN PLAN: REVIEW AND DISCUSS NEXT STEPS – LANG

- The Fairfax Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan is due for an update (after 5 years); understanding is a current plan is needed to qualify for TAM funding. Suggested reinstating the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee who would work directly with Town Council.
- Re: plan for Fairfax zero-emissions vehicle show (which was canceled), Chris had arranged for San Rafael police to attend and share their E-bike program with Fairfax Police Chief Tabaranza. Also mentioned interest from two FPD officers in E-bike idea; budget available for 3 E-bikes for FPD.
- Chris referred to his proposal submitted to CAC that calls for Netherlands-style bike lane along Broadway and six additional crosswalks from Fairfax Theater to the library. No action to date. Transportation Alternatives of Marin and Marin Bicycle Coalition are helping to fine-tune the proposal. Recommends submitting revised Bike/Ped proposal to Parisi with other ideas.
- Bruce suggested working with Town Council member Chance Cutrano, who is the Council representative to TAM.
- Stephanie commented: TAM funding is normally 2 years out, but they do sometimes have grants that could be applied to a project like this; currently having conversations in the Fairfax community on this topic; noted a broader strategic Ross Valley project that might absorb a Fairfax Bike/Pedestrian plan. Expressed concerns about parked cars reversing into a central bike lane; feels proposal needs more work before considering implementation.
- M/S Lang/La Porta to recommend Town Council reestablish Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee for Fairfax

AYES: Vernon, Ackerman, Hellman, La Porta, Haskell, Hammond, Lang, Lasnier

Public Comment: N/A

- Stephanie and Bruce will take the recommendation forward to Town Staff and Council.

12. ARPA FUNDS FOR WEATHERIZATION/ENERGY UPGRADES FOR LOW- TO MODERATE-INCOME RESIDENTS: DISCUSS AND VOTE ON SUBMITTING RECOMMENDATION TO TOWN COUNCIL – VERNON

- Walt summarized proposal: this is a recommendation to Town Staff to use part of the ARPA funds to help Fairfax residents weatherize and/or partially electrify their homes.
- Chris asked about criteria and process for distribution funds; Walt commented Staff would work that out, and that there are Federal guidelines that will apply.
- Stephanie noted Fairfax has precedent for similar grants to disadvantaged/low-income town residents, which might apply here.
- David suggested option of interest-free loans; noted benefit of upgrading electrical service panel on older building, a safety issue as well as energy-saving. Chris echoed value of electrical panel service upgrades.
- Bruce thinks it's a good idea for Council to consider, sees it as a good general recommendation. Likes David's idea of revolving fund, although that can add complexity to administration. Climate Action Committee

doesn't need to work out details; Council can do that. Noted there are two phases of ARPA funding, and this is one of many ideas for Council to consider.

- Stephanie recommends lowering the \$500K ask and proposing this as a pilot program.
- Committee members agreed to remove the specific dollar amount and the word "grant" from the recommendation text.
- M/S Lang/Haskell to submit edited recommendation to Town Council.

AYES: Vernon, Ackerman, Hellman, La Porta, Haskell, Hammond, Lang, Lasnier

Public Comment: N/A

13. SCHEDULE JANUARY RETREAT – VERNON

- Joanne and Walt will send Doodle Poll to all Climate Action Committee members to help with scheduling retreat.

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Joanne announced plan to step down as Secretary in two months.
- David – re: building electrification subcommittee; it's time to focus again on the resiliency plan for the Fairfax Pavilion.
- Member of the public Frederica Morgan Davis commented on the great number of opportunities available to Fairfax residents who want to get involved in town projects;
- Member of the public Sara Schedler appreciates on Climate Action Committee's dedication, patience, and attention to detail.

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Vernon adjourned the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED by Joanne Lasnier, Secretary