

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

DATE, TIME, PLACE:

Tuesday, September 21, 2021, 7:00 PM, via Videoconference

PURPOSE OF MEETING:

Regular Monthly Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Chair Vernon called meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

- CAC MEMBERS PRESENT: Walt Vernon (Chair), Jody Timms, Stephanie Hellman (Council Vice-Mayor), Joanne Lasnier (Secretary), David Haskell, Kiki La Porta, Christopher Lang, Jennifer Hammond
- CAC MEMBERS ABSENT: Bruce Ackerman (Council Mayor),
- GUESTS: Jonathan Goldman (Fairfax Director of Public Works), Mitch Greer, Laura Vernon, Rick Hamer, Nina Luttinger, Renee Goddard (Council Member), Beth Craig, Arthur Lueck, Anonymous Participant

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

- M/S: Lang/La Porta, Motion to approve the Agenda and Affidavit of Posting with the move of item #6 to end of meeting.
AYES: Vernon, Timms, Hellman, Lang, Lasnier, La Porta, Haskell, Hammond

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

- Rick Hamer - Read from NYT article on carbon footprint of Bitcoin/Cryptocurrency, recommends Fairfax not allow Cryptocurrency within the town.
- Mitch Greer – Responded to Rick’s comments: multiple sides to the Cryptocurrency issue, can share some resources with CAC.

7. MCEP UPDATE – TOWN STAFF

- Jonathan Goldman reported on MCEP meeting: they discussed organic waste and different approaches within Marin to enact requirements of related State Senate bill. Jonathan will plan to attend MCEP meetings as Fairfax representative. Noted that in future, should we hire a San Anselmo-Fairfax Sustainability Coordinator, that person could become MCEP rep for San Anselmo and Fairfax.

8. ARPA PROPOSAL #1: FAIRFAX WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM

- Laura Vernon presented overview of the proposal drafted by Laura and Nina Luttinger with input from representatives from Marin Water. The Program would create a local effort to reduce water demand through grassroots education, outreach, and rebates that dovetail with Marin Water programs. Marin Water supports has written a letter of support and committed ~\$60K in services and supplies should Fairfax implement.
- Kiki La Porta recommended adding more focus on Flume Smart home Water Meters – show how to install and use., perhaps budget to provide them free. Noted that what is measured can be managed.
- Chris Lang suggested adding harvesting golf clubs’ water for recycling, providing reclaimed water for residents to use for irrigation, providing tanks so residents can store reclaimed water.
- David Haskell commented re: implementing the program, how do we best organize ourselves to deliver this plan? Suggested designating people within various organizations such as schools, churches, Chamber of Commerce, other organized groups to as “water warriors.”
- Jody Timms commented that the program is based strongly on volunteers/unpaid people. Need to recruit, train, retain. Asked how will that be managed? What about Sunrise as a partner (summer only), rather than replacing an existing resource?
- Jennifer Hammond asked if audits are in-person or virtual, given COVID-19 concerns. How many Flume Meters are available now? Will there be funding for more if they run out?
- Arthur Lueck asked how water warriors will be recruited? Or are they expecting people to sign up based on online promotions?
- Nina Luttinger responded to comments:
 - She is drafting a letter to Marin Water re: revising format of water bill to provide information that could incentivize customers to conserve more.
 - Re: Flume Meters, proposing to offer additional rebate, if not full cost. Noted that Meadow Club has reduced water usage 47%, Marin Water thinks it’s possible for them to reduce another 10-20%, will pursue this if water program moves forward.
 - Recycled water is being brought to Fairfax now to water redwoods and park lawn
 - Proposing installing rainwater catchments, 5000 gal tanks on Town Hall or at baseball field to harvest water during rainy season and store trucked water when rainwater is used up.
 - Pursuing signage at businesses to encourage customers reduce usage, also encouraging businesses to buy more water/energy efficient appliances.
 - Volunteers will be trained on how to conduct virtual home energy audits, and notes they are effective.
- Laura Vernon commented on recruiting volunteers: important to develop a consistent communications strategy across all channels.

Public comment:

- Beth Craig: Has anyone done a data analysis that would help residents prioritize plants to be watered and suggest replacing with more drought-resistant plants where appropriate? Interested in producing a short video on water conservation to be shown in Fairfax theater. Noted that once messaging is refined, easy to duplicate and spread across many platforms. Noted that with increased scarcity, water seems even more precious.
- Arthur Lueck: Newsletter and website in Fairfax? Can offer ideas about on how to invite visitors to the sites to sign up for newsletters.
- Mitch Greer: Suggested we need an agency of record to manage funds, offered to help.

- CAC comments:
- David supports the proposal and recommends asking for \$200K.
- Chris agrees with David.
- Stephanie – notes it’s an opportunity for Fairfax to take the lead with this idea.
- Chris – suggests asking Town Council to budget for a water tanker, separate from this proposal.
- Jody – currently neutral about the proposal, would like Town Council to review and give feedback on it.
- Stephanie – thinks Sustainable Fairfax would be great for a supporting organization with 501-3c status. Also passed on comments from Bruce, who supports proposal, with the caveat that it needs to be successful in influencing behaviors, and that it would be great to get matching funds.
- Laura and Jennifer agree Sustainable Fairfax could rally around this.
- Kiki – raised concerns about managing a grant of this size. Consider discussing with Sustainable Marin, maybe they could take it on.
- Chris – volunteered to help rebuild Sustainable Fairfax board.
- Jody - asked whether we have the money or have to spend it and get reimbursed. Jonathan Goldman responded - we have it, but need to fully document how we use.
- Chris – mentioned onerous process of managing and documenting how Fed money is used.

Action:

M/S Lang, Haskell - Recommend Town Council designate \$200K ARPA funds to launch Water Conservation Program.

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

ABSTAINS: Timms

9. ARPA PROPOSAL #2: CO-OP TO FUND SOLAR PROJECTS FOR LOW TO MODERATE INCOME RESIDENTS IN THE TOWN OF FAIRFAX

- Deferred until October Regular CAC Meeting; Walt to send out updated proposal.

10. CAC ANNOUNCEMENTS & AND NEW BUSINESS

- Jennifer – Resilient Neighborhoods starts a new Thursday night team this week.
- Joanne – Ride and Drive Clean EV show at College of Marin on September 26
- Walt recapped current successes and expressed appreciation for all who have contributed to CAC
- Kiki noted that we need to review protocols for public comment; also mentioned the need for a clear and efficient process for approving CAC communications and branding.
- Walt offered to attend next engagement subcommittee meeting and bring back ideas.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JULY AND AUGUST REGULAR MEETINGS

- Postponed until October regular CAC meeting; will add minutes for July Special Meeting. Jody noted she has comments on July Regular Meeting minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

- Chair Vernon adjourned the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED by Joanne Lasnier, Secretary