

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

DATE, TIME, PLACE:

Tuesday, April 18, 2023, 7:00 PM, at the Fairfax Women's Club

PURPOSE OF MEETING:

Regular Monthly Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Chair Timms called meeting to order at 7:13 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

- CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Jody Timms (Chair), Joe Hewlings (Vice Chair), Sheryl Shakeshaft, Patrick Costello
- CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Bruce Ackerman (Council, Acting Secretary)
- STAFF: Sean Youra, Climate Action Coordinator; Paul Whang, fellow (by phone)
- GUESTS: Greg Smith, Liz Gottlieb, Neil Kraus

3. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

- Was read by Mr. Hewlings

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

- Motion to approve the agenda and affidavit of posting, with change to the order of items 7 and 8, and items 11 and 12. AYES all

5. OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC EXPRESSION

- None.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 21 REGULAR MEETING

- M/S to approve with minor corrections by Jody; AYES All

7. TOWN COUNCIL LIASON UPDATE – (public comment)

Bruce Ackerman was not present but offered a message in light of heated controversies around housing and tenant rights: “Take care of each other in these challenging times!”

8. STAFF UPDATE –SEAN YOURA, CLIMATE ACTION COORDINATOR

- Sean presented a draft of the 2023-2024 fiscal year Fairfax Climate and Environment town budget and a summary of goals and objectives for the next fiscal year. The CAC members and attendees discussed how certain categories of expenses were reorganized from the prior year and what the priorities were for next year. The goal is to continue discussion so that the budget can be adopted by the town council on May 19th.
- A discussion ensued about a proposed expense of 25K to hire consultants to design a microgrid based at the Pavilion, incorporating battery storage and other resiliency design features. Questioned about the need to spend that much, Sean explained that it was funding carried over from the prior year, and that the task is much more complex than residential installation. Existing solar panels may need to be replaced. Economics,

including rebates and energy usage need to be modeled by the consultant to inform the Town Council and community what the full benefits would be.

- We discussed providing the building inspector with either an electric vehicle or E-bike with funding from the 150K vehicle replacement fund.
- Costs to upgrade the HVAC system at the Women’s Center were discussed.
- We received updates from Paul Wang on the foodware ordinance, recently adopted by the Fairfax Town Council, zero waste initiatives and Take Back Day, which will involve two locations – one at the Fairfax Market for shredding, Ewaste and unused pharmaceuticals, and a second location adjacent to the skate park where mulch and compost is available to the community at no cost.
- Jody Timms clarified that the CAC wants to maintain its website for the time being and agreed with Sean that the 2022-2023 Budget allocation of \$2,400 was more funding than needed.
- A recommendation was made that when practicable, EV acquisitions should mandate bi-directional capability.
- The \$6,000 allocated for a robust CAC film project was not allocated for 2022-2023 fiscal year. The CAC is considering other film projects for 2023-2024 but \$6,000 is probably more than needed.
- The town is moving ahead with 3 EV charging stations and expects rebates eventually to cover the cost.

9. CAC ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 2023-2024

- Jody Timms briefly reviewed “Town Council Goals” as context for the CAC’s Annual Action Plan, 2023-2024. The CAC agreed that Engagement is 1st priority, Transportation is 2nd priority and Built Environment is third. The CAC voted unanimously to Adopt the 2023-2024 Annual Action Plan.

10. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES

- Tabling debrief from March/April tabling at Good Earth. It was noted that we experienced and should expect negative feedback on the Ordinance requiring electrification upgrades when home owners make substantial remodels to homes. We discussed upcoming tabling schedules.
- We proposed that more outreach communication be done through the Town Council newsletter, published every other Tuesday. Joe suggested including more information about rebates in the newsletter. San Anselmo has reported a good response to postings on Next Door.
- Greg asked how we could make public events such as the recent one on April 16, “Saving \$ by Going Electric” (which had only one public attendee) more entertaining/enticing for the public, possibly with games or raffles or other creative ideas.
- We discussed how to promote the upcoming Library event on May 10th, 6:30-7:30.
- Patrick and Neil will coordinate with other community groups for the Fairfax parade, intending to incorporate at least an EV and Ebike and participation from Resilient Neighborhoods and 350Marin.
- Discussed how best to utilize summer intern Katherine Ritter, and how to promote the induction cooktop loaner program.
- Possible collaboration with Sustainable Fairfax for film night at a town venue.

11. BUILT ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVES

- Joe Hewlings reported that the data from a the survey of residents regarding resilience is ready. He mentioned that ascertaining the public’s perspective was a challenge with responses as varies as...we don’t need, it, why spend money on it, to yes, a great idea. The suggestion was made that once the full heat of summer and attendant wild fire threats permeate the community’s consciousness, the idea of resiliency centers may become more popular, and we may offer the survey to the community again in the Fall.

12. TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVES

- Bidirectional chargers discussed; Kurt sent a sample resolution. A suggestion was made and all committee members agreed to recommend the Town Council to include a simple resolution as a consent item. Sean pointed out that this is incorporated in the comprehensive EV and electrified transportation program he is working on.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- As listed on agenda.

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Timms adjourned the meeting at 9:07pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED by Patrick Costello, standing in as Acting Secretary for this meeting