



CITY OF NOVATO
CALIFORNIA

Sustainability Commission

MINUTES

Thursday, February 16, 2023 - 6:00 pm

Novato City Hall, 901 Sherman Avenue, Novato

Chair

Nicole Tai

Vice Chair

Chris Yalonis

Members

Tim Blofeld, Bob Brown, Zach Brownstone, Bryn Ichinaga, and Kolby Gleeson

Staff Liaison

Gretchen Schubeck

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Commission was called to order at 6:03pm.

Commissioners Present: Tim Blofeld, Bob Brown, Kolby Gleeson, Bryn Ichinaga, Nicole Tai, and Chris Yalonis

Staff Present: Gretchen Schubeck, Sustainability Coordinator and Jessica Deakyne, Assistant City Manager

B. APPROVAL OF FINAL AGENDA

Upon a motion of Commissioner Blofeld and second by Commissioner Brown, the Commission voted 6-0-1 to approve the final agenda.

AYES: BLOFELD, BROWN, GLEESON, ICHINAGA, TAI, YALONIS

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: BROWNSTONE

Motion carried.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

D. CONSENT ITEMS

Upon a motion of Commissioner Blofeld and second by Commissioner Gleeson, the Commission voted 6-0-1 to approve the meeting minutes of January 19, 2022.

AYES: BLOFELD, BROWN, GLEESON, ICHINAGA, TAI, YALONIS
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: BROWNSTONE

Motion carried.

E. GENERAL BUSINESS

E.1 Stakeholder Analysis and Community Engagement Strategies

Presentation: Accelerating Equitable Climate Action (*PowerPoint attached*)

- Maria Jaramillo-Botero, Co-Director of Latine Services at North Marin Community Services (NMCS) provided an overview of their Latine Program which includes Climate and Disaster Resilience programs, support for 'Newcomers', and the Promotores program (17 volunteers in Novato/San Rafael and four in West Marin).
- NMCS served 10,579 children, adults, and seniors in 2022, with 78% of this cohort identifying as black, indigenous, or a person of color (BIPOC). Estimated racial composition in Novato is 68% white and 32% non-white.
- NMCS received a grant from the Marin Community Foundation (MCF) to accelerate equitable climate action in Novato in partnership with the City of Novato.
- Maria Albuja Pavon, Climate Action Coordinator for NMCS shared highlights from the mid-year report provided to MCF including collaborations and partnerships, education and outreach efforts, and identification of targeted climate actions.
- In late-summer 2022, NMCS conducted a survey at several schools to learn more about community concerns and priorities related to climate. They received 305 responses.
- NMCS has been partnering with the City on outreach around the gas-powered leaf blower ban and is coordinating a community event for the Leafwood Drive community on climate resilience and disaster preparedness on May 6, 2023. Event collaborators include Marin Wildfire Protection Authority (MWPA), Novato Fire, Novato Police Department and the City's Sustainability Program.
- NMCS has been engaged by MWPA to conduct focus groups on wildfire prevention and is looking forward to partnering with the City on community engagement activities related to the climate action plan update.

Presentation: Stakeholder Analysis Tools

- Coordinator Schubeck gave a presentation on stakeholder analysis and mapping (*PowerPoint attached*).
- In alignment with the duties of the Commission, the Commission's 2022/23 Workplan Goal #4 is to "facilitate community engagement on sustainability and climate-related initiatives". Objective 'a)' of Workplan Goal #4 is to "work with staff to identify community partners and stakeholders (community organizations, faith-based groups, public agencies, community leaders, businesses, etc.) and document current level of engagement on sustainability/climate-related initiatives."
- Coordinator Schubeck gave an overview of the rationale for analyzing stakeholders and the value this work can add to the community engagement process. She provided examples of the various types of internal and external stakeholders, as well as a sample mapping tool that can be used to segment stakeholders based on their influence and interest.

Upon a motion of Commissioner Brown and second by Commissioner Blofeld, the Commission voted 6-0-1 to establish a stakeholder analysis and community

engagement ad-hoc committee and appointed Commissioners Brownstone, Tai, and Yalonis to serve on the Committee.

AYES: BLOFELD, BROWN, GLEESON, ICHINAGA, TAI, YALONIS

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: BROWNSTONE

Motion carried.

E.2 Climate Action Plan Development Timeline

- O'Rourke and Associates provided an initial proposal to update the Climate Action Plan and the proposal is currently being finalized.
- Coordinator Schubeck will provide an update on the timeline at the March meeting.

F. CONTINUING ITEMS

F.1 Discussion on Reach Code Study Session

- Commissioner Brown provided a recap of the study session on *Building Electrification and Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Reach Codes* held at the January Sustainability Commission meeting.
- Commissioner Brown has prepared a draft memo to Council for Commission consideration requesting that the Council reconsider their decision not to adopt the County's model building reach codes.
- Commissioners suggested preparing educational materials on building electrification with information about rebates and incentives (BayREN, IRA, etc.) including indicative net costs for electric appliances.

Public Comment

Silke Valentine

Upon a motion of Commissioner Brown and second by Commissioner Yalonis, the Commission voted 6-0-1 to agendize the consideration of making a recommendation to the City Council to reconsider adopting Marin County's model building reach codes.

AYES: BLOFELD, BROWN, GLEESON, ICHINAGA, TAI, YALONIS

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: BROWNSTONE

Motion carried.

F.2 Revised FY2022-23 Workplan

- Coordinator Schubeck revised the Commission's 2022-23 Workplan to reflect the addition of the building reach codes study session. She also removed references to the climate action plan community workshops since these will be coordinated and facilitated by City staff and not by the Commission.
- Coordinator Schubeck will forward a redlined version to Commissioners.

Upon a motion of Commissioner Blofeld and second by Commissioner Gleeson, the Commission voted 6-0-1 to adopt the revised Sustainability Commission Fiscal Year 2022-23 Workplan.

AYES: BLOFELD, BROWN, GLEESON, ICHINAGA, TAI, YALONIS
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: BROWNSTONE

Motion carried.

F.3 Single-Use Foodware Ordinance

The single-use foodware ordinance is tentatively scheduled to go to Council on March 28, 2023. County staff will be present at the meeting to answer questions.

Public Comment

Silke Valentine

F.4 Sustainability and Climate Action Analysis and Prioritization

Upon a motion of Commissioner Brown and second by Commissioner Blofeld the Commission voted 6-0-1 to establish a sustainability and climate action analysis and prioritization ad-hoc committee and appointed Commissioners Brown, Gleeson, and Yalonis to serve on the Committee.

AYES: BLOFELD, BROWN, GLEESON, ICHINAGA, TAI, YALONIS
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: BROWNSTONE

Motion carried.

G. COMMISSIONER AND STAFF LIAISON REPORTS

G.1 Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Brown: Asked if the City is hosting any Earth Day activities. He will be supporting Sustainable Novato at an Earth Day event at Unity of Marin.

Commissioner Ichinaga: Has been working with other students at San Marin High school to advocate for the installation of electric vehicle charging stations.

Commissioner Gleeson: The Larkspur City Council has opened public comment on the adoption of the County's model building reach codes and will be holding a public workshop on April 19, 2023.

Commissioner Tai: Has submitted an application to the EPA's greenhouse gas reduction fund.

Upon a motion of Commissioner Tai and second by Commissioner Yalonis, the Commission voted 6-0-1 to discuss climate change-related financing and grants at a future meeting.

AYES: BLOFELD, BROWN, GLEESON, ICHINAGA, TAI, YALONIS
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: BROWNSTONE

Motion carried.

G.2 Staff Liaison Reports

Coordinator Schubeck reported that \$114,900 has been earmarked for the City via the Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block grant program. She is currently reviewing requirements and discussing next steps with internal stakeholders.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Tai and second by Commissioner Blofeld, the Commission voted 6-0-1 to adjourn the meeting at 8:04pm

AYES: BLOFELD, BROWN, GLEESON, ICHINAGA, TAI, YALONIS

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: BROWNSTONE

Motion carried.