



**CITY OF NOVATO**  
CALIFORNIA

**Sustainability Commission**

**MINUTES**

**Thursday, June 15, 2023 - 6:00 pm**

Novato City Hall, 901 Sherman Avenue, Novato

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**Chair**

Nicole Tai

**Vice Chair**

Chris Yalonis

**Members**

Tim Blofeld, Bob Brown, Zach Brownstone, Bryn Ichinaga, and Pablo Paster

**Staff Liaison**

Gretchen Schubeck

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**A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The Commission was called to order at 6:00pm.

**Commissioners Present:** Bob Brown, Bryn Ichinaga, Pablo Paster, Nicole Tai, and Chris Yalonis (from 6:06pm)

**Staff Present:** Gretchen Schubeck, Sustainability Coordinator

**B. APPROVAL OF FINAL AGENDA**

*Upon a motion of Commissioner Paster and second by Commissioner Ichinaga, the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the final agenda.*

**AYES: BROWN, ICHINAGA, PASTER, TAI, YALONIS**

**NOES: NONE**

**ABSENT: BLOFELD, BROWNSTONE**

*Motion carried.*

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Silke Valentine

**D. CONSENT ITEMS**

*Upon a motion of Commissioner Paster and second by Commissioner Ichinaga, the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the meeting minutes of May 18, 2023.*

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

*Motion carried.*

## **E. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **E.1 Student Commissioner Transition**

- Commissioner Ichinaga's term will end on June 30, 2023, and she stated that serving as a Commissioner has been a fulfilling experience.
- Commissioner Ichinaga thanked her fellow Commissioners for their support during her time on the Commission and expressed interest in continuing to work with Commissioner Brownstone on the anti-idling campaign at San Marin High School (SMHS).
- Novato High School (NHS) has appointed Dhanya Subramanian, President of NHS Sustainability Club, to represent NHS on the Commission.
- Commissioner Brownstone has indicated that he would like to serve a second term on the Commission and Coordinator Schubeck has reached out to SMHS to confirm his re-appointment.

### **E.2 FY 2023-24 Workplan**

- Coordinator Schubeck presented an overview of the Commission's Purpose and Duties, and proposed several related workplan items for FY 2023-24 (Attachment 1).
- The Commission discussed the proposed workplan items and Coordinator Schubeck will create a draft workplan focused on the items below for further discussion at the July Commission meeting:
  - *Contribute to the development of the Climate Action Plan;*
  - *Recommend priority sustainability and climate action policies and programs to Council for consideration as part of annual planning, goal setting, and budgeting processes;*
  - *Identify funding opportunities to support implementation of priority sustainability and climate action policies and programs; and*
  - *Review the Sustainability Program FY 2023-24 Workplan and 2021 GHG Emissions Inventory.*

### **E.3 Annual Report**

- All Council Commissions, Committees, and Boards are required to prepare and present an Annual Report to the City Council. Chair Tai will prepare the draft FY 2022-23 Annual Report for review by the full Commission.

## **F. CONTINUING ITEMS**

### **F.1 Ad-hoc Committee Update: *Sustainability and Climate Action Analysis and Prioritization***

- No further work has been completed by this ad-hoc committee.

### **F.2 Ad-hoc Committee Update: *Stakeholder Analysis and Community Engagement***

- Coordinator Schubeck will try to identify a volunteer who can complete research and data entry work on the stakeholder list.

## Public Comment

- Silke Valentine

## G. COMMISSIONER AND STAFF LIAISON REPORTS

### G.1 Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Brown noted that the City Council could still consider adopting a green building reach code related to EV infrastructure, as this issue is not part of the City of Berkeley ruling.
- Commissioner Yalonis attended the Novato Art & Wine Festival and suggested that perhaps the Commission could have a table at the 2024 event.
- Commissioner Tai continues to work on issues related to construction and demolition waste recovery and recycling.

### G.2 Staff Liaison Reports

- Coordinator Schubeck noted that the 9th Circuit ruling (*California Restaurant Association v. City of Berkeley*) will likely delay an informational item on green building reach codes being presented to the City Council. She also noted that the City's Chief Building Official has resigned, and that the position will be filled by a consultant until a replacement is found.

## H. ADJOURNMENT

***Upon a motion by Commissioner Brown and second by Commissioner Yalonis, the Commission voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:13pm***

**AYES: BROWN, ICHINAGA, PÄSTER, TAI, YALONIS**

**NOES: NONE**

**ABSENT: BLOFELD, BROWNSTONE**

***Motion carried.***