



CITY OF NOVATO
CALIFORNIA

Sustainability Commission

MINUTES

Thursday, August 17, 2023 - 6:00 pm

Novato City Hall, 901 Sherman Avenue, Novato

Chair

Bob Brown

Vice Chair

Chris Yalonis

Members

Tim Blofeld, Bob Brown, Zach Brownstone, Pablo Paster, and Dhanya Subramanian

Staff Liaison

Gretchen Schubeck

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Commission was called to order at 6:02pm.

Commissioners Present: Tim Blofeld, Pablo Paster, Dhanya Subramanian, and Chris Yalonis (Vice Chair)

Staff Present: Jessica Deakyne (Assistant City Manager), Steve Marshall (Deputy Director, Community Development), Gretchen Schubeck (Sustainability Coordinator), Petr Skala (Associate Engineer)

B. APPROVAL OF FINAL AGENDA

Upon a motion of Commissioner Blofeld and second by Commissioner Subramanian, the Commission voted 4-0-3 to approve the final agenda.

AYES: BLOFELD, PASTER, SUBRAMANIAN, YALONIS

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: BROWN, BROWNSTONE, TAI

Motion carried.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

D. CONSENT ITEMS

Upon a motion of Commissioner Blofeld and second by Commissioner Päster, the Commission voted 4-0-3 to approve the meeting minutes of June 15, 2023, and July 20, 2023.

AYES: BLOFELD, PÄSTER, SUBRAMANIAN, YALONIS

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: BROWN, BROWNSTONE, TAI

Motion carried.

E. GENERAL BUSINESS

E.1 Workshop: Climate Action Plan Update (Transportation)

- Climate Action Plan (CAP) consultant Christine O'Rourke presented an overview of greenhouse gas emissions generated from the transportation sector in Novato (PowerPoint attached). Transportation, mostly from passenger vehicles, accounts for approx. 63% of Novato's emissions.
- Following the presentation, Commissioners and members of the public were invited to join one of four topic-specific tables to review a set of draft transportation-related actions for potential inclusion in the updated CAP.
- Tables one, two, and three focused on community actions and table four on municipal actions. Topics included: 1) Electric Vehicles; 2) Bicycling and Micromobility, Walking, Public Transit, and Safe Routes to Schools; 3) Smart Growth, Employee Trip Reduction, Parking, and Traffic System Management and Idling; and 4) Employee Commute, Landscape Equipment, Fleet Vehicles, and Fleet Fuel and Idling.
- The 26 workshop participants (attendee list attached) reviewed the proposed actions and discussed whether to keep the action as proposed, or to modify. There was also an opportunity to propose new actions.
- A spokesperson for each table shared feedback to the full group and the CAP consultant and City staff will curate recommended changes/additions and present revised actions at the September 21, 2023, Commission meeting.

Public Comment

Zoe Reckas
Ingrid Ojeda

F. CONTINUING ITEMS

F.1 Adopt Draft FY 2023-24 Sustainability Commission Workplan

Coordinator Schubeck presented the revised draft FY 2023-24 Workplan based on feedback received from Commissioners at the July 2023 meeting.

Upon a motion of Commissioner Blofeld and second by Commissioner Päster, the Commission voted 4-0-3 to approve the draft FY 2023-24 Sustainability Commission Workplan and forward to the City Council for review and adoption.

AYES: BLOFELD, PÄSTER, SUBRAMANIAN, YALONIS

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: BROWN, BROWNSTONE, TAI

Motion carried.

F.2 Review and Adopt FY 2022-23 Annual Report

Upon a motion of Commissioner Päster and second by Commissioner Subramanian, the Commission voted 4-0-3 to adopt the Commission's FY 2023-23 Annual Report and forward to the City Council for review and filing.

AYES: BLOFELD, PÄSTER, SUBRAMANIAN, YALONIS

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: BROWN, BROWNSTONE, TAI

Motion carried.

F.3 Appoint Commissioners to Ad-Hoc Funding Sub-Committee

Upon a motion of Commissioner Blofeld and second by Commissioner Subramanian, the Commission voted 4-0-3 to appoint Commissioners Päster, Tai, and Yalonis to the ad-hoc funding sub-committee.

AYES: BLOFELD, PÄSTER, SUBRAMANIAN, YALONIS

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: BROWN, BROWNSTONE, TAI

Motion carried.

G. COMMISSIONER AND STAFF LIAISON REPORTS

G.1 Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Päster noted that he has friends in a number of communities that have been impacted by wildfires in California and now also by the devastating wildfire in Lahaina.

G.2 Staff Liaison Reports

- Coordinator Schubeck shared that the Marin Wildfire Protection Authority has commenced work on the Greater Novato Shaded Fuel Break Project. She also noted that Novato Fire District has a matching grant program available to Novato residents for both vegetation removal and home hardening to reduce fire risk.
- Coordinator Schubeck shared that the City's Planning Division is preparing an RFP for the preparation of an Adaptation Strategy for Novato.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Päster and second by Commissioner Blofeld, the Commission voted 4-0-3 to adjourn the meeting at 8:09pm.

AYES: BLOFELD, PÄSTER, SUBRAMANIAN, YALONIS

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: BROWN, BROWNSTONE, TAI

Motion carried.