



CITY OF NOVATO
CALIFORNIA

Sustainability Commission

MINUTES

Thursday, September 21, 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 6:06pm.

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

Staff Present: Gretchen Schubeck, Sustainability Coordinator

B. APPROVAL OF FINAL AGENDA

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

AYES: BLOFELD, BROWN, PASTER, SUBRAMANIAN, BROWN, TAI, YALONIS

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: BROWNSTONE

Motion carried.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

Silke Valentine

D. CONSENT ITEMS

Upon a motion of Commissioner Blofeld and second by Commissioner Subramanian, the Commission voted 6-0-1 to approve the meeting minutes of August 17, 2023.

AYES: BLOFELD, BROWN, PÄSTER, SUBRAMANIAN, BROWN, TAI, YALONIS

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: BROWNSTONE

Motion carried.

E. GENERAL BUSINESS

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

- Climate Action Plan (CAP) consultant Christine O'Rourke presented an overview of greenhouse gas emissions generated from the energy sector in Novato (PowerPoint attached). The built environment (both residential and commercial buildings) accounts for approx. 32% of Novato's emissions, with 27% of these coming from natural gas use.
- 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 energy-related actions for potential inclusion in the updated CAP.
- 14 community members, 6 Commissioners, and two staff 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.
- Tables one, two, and three focused on community actions and table four on municipal actions. Topics included: 1) Building Electrification; 2) Renewable Energy Generation & Storage, Clean Electricity, and Innovative Technologies; 3) Energy Efficiency, Energy Audits, Cool Pavement & Roofs, and Low-Carbon Concrete; and 4) Permitting & Technical Assistance, Clean Energy & Building Electrification, Outdoor Lighting, and Energy Efficiency & Conservation.
- 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 proposed actions at the October 19, 2023, Commission meeting.

Public Comment

Kellen Dammann

F. CONTINUING ITEMS

F.1 Review and Provide Feedback on Revised Proposed Climate Action Plan Transportation Actions

- Christine O'Rourke presented an update on revised proposed transportation actions following feedback received at the Sustainability Commission workshop held on August 17, 2023 (PowerPoint attached).
- The proposed actions will be reviewed by City staff, as well as staff from the Transportation Authority of Marin and Marin Transit. There is no further action required by the Commission at this time.

G. COMMISSIONER AND STAFF LIAISON REPORTS

G.1 Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Tai noted that there is a significant amount of grant funding available from the EPA for climate related initiatives.
- Commissioners Yalonis shared that there was an electric vehicle expo in Greenbrae on September 2, 2023.

G.2 Staff Liaison Reports

- Coordinator Schubeck shared that the Commission's FY 2022-23 Annual Report and FY 2023-24 Workplan were presented to the City Council on September 12, 2023 and unanimously approved. Coordinator Schubeck thanked Commissioner Tai (FY 2022-23 Chair) and Commissioner Brown (FY 2023-24 Chair) for attending the meeting.
- Coordinator Schubeck will send out some possible dates for a meeting of the Commission's funding subcommittee.
- The virtual Marin Green Home Tour will be held on October 26, 2023, at 6pm and Coordinator Schubeck will be the emcee. Registration at www.marinegreenhometour.org

H. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Blofeld and second by Commissioner Tai, the Commission voted 6-0-1 to adjourn the meeting at 7:58pm.

AYES: BLOFELD, BROWN, PÄSTER, SUBRAMANIAN, BROWN, TAI, YALONIS

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: BROWNSTONE

Motion carried.