



CITY OF NOVATO
CALIFORNIA

Sustainability Commission

MINUTES

Thursday, April 18, 2024 - 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

Commission Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

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

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

Others Present: Christine O'Rourke, O'Rourke & Associates

B. APPROVAL OF FINAL AGENDA

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

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

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: BROWNSTONE

Motion carried.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

Andy Shrader

D. CONSENT ITEMS

Upon a motion of Commissioner Tai and second by Commissioner Blofeld, the Commission voted 6-0-1 to approve the meeting minutes of February 15, 2024.

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

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: BROWNSTONE

Motion carried.

E. GENERAL BUSINESS

E.1 Presentation – 2022 Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory (PowerPoint and Inventory Report attached)

- Christine O'Rourke presented Novato's 2022 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory
- The majority of local GHG emissions continue to come from the transportation sector (64%) and from natural gas used in buildings (28%)
- Focusing on the transportation and built environment sectors present the most significant opportunity for emissions reductions in Novato
- Local emissions are down 31%, compared to 2005 levels and 18%, compared to 1990 levels. The state goal is a 40% reduction in emissions by 2030, compared to 1990 levels

Public Comment

David Tetta
Andy Shrader

Upon a motion of Commissioner Yalonis and second by Commissioner Subramanian, the Commission voted 6-0-1 to receive the presentation on Novato's 2022 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory.

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

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: BROWNSTONE

Commissioner Tai left the meeting

E.2 Presentation – Novato Unified School District Electrification Resolution (PowerPoint attached)

- Commissioner Subramanian gave a presentation on her recent work with another student (Noela De Frenza) on a proposed resolution for Novato Unified School District (NUSD) to electrify their fleet, buildings, and landscape equipment
- The proposed resolution was presented to the NUSD Board on April 2, 2024 and was unanimously adopted

Public Comment

Andy Shrader
David Tetta

F. CONTINUING ITEMS

F.1 Review FY 2023/24 Workplan Progress and Discuss FY 2024/25 Goals

This item will be discussed at the May 16, 2024 Commission meeting.

F.2 Subcommittee Updates

- No updates
- Coordinator Schubeck will review Subcommittee appointments and schedule Subcommittee meetings, as needed
- Commissioner Paster volunteered to serve on the Funding Subcommittee

G. COMMISSIONER AND STAFF LIAISON REPORTS

G.1 Commissioner Reports

- Commissioner Blofeld shared that Sustainable Novato will be participating in Unity of Marin's 'Earth Day Appreciation' event on April 20, 2024
- Commissioner Brown noted that the Marin Green Home Tour Planning Committee is struggling to obtain sufficient sponsorship to support the 2024 event
- Commissioner Brown shared that Resilient Neighborhoods Executive Director Tamra Peters has stepped down and a new ED has been appointed
- Commissioner Brown expressed a desire for urgency in prioritizing consideration of an the EV infrastructure reach code
- Commissioner Subramanian shared that the Novato High School (NHS) Sustainability Club will be hosting a Earth Day event on the NHS campus
- Commissioner Paster shared that he has been mentoring STEM students at San Marin High School
- Commissioner Yalonis shared that VenturePad will be hosting Rising Sun's 'Green House Calls' summer cohort at their San Rafael site

F.2 Staff Liaison Reports

- Coordinator Schubeck shared that she is supporting several Earth Day events focused on volunteering including tree planting, litter clean-up and tree care events
- Coordinator Schubeck shared that the City is hosting a compost giveaway on April 20 at the Corp Yard

H. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion of Commissioner Blofeld and second by Commissioner Yalonis, the Commission voted 5-0-2 to adjourn the meeting at 7:35pm.

AYES: BLOFELD, BROWN, PÄSTER, SUBRAMANIAN, YALONIS

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: BROWNSTONE, TAI

Motion carried