



La Mesa Environmental Sustainability Commission

Minutes of a Regular Meeting

Date: April 15, 2024, 6:00 p.m.
Location: City Manager's Conference Room, 8130 Allison Avenue
La Mesa, California

Present: Chair Richard Williams
Vice Chair Mary Nooristani
Commissioner Stephen Grooms
Commissioner Jean-Guillaume Lonjaret
Commissioner Dasmine McFarlin
Commissioner Barbara Shustek

Absent: Commissioner Michael Bourton

Staff: Commissioner Brianna Coston
Commissioner Barbara Dagman
Commissioner Christina Potter
Environmental Program Manager Hilary Ego
Environmental Analyst Serena Lee

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Ricky Williams called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

1.1 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

2. **ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

3. **PRESENTATION**

3.1 **La Mesa Boulevard Complete Streets Segment 2 Presentation**

Mike Kinnard, Engineering Project Manager at the City of La Mesa, presented the La Mesa Boulevard Complete Streets Segment 2 presentation and requested feedback and comments from the Environmental Sustainability Commission.

The presentation included an overview of the project, timeline, public outreach and engagement, top responses and challenges and things the community would like to see, traffic data, collision hotspots, addressing safety, and design and planning options.

Brianna Coston asked about the new HAWK signal installation and the reason for location selection. Mike responded it was based on safety.

Mary Nooristani stated that she has worked on cost-benefit analysis for similar projects and the benefits for projects like this is amazing and followed up by asking how the locations were chosen. Mike responded that it's also based on volumes. Mary asked if there is funding for adoption after the plan is complete. Mike responded that there currently isn't funding, but the next step is to take this plan and apply for grants for design then construction.

Jean Guillaume Lonjaret asked if MTS is involved. Mike responded there are areas for transit access and that they have been in contact with MTS about the project.

Ricky Williams thanked Mike for the presentation and also expressed gratitude for focusing on a project that is away from the Downtown Village and taking community members to key places. Ricky asked if there are more opportunities for additional traffic calming features and Mike responded that they are looking at strategic places and Ricky recommended an additional location on the map. Ricky stated that working with Caltrans is challenging and appreciates seeing the options for the 2 way bike way and it would be great to add the 2 way bike lane for consideration for the 4th segment, helping to call out the Grossmont Trolley Station.

Barbara Shustek asked about pedestrian walkways. Mike responded that his colleague will be coming to the next meeting to present the La Mesa Bike and Sidewalk Project.

Jean-Guillaume asked about parking spaces that will increase as part of this project. Mike responded that since the area will be a mixed-use zone, more parking is to be added.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS – (TOTAL TIME – 15 MINUTES)

NOTE: In accordance with state law, an item not scheduled on the agenda may be brought forward by the general public for comment; however, the Environmental Sustainability Commission will not be able to discuss or take any

action on the item at this meeting. If appropriate, the item will be referred to Staff or placed on a future agenda.

Public Comment from Mairs Ryan: Thank you for your work on the Commission because we are all busy; there are two items: most of last year the video was available and didn't see it for the last meeting. And second she appreciated the lively discussion about why things don't get done at the last Commission meeting and perhaps an ad-hoc subcommittee on the bi-laws can be created, as this seems to be removed from the Climate Emergency and also her participation with an advocacy group.

5. **CONFLICT DISCLOSURES**

6. **CURRENT BUSINESS**

6.1 **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 18, 2024
REGULAR MEETING**

No comments or edits for the March 18, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes.

**Resolution No. Approve the minutes from the March 18, 2024
Environmental Sustainability Commission Regular Meeting**

Moved by Commissioner Lonjaret

Seconded by Commissioner Grooms

Motion Approved

6.2 **DISCUSSION OF THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE AND EQUITY
AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE**

Climate Action Plan Update and Equity Ad Hoc Subcommittee expires
May 2024

Mary Nooristani and Barbara Shustek stated the ad hoc subcommittee met and discussed how co-benefits will be built into the Climate Action Plan Update and that since the measures and actions are designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the co-benefits will address the things not directly related to a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Hilary Ego stated an update on the Climate Action Plan Update process and that staff continue to work on editing the draft measures and actions and that the expected timeline is to complete the draft during the Summer, release the draft for public comment end of August/early September,

conduct a community workshop and present to Commissions in September, and present to City Council in October.

6.3 DISCUSSION OF THE BUILDING EMISSIONS REDUCTION AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE

Building Emissions Reduction Ad Hoc Subcommittee expires May 2024

Jean-Guillaume Lonjaret stated the ad hoc subcommittee met and discussed activities occurring at the State level in which the latest plot twist is that building electrification is drafted in the new Green Building Code cycle. With building electrification looking good, and we will have to wait and see what is finalized. And that City staff met with the Statewide Energy Reach Code Program staff to discussion options for La Mesa, and that there is very limited time to adopt a reach code before the next Green Building Code cycle. Therefore the subcommittee is interested in focusing efforts on education and specific equipment installations.

Public Comment from Mairs Ryan: stated that existing buildings will still be around.

Ricky Williams opened it up for discussion.

Barbara Dagman asked if there are incentives for building electrification. Hilary responded that there are various programs being developed.

Ricky Williams asked which Tier the City adopted the Green Building Code. Hilary responded that she will find out from Building staff.

6.4 DISCUSSION OF THE BUILDING EMISSIONS REDUCTION FOR EXISTING BUILDING STOCK

Building Emissions Reduction for Existing Building Stock Ad Hoc Subcommittee expires June 2024

Stephen Grooms and Barbara Shustek stated that the ad hoc subcommittee met and discussed ideas for education for homeowners who are looking to replace equipment in their homes, including a Healthy Homes expo that could feature appliances, rebate and incentive program information, vendors, partners, electricians, and more.

Public Comment from Mairs Ryan: stated that heat pump information and incentives is important to provide.

Mary Nooristani stated to consider utilizing existing outreach channels and to pair with existing events.

Barbara Dagman stated an idea to expand the home water efficient landscaping tours and host home tours showing electric appliances.

Ricky Williams stated that these are great ideas and to also consider partnering with existing regional organizations.

6.5 DISCUSSION OF THE GRANT ASSISTANCE AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE

Grant Assistance Ad Hoc Subcommittee expires April 2024

Hilary Ego stated that part of the ad hoc subcommittee met and discussed recent grant applications and how feedback from ad hoc subcommittee members was very helpful.

Mary Nooristani stated that City staff continue to work on identifying and applying for grants.

Hilary Ego shared a regional tool that the San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative created to track and share grant opportunities for climate action.

6.6 DISCUSSION OF THE CREATION OF NEW AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEES

Public Comment from Mark Gracyk: stated to celebrate the wins that this Environmental Sustainability Commission accomplishes. He continued to expand upon after a discussion about electric and diesel powered lawn mower options for Harry Griffen Park at the April meeting, he went back to Helix Water District and worked on a letter about the purchase of lawn mower equipment; and Harry Griffen Park is a JPA and that the Commission continues to make an impact and to celebrate the small wins.

Ricky Williams opened the agenda item for discussion.

Brianna Coston stated that she is also part of the Community Services Commission and saw the electric landscaping tools that Public Works uses in parks.

Hilary Ego stated at the April 9, 2024 City Council meeting, Councilmember Shu created a Council initiated agenda item that resulted in a motion and approval for the Environmental Sustainability Commission to provide recommendations for electric landscape equipment and that this opens up the opportunity for the Commission to create an ad hoc subcommittee to work on this Council Direction and Stephen Grooms stated his interest in creating an ad hoc subcommittee.

Resolution No. To vote on the creation of the Landscape Equipment Ad Hoc Subcommittee

Moved by Chair Williams

Seconded by Commissioner Shustek

Recommended Motion: To vote on the creation of the Landscape Equipment Ad Hoc Subcommittee for 3 months comprised of Commissioners Williams, Grooms, and Lonjaret with a purpose to conduct research, cost benefit comparison, and purchasing policy recommendation

Motion Approved

7. STAFF AND COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hilary Ego stated updates about the La Mesa Earth Day Fair on April 20, 2024 at MacArthur Park from 11 AM - 3 PM and that City staff are looking for Environmental Sustainability Commission volunteers to assist with the City's Climate Action Plan table and that an email will be sent as a follow up.

Brianna Coston stated that the La Mesa Spring Valley School District is bringing an electric school bus to display at the La Mesa Earth Day Fair.

Serena Lee stated updates about upcoming activities at the Earth Day Fair, household hazardous waste event, community self-serve mulch, and Litter Free La Mesa Community Cleanup on May 11 in the Downtown Village.

Barbara Dagman stated that Councilmember Shu was a guest speaker at the Helix Charter High School Environment Club meeting and encouraged the students to believe in the system.

Jean-Guillaume Lonjaret asked for an update on the single use plastics Council ad hoc subcommittee.

Ricky Williams stated that he listed to a great podcast episode on Climate One called Talk Isn't Cheap on how to talk about climate change with friends and family.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Ricky Williams adjourned the meeting at 8:02 PM.