



La Mesa Environmental Sustainability Commission

Minutes of a Regular Meeting

Date: January 27, 2025, 6:00 p.m.
Location: City Manager's Conference Room, 8130 Allison Avenue
La Mesa, California

Present: Chair Richard Williams
Vice Chair Amanda-Dawn Natalia
Commissioner Dasmine McFarlin
Commissioner Mary Nooristani
Commissioner Jack Sellinger
Commissioner Barbara Shustek

Staff: Commissioner Brianna Coston
Commissioner Christina Potter
Environmental Sustainability Manager Hilary Ego
Environmental Analyst Serena Lee

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Ricky Williams called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

1.1 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

3. **PRESENTATION**

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 Wendy Mahalik stating that for new buildings, the City of San Diego is producing a high-performance reach code similar to the reach code

adopted by the City of Encinitas. La Mesa could consider producing the same. There is an abundance of education-based measures in the Climate Action Plan about building electrification. Some good resources are Clean Tech CA, a State-run program that educates technicians and the Switch is On, a website where people can access current energy information on rebates and equipment. There is a Home Electrification Fair in Encinitas on Saturday, February 22nd brought to the public by Citizens Climate Lobby and co-sponsored by San Diego LEARN.

5. CONFLICT DISCLOSURES

6. CURRENT BUSINESS

6.1 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 16, 2024 REGULAR MEETING

No edits for the December 16, 2024 regular meeting minutes.

Motion: To vote on approving the minutes from the December 16, 2024 Regular Meeting.

Moved by Vice Chair Natalia

Seconded by Commissioner Shustek

Vote: 6-1

Ayes: McFarlin, Natalia, Sellinger, Shustek, Williams

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bourton

Motion Approved

6.2 DISCUSSION OF THE 2025 WORK PLAN AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE

2025 Work Plan ad hoc subcommittee expires January 2025

Ricky Williams stated that there were no major changes to the document and moved through the areas of focus. The first goal focuses on the greatest GHG emissions mainly highlighting actions in transportation and building electrification. The second goal relates to actions that are co-benefit forward and have important outcomes for community well-being. The third goal encompasses items not included in the Climate Action Plan such as the development of new implementation efforts and supporting staff for CAP Updates.

Hilary Ego stated that 1.3 on the work plan, encouraging roundabouts, is now broader to encompass other initiatives.

Amanda-Dawn Natalia stated that there was a duplication of the word “further” on 1.6 c of the work plan and stated that “add best practice research” should be removed from 2.5 of the document. Brianna Coston stated that “commission” was misspelled on the heading.

Ricky Williams stated that the goal would be to vote to approve the 2025 Work Plan. It would go back to City staff for purview. Hilary Ego stated that the Work Plan will be on consent and read through by Council. Hilary Ego will notify the commission if Council makes changes and if the changes are between now and the next commission meeting it will just go to City Council.

Motion: To vote on approving the 2025 Work Plan as drafted pending City review.

Moved by Commissioner Nooristani

Seconded by Commissioner Sellinger

Vote: 6-1

Ayes: McFarlin, Natalia, Sellinger, Shustek, Williams

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bourton

Motion Approved

6.3 DISCUSSION OF 2025 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

Hilary Ego stated that the next commission meeting is scheduled on President’s Day, February 17th, and asked if people are available or not. She stated that she will not be in attendance at the March meeting.

Amanda-Dawn Natalia stated that she would be absent on February 17th. Ricky Williams stated that the commission could reschedule the February meeting to the 24th.

Ricky Williams asked if there are any other dates to change. Hilary Ego stated that July and August meetings have been rescheduled in past years. Brianna Coston stated that no other meetings fall on holidays this year.

Motion: To vote on canceling the February 27 commission meeting and schedule a special meeting on February 24.

Moved by Chair Williams

Seconded by Vice Chair Natalia

Vote: 6-1

Ayes: McFarlin, Natalia, Sellinger, Shustek, Williams

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bourton

Motion Approved

6.4 DISCUSSION OF THE CREATION OF NEW AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEES

Ad Hoc Subcommittees can be created during this time.

Public Comment from Wendy Mahalik stating that there were no public read outs of the work that the Single-Use Plastics Ad Hoc Subcommittee had done at Council. The commission could bring it to Council's attention that the Ad Hoc Subcommittee has been on the ESC's work plan in the past and that they are continuing to work on this issue.

Ricky Williams asked Hilary Ego if the commission should consider creating any new Ad Hoc Subcommittees at this time. Hilary Ego stated the commission is free to create them at this time. Ricky Williams asked if there are specific areas of focus needed. Hilary Ego stated that the CAP team needs help with finalizing and marketing the City's E-bike incentive program. It is currently designed with free community classes happening once a month and an E-bike incentive. This program was discussed about a year ago and it would be important to get community input before the program is launched. There are also many other areas of the CAP to be supported.

Discussion on Single-Use Plastics Subcommittee

Dasmine McFarlin stated being interested in a single-use plastics subcommittee. Hilary Ego stated that there was a community working group established and that the Council direction was to get feedback from stakeholders. A survey was opened in November for restaurants to fill out. The next step is to bring the survey back to the community working group. A subcommittee on plastics may not be needed at this time but there is opportunity for waste reduction. Barbara Shustek asked if there was anyone from council assigned to this community working group currently. Brianna Coston stated that Councilmember Lothian and Councilmember Dillard are assigned to the group. Hilary stated that she attends the working group meetings.

Amanda-Dawn Natalia, Ricky Williams, and Hilary Ego discussed the potential of the single-use plastics committee being sunsetted if Council modifies that section of the work plan. Ricky Williams stated that the commission could sunset the plastic committee and revise it if need be. Hilary Ego stated it would be best to call out the CAP measure in this scenario over the work plan goal.

Discussion on Transportation Subcommittees

After discussion around transportation needs, Ricky Williams stated that there could be two areas of focus. One on CIP and infrastructure components and another focusing on the E-bike incentive program and education.

Mary Nooristani stated interest in working on a variety of the transportation measures, specifically aiming to work alongside Capital Improvement Project (CIP). Hilary Ego stated that she will be meeting with CIP soon and get back to the commission with their current work.

Ricky Williams stated the outcome of the subcommittee could be an approach for the commission to advise on infrastructure projects in the City. Hilary Ego stated the subcommittee would support decisions on roadway or infrastructure improvements. Mary Nooristani asked if anyone wants to join this subcommittee. Ricky Williams stated his interest in joining. Amanda-Dawn Natalia stated her interest in bike and pedestrian safety initiatives. Briana Coston stated that CIP's fiscal year spreadsheet was posted and approved with mobility access, bus shelters improvement, public transportation infrastructure.

Amanda-Dawn Natalia questioned if the E-bike incentive and education program would be a part of the alternative transportation infrastructure recommendations Ad Hoc Subcommittee or if there should be stand-alone committee for the initiative. Ricky Williams stated the commission could have a separate subcommittee to support the development of the application. Hilary Ego stated that City staff could use feedback on the application and other materials created for the program before launching the application in March. The program materials would be ready to go, and the subcommittee would provide feedback from a resident perspective.

Discussion on Building Electrification Subcommittees

Ricky Williams stated that tying building electrification to other regional efforts for existing housing stock analyses might be better suited for next meeting when Michael Bourton is present.

Hilary Ego stated that with the topic of building energy efficiency there is room for education as people are switching out appliances and there are existing resources to direct people towards. She stated that while waiting for Mike Bourton to return, the members of the commission could attend the Electrification Fair in Encinitas from 10:00-1:30 and report back. Jack Sellinger stated members could attend and take notes and pictures. Hilary questioned if any Commissioners were interested in attending the Encinitas Electrification Fair. Ricky Williams and Jack Bourton stated their interest in attending the event. Hilary Ego stated that she would follow up with further information and add it as a discussion topic to the February meeting agenda.

Discussion on Waste Subcommittees

Ricky Williams asked Serena Lee if there is any space to work on food waste reduction and education and asked about Solana Center's work. Serena Lee stated that Solana Center is doing technical site visits, working with businesses to get them into compliance. Education on organic waste is always needed as well.

Amanda-Dawn Natalia stated the importance of having access to green bins in public spaces like the Village. Serena Lee stated that green bins may have been moved from where they are supposed to be located. Hilary Ego stated that the issue of organic bins can be brought up in the Downtown Village Specific Plan meeting. Christina Potter stated that many multi-family properties do not have green bins accessible. Serena Lee stated that every multi-family unit is reported to have one as stated by EDCO. An audit is done to see where the most need is. Ricky Williams stated the potential to survey multi-family homes or outline a process for this that would be helpful to existing work.

Amanda-Dawn Natalia stated the potential for an all-encompassing subcommittee on waste recovery and questioned the food recovery initiatives occurring. Serena Lee stated that the State Law SB 1383 requires large edible food generators such as restaurants, hotels, schools, to donate the largest amount of food they are able to instead of throwing it away. Hilary Ego questioned if there was room in the budget for a presentation to the ESC. Serena Lee stated there was no room in the

budget but that she could handle a presentation on the matter. Amanda-Dawn Natalia stated this would be very helpful.

Discussion on Equity Framework Subcommittee

Hilary Ego stated the opportunity to conduct best practice research and support the work Lainey Bloom (CivicSpark Fellow) is working on for an equity framework recommendation.

Ricky questioned what Lainey Bloom (CivicSpark Fellow) would specifically need support on for an equity framework memo. Brianna Coston questioned if the memo would go to council. Hilary Ego stated the memo could go a couple different ways and that the need of an equity framework would be defined.

Dasmine McFarlin stated interest in joining an equity framework subcommittee. Barbara stated she would join the subcommittee.

Motion: To vote on creating an alternative transportation infrastructure recommendations Ad Hoc Subcommittee with Commissioner Nooristani, Chair Williams, Vice Chair Natalia to sunset in two months.

Moved by Commissioner Nooristani

Seconded by Vice Chair Natalia

Vote: 6-1

Ayes: McFarlin, Natalia, Sellinger, Shustek, Williams

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bourton

Motion Approved

Motion: To vote on creating an ad hoc subcommittee to support the development of the E-bike incentive and education program and application consisting of Chair Williams and Commissioner McFarlin.

Moved by Chair Williams

Seconded by Commissioner McFarlin

Vote: 6-1

Ayes: McFarlin, Natalia, Sellinger, Shustek, Williams

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bourton

Motion Approved

Motion: To vote on creating an ad hoc subcommittee to support the creation of an equity framework with Commissioner Shustek and Commissioner McFarlin.

Moved by Commissioner McFarlin

Seconded by Commissioner Shustek

Vote: 6-1

Ayes: McFarlin, Natalia, Sellinger, Shustek, Williams

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bourton

Motion Approved

7. STAFF AND COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hilary Ego highlighted overarching projects. She stated to save the date of the La Mesa Earth Day Fair on April 19th from 11am-3pm and that the City would appreciate help from commissioners at the event to table at the CAP team table. She stated that CivicSpark Fellows Lainey and Logan will be coordinating volunteers for the Kid Zone and that this can be open to students and other people interested. She stated that commissioners can forward the save the date information to vendors that are interested in tabling at the event. Brianna Coston stated that the school district brought electric school busses last year and that Parkway's environmental club was in attendance, and it could be good for Murray Manor's green team to be there as well.

Hilary Ego stated she is currently working on energy projects for the City, tree education programs with Tree San Diego, expansion of the Green Business Network led by Lainey (CivicSpark Fellow). She stated if the commission knows of any businesses that would be interested in the program to direct them towards the CAP team.

Serena Lee stated that EDCO offered to show a maximum of 10 commission members their materials recovery facility, where recycling is dropped off. This would likely occur on a workday. She also stated the potential for people to visit the facility in Escondido where organics are incinerated in digestors. There was interest for both site visits. She stated she will get potential dates to be sent out.

Serena Lee stated that the first working group meeting for the EV Charging Station Master Plan was held last Thursday, consisting of members from commissions and boards. She stated her gratitude for members joining. There is a survey through survey monkey and an interactive map where pins can be placed for desired locations of EV charging stations, both located on the website.

Hilary Ego stated to please fill the survey out regardless of if people own an EV. Serena Lee stated the master plan is intended for the City to have a top 10 priority list of where grants can be applied. Private property could be supported with the plan and potentially policy. Ricky Williams stated that he attended the meeting and would encourage this to be shared with people that have less involvement with EVs. An outcome of this could be to demystify EVs and make them more approachable. Brianna Coston stated that adding the topic of the type of charger being installed to the survey could be beneficial. Amanda-Dawn Natalia stated the importance of framing the survey as more clearly open to everyone.

Jack Sellinger stated he wanted to understand the infrastructure required for EV chargers and if solar panels are involved. Ricky Williams stated that the process can be extensive with significant infrastructure needed for high voltage. Public street charging can be easier with existing electricity to tap into. Ricky Williams and Hilary Ego stated the potential for EV arcs, which charge EVs with solar panels. Brianna Coston, Jack Sellinger, Ricky Williams and Barbara Shustek stated hurdles in electrical upgrades that are needed and accessibility issues in apartment complexes.

Serena Lee stated that Litter Free La mesa dates have been released with February 22nd as the first event. Last year, 958 pounds of litter was removed and 239 total volunteers showed up. Litter Free La Mesa will transition to the responsibility of the new Community Cleanup Coordinator. Serena Lee stated the City came to the end of their contract with I Love A Clean San Diego for the organic waste program at schools. In 2024, 10,000 students and 500 staff were educated on organics and edible food recovery. Solana Center is now stepping in for edible food recovery work. More clothing swaps and fix-it clinics will be coming soon.

Ricky Williams stated a recommendation of the Climate One podcast and discussed their recent episode on the LA fires. Barbara Shustek and Ricky Williams stated the issue of battery fires and the negative connotations that arise from them.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ricky Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:19 PM.