

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting October 28, 2015 – 7 pm

- A. Call to Order at 7:07 pm. Introductions = Liz Amsden, Charles Brunk, Larry Hoze, Margarito Martinez, Stan Moore, Freddie Ortiz, Steve Crouch.
- B. Public Comments on Items NOT on the agenda (max: 10 minutes, 2 minutes/person) = none

ACTION ITEMS

1. Motion to approve the agenda – moved by Stan, seconded by Margarito, passed unanimously
2. Motion to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2015 meeting – so moved by Stan, seconded by Margarito, passed unanimously
3. Election of new members = tabled until January / Discussion on dates for November and December meetings, decision to meet November 11th and (to be confirmed) probably December 16th.
4. Update on actions taken by the City in the ‘emergency’ of homelessness – currently under discussion as it is a complex issue with all 4 levels of government involved (City, County, State and Federal) and multiple agencies with conflicting jurisdictions and restrictions. Most successful programs start with getting homeless into transitional housing where they can receive help, but many do not want to go and it takes time to develop trust. Recommendation that Olympic Village be designated as affordable housing as a condition of building it.
5. Presentation on new approaches by the LAPD on homelessness – Stan advised that Deputy Chief Bill Murphy (who used to work in the northeast) acknowledged that policing has not worked to resolve the homeless issue and that the police need to work on breaking down the barriers between them and the community. Foot patrols along Figueroa are a start but more cosmetic for the store owners; need to expand them to along Monte Vista and other areas where they need to build bridges. Business for Law Enforcement Northeast Division (BLEND) set up a committee in September which is currently expanding. Medals were given out at City Hall reception last week to Mayor’s Volunteer Corps members, a nascent organization which seems to be duplicating existing efforts. Stan to research – find contacts and further information.
6. Report back on status of Koretz/Krekorian motion on the watershed approach to conservation directed at the DWP/Dept of Sanitation. Motion was referred to Energy & Environment Committee in June and there have been some meetings with the City. Waiting for update from Koretz’ office. Department of Sanitation is proactive but those who approve their budgets are not always so forward-thinking.
7. Discussion on DWP rate increase issues – if granted, need tight oversight of infrastructure improvement. Tabled to next meeting.
8. Discussion on projects previously considered – need mission statement; have some funding for events – water-wise gardening, etc.; Charles talked about water conservation measures, greywater, curb parks, concrete surfaces mitigation and permaculture gardening, use for event early in new year/develop educational materials to post to website with links

9. Discussion on incentives to keep businesses local, improve living wage. Can this offset gentrification? Tabled to next meeting.
10. Vertical farming, community gardens and food resilience in the northeast – very brief discussion due to time limitations – would like to address further.
11. New business – Discussion on dangers of flash flooding in the Arroyo in an El Nino winter; look at printing flyers on the danger and resources available (shelter, supplies, etc.) to distribute to the homeless check with Announced Rebecca Prine of Recyled Resources for the Homelss needs volunteers on Saturday mornings from 8 am to 11 am beginning November 7th to greet people, assess basic needs, locating items in donations storage and providing support in navigating existing resources. Call her at (323) 697-0001 or e-mail her at piratebec@aol.com; Amirah on the HHPNNC board has a friend coming to LA early November with a film and program promoting recycling; revisit in new year to see if can have a stand-alone event or possibly incorporated into another event.
12. Adjournment at 8:03 pm