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**CITY OF SOUTH LAKE TAHOE
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
MEETING AGENDA**

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2009, 4:00 P.M.
City Council Chambers, 1901 Airport Road
South Lake Tahoe, California 96150**

**Mission of the Sustainability
Commission:**

*To create a healthy and sustainable
community for current and future South
Lake Tahoe residents and visitors*

City's Sustainability Vision:

Moving toward a Sustainable Future

Commissioners:

Kirstin Cattell Chairperson	Claire Fortier Vice-Chair
Do Lee	Don Morrill
Juliana Prospero	Tom Wendell
Eric Winford	

South Tahoe Refuse*
South Tahoe Public Utility District*
Southwest Gas*
Sierra Pacific/Nevada Energy*
* non-voting members

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the City's Sustainability Commission regarding any open session item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection during normal business hours at the City Clerk's Office located at the City Administrative Center Front Lobby, 1901 Airport Rd., So. Lake Tahoe, California

PLEASE NOTE: THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS FACILITY WHERE THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION WILL HOLD ITS MEETING IS ACCESSIBLE TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. EVERY REASONABLE EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO ACCOMMODATE ANY PERSON NEEDING SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO ATTEND THIS MEETING; PLEASE CONTACT THE CITY CLERK AT (530) 542-6004 AT LEAST 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING FOR ASSISTANCE.

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

ROLL CALL:

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS:

This is the public's chance to speak on any topic not listed on this agenda. Please keep comments to three (3) minutes (or less). NOTE: In compliance with Government Code Section 54954.3 (Chapter known as the "Brown Act"), Public Communications is that portion of public Commission meetings set aside for members of the public to address the Commission on issues other than scheduled agenda items. In compliance with the Brown Act, the Commission may not deliberate or vote on any matter raised in Public Comments. To ensure compliance with the Brown Act, items requiring discussion or action by the Commission should be scheduled for a future agenda.

ADOPTION OF REGULAR & CONSENT AGENDA:

CONSENT AGENDA:

Item:

- A. Adopt minutes from June 17, 2009 Commission meeting (Item 1 Attachment).

Recommendation: Approve as Submitted

NEW BUSINESS:

Item:

1. Presentation from Mark Rapport, Representative from California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) (www.calpsc.org) regarding efforts to encourage product responsibility to minimize environmental impacts during all phases of the life-cycle of a product, beyond recycling at the disposal phase. Possible action following discussion to support the concept.

Recommendation: Hear presentation and determine appropriate action, if any, to support or not support CPSC's requested action.

2. Discussion by Commissioner Morrill regarding items and issues he would like to Commission consensus for potential future action.

Recommendation: Hear oral report and determine appropriate action, if any to place future items on agenda, or provide other direction.

3. Discuss and review of Commission's Work Program with possible action to schedule upcoming meetings by Work Program topic to facilitate implementation of Work Program.

Recommendation: Discuss, provide direction and possibly take action to facilitate best methods to implement Work Program tasks.

4. Discuss methods to investigate and move forward with implementing a program designed to reduce (and move toward elimination) the use of plastic bags and Styrofoam in the City and place recycling containers in all City buildings and placing information about recycling in vacation home rentals through Property Management Companies (Work Program Principle: Green Infrastructure/ Priority Principle).

Recommendation: Hear report from Commissioner Cattell and discuss appropriate action, if any, to implement recycling methods.

5. Discuss opportunities to meet with Parks & Recreation to identify ways to expand and promote Farmers Markets (Work Program Principle Healthy Local Food Systems/Priority Principle).

Recommendation: Discuss and provide appropriate direction and input to assist Parks and Recreation Department with Farmer's Market efforts.

6. Information from City staff on City's progress for submitting grant to EPA for Climate Showcase Communities Grant and to California Energy Commission Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program.

Recommendation: Hear oral presentation.

COMMISSION REPORTS:

STAFF REPORTS:

ADJOURNMENT:

ITEM 1.

ADOPT MINUTES

City of South Lake Tahoe Sustainability Commission

Meeting Minutes
Meeting Date: June 17, 2009

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

Commission Chair Cattell called the meeting to order at 4:10.

ROLL CALL:

Members present were Commission Chair Kirstin Cattell, Vice-Chair Claire Fortier, Commissioner Do Lee, Commissioner Don Morrill, Commissioner Juliana Prospero, Commissioner Elizabeth Quandt, and Commissioner Eric Winford; City staff Member Nancy Kerry, liaison to the Commission was also present.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

PRESENTATIONS:

A. Presentation by Patricia Hickson on "Planning for Water-Wise Development."

Presentation from Sierra Nevada Alliance, Land Use Program, which work to illustrate the relationship between land use and water. Ms. Hickson presented a power point presentation discussing Stressors to Water (population, inefficient development patters, climate change, snow pack, agricultural and industrial uses). Ms. Hickson shows pictures of undeveloped land compared to developed land, primarily land use was designed in preparation for cars, not for people or water resources.

Low density "looks good," but studies have shown rural development has more significant negative impacts, than high-density development. Looking at coverage from the watershed perspective, high density coverage is better for the environment and water quality than low density. Good growth from a watershed perspective, is where to grow, how to grow, sustainable site planning and integration of wastewater and land use management. Good design includes things where the water acts more like it did when it was in the natural environment.

Preserving open space is a land management strategy. Target growth and target areas of development. The basin has done a lot of work to figure out how to target growth into areas that can accommodate higher density. She also explained that compact development from EPA study is great but also provides the walkability benefits.

Ms. Hickson said a lot of zoning codes were established to protect public health, but didn't consider watershed. Today zoning codes often work against environmental standards and goals. Other planning tools are useful to help conserve environment and develop sustainable growth; community conservation plan. BMPs do not mitigate all of the environmental impacts that should be considered. Conventional site design with

BMPs is not better than Conservation site design. Rather than grid-out parcels, instead use less space, and design the site to function like a natural watershed. That will do more than BMPs. Low impact development, including swales, filter strips and so on will help improve design towards watershed conservation.

Ms. Hickson said improving coordination to include people, planning, and opposition to change is part of the process; the more people you can get involved the better the plan will become. She recommended the Commission get involved in the City's General Plan Update process. Consider how the plan impacts SLT from a watershed perspective; high density rather than spread out. Ms. Hickson also suggested Sustainability Commission might suggest the City include a Water Element in its General Plan update process. Even though a Water Element may be left out those principles are included somewhere in the Plan.

Ms. Hickson suggested the Commissioners Imagine as they read the General Plan, where does this policy send growth? Within or outside the City? What Kind of growth? Separated or integrated commercial? Is it car or pedestrian friendly? Is site design included to encourage low-impact, high density development? Incentivize development? Incentivize mixed-use? Policy power included? Are words like will and shall vs. should and could. Read the Plan and consider whether or not the policy is enforceable.

Ms. Hickson then gave examples of policies and asked Commissioners to offer suggestions to improve those policies. She suggested the Commission look at the SLT General Plan, Tahoe Transportation Plan, CalTrans Transportation Plan, TRPA codes and ordinances and STPUD's codes and any other plans affecting the basin. She also suggested redevelopment as a tool to improve areas, and asked the Commissioners to consider whether it goes far enough to integrate development ideas that ultimately improve the watershed.

Ms. Hickson asked the Commissioners to think about, parking and how parking can provide a buffer between highway and store fronts; the connection between energy and water and we expend a lot of energy pumping our waste water over the summit and the pumping of water to residents, and that ST needs to meter the water consumption; (Commissioners discussed how the metering of water will be implemented). She also asks they consider redeveloping to save the lake, meeting thresholds through redevelopment projects and programs.

Commissioner Morrill said the latest figure for the cost of pumping sewage over the summit is \$1.5 million, which also uses significant energy as well and under the Porter-Cologne Act, Tahoe can not use gray water systems and asked if Ms. Hickson was able to exert any political influence or assistance in this regard, which she responded that they do not.

ADOPTION OF REGULAR & CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion: Commissioner Winford moved to switch the order of the Agenda and move item 6 in front of item 5. Commissioner Prospero seconded the motion. The Motion was unanimously carried.

B. Adopt minutes of previous meetings.

Motion: Commissioner Winford motioned to adopt the minutes of previous meetings; Commissioner Fortier seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously carried.

C. Discussion and possible action to recommend the City Council vote to support local Boy Scout, Miles Swoger's Recycling Hero Award Program.

Commissioner Winford recapped the Eagle Scout Award program. City staff member Kerry mentioned she spoke with City Clerk's office and they suggested this concept go to the City Council for review. Commissioner Winford supported the concept and recognition to people for reducing waste is a good thing. Commission Chair Cattell suggested the Commission shouldn't get too involved other than approving it and suggested the Commission should support these kinds of good ideas. Commissioner Lee asked what is the methodology on how winners are picked, we need more information.

Commissioner Quandt this brings up a good point about having public involvement, this could be one of those ways. If we need further clarification from Council, then it's a good idea. Several Commissioners recommend the Council or Commission be involved in presenting the award.

Motion: Commissioner Winford motioned to support recycling hero program by recommending to the City Council that someone from Commission, City or appointed by Council be present at the ceremony; Commissioner Cattell seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously carried. **Ms. Kerry said she would write the staff report for the July 7, 2009 City Council meeting.**

D. Discussion and possible action led by Commissioner Prosperi to develop Measures of Success, increased accountability and reporting to the public on the Commission's Work Program efforts.

Commissioner Prosperi discussed getting the community more involved in the process as involvement fluctuates between meetings; she suggested the Measures of Success could be in a newsletter or through a website. She asked what the commissioner's thoughts were on these subjects and she informed the Commission she researched what other cities and were doing on tracking success.

Commission Cattell asked if public involvement was in front of actions. Commissioner Quandt said we need buy in at this time and need people to jump in; that the Commission can't do all the themselves.

Commission Cattell asked if while website is getting up and running, agendas are posted and up and running, could they do more to get people involved by pushing the information to the Tribune and other groups and let them know what we're working on

Commissioner Morrill said he had been approached by Tom Wendell who has an hour long show on KTHO to have a talk show and offered to have Commissioners on the show.

Commissioner Lee reminded the Commission that they had discussed last month to have theme-related meetings and that would raise interest and if we all made a commitment to make public outreach ourselves to make one group meeting per month about what we do and how to get involved and encourage involvement. Commissioner Morrill likes themed meetings, but doesn't want to discourage other ideas also.

Commissioner Winford would like to get alerts out to radio and other media first; and have the second step to work on a webpage. Commissioner Cattell said she would take on putting the agendas up on the community calendar and get in touch with mountain news and radio and TV.

Action: Commissioners agreed to email ideas for WebPages, navigation, and content to Commissioners Morrill and Fortier who are working on the WebPages.

E. Report from Commission Morrill on a review of the City's General Plan update and alternatives.

Commissioner Morrill was not able to download the general plan; he was at the last workshop. He reported the "First alternative" of the General Plan was basically a status quo, no change plan. The "Second alternative" focuses on two main centers and the "Third alternative," he reported was preferred by the consultants and was a mixed-used format but still focused on two areas and included the 56-acre project and more commercial space. The Third Plan had a lot of growth opportunities, but Commissioner Morrill reported he believed that growth is hard to see how it could occur. Sustainability was in the policy concepts as reported by Commissioner Morrill, which came from the Sustainability Plan. He also reported there were a lot of things on the Sustainability Plan that the Commission has been talking that did not make it into the document such as the reuse of gray water, but he thought it that would be hard to do since it takes an act of congress to accomplish.

Commissioner Cattell asked how the Commissioner could influence the General Plan and Outcomes to include sustainable practices. Commissioner Morrill thought being in contact with the planners, consultants, and attending workshops were some methods. Commissioner Lee asked if the Commissioners would review the policy concepts and come up with recommendations before next meeting or next workshop.

Action: Commissioner Cattell agreed and by consensus the Commissioners said they would review the General Plan and come up with things they would like to see in the plan update or recommendations they will make for the City Council.

F. Report by Commissioners Winford and Prosperi on their efforts toward drafting a recommended Climate Action Plan.

Commissioner Winford provided a handout to the Commissioners via email and at the meeting. Commissioner Winford started by suggested establishing to collaborate with the College to help prepare the Climate Action Plan. He said if the College would provide students to sift through numbers, would help make the work go much faster.

Commissioner Morrill said he had attempted to reach Julie Booth at the college who runs the Sustainability club, but no response. Other commissioners mentioned Scott Terrill and Kathy Strain as other contacts.

Commissioner Winford asked if the idea is to bring a plan to the City to get an understanding of how much commitment do we have from the City in order to reduce the GHG, before proceeding too much further. Commissioner Fortier agreed and suggested the Commission show the various areas the Council would have to take action on to reach reduction goals; she also said we need to understand how tourism impacts our past emissions, so that we can help identify for the Council the areas we would be looking at so we know what areas they would support and what they would object to.

Commissioner Winford asked staff member Kerry at what point does the Commission go to the Council to get buy in on the GHG reduction plan because she indicated we can get base work done, but need to know the Council supports the process. Staff member Kerry suggested the Commission's report to the City Council on joining ICLEI could include their reasoning about why joining has value in preparing the Climate Action Plan and that in joining the Commission intends to move forward on the preparation of the CAP and thus, if the Council supported joining ICLEI that should provide the Commission understanding of the Council's support for such the program, provided the staff report was very clear on the subject. Commissioner Winford supported that plan and suggested a specific statement in the staff report to Council be made and requested to see a copy before it was submitted to the council.

Action: Commissioners by consensus asked that the report to council include information about why joining ICLEI was important and relative to the preparation of a Climate Action Plan.

G. Discussion of benefits and value of joining ICLEI, lead by Commissioners Winford and Prosperi.

Commissioner Prosperi began the discussion and indicated she had reviewed the website, spoke to other members, and provided a handout to the Commissioners about the benefits of joining ICLEI. She discussed the value of the online weekly trainings with other City Sustainability commissioners in other cities; the value of having access to a coordinator who is very helpful. She reported that the City of Aspen was helpful in understanding what the organization is all about.

Commissioner Prosperi said other cities told her ICLEI was very helpful when they got started on their Climate Action Plan preparation. ICLEI pairs up cities with other ones and there is a contact person to help prepare the Climate Action Plan. Commissioner Quandt asked if there were grant writers to help pay for a sustainability assistance and Commissioner Prosperi thought those were additional fees.

Commissioner Cattell asked if the Commission could do the things ICELI offers before the City joins or will joining greatly facilitate the City being able to get those things done. In other words, she said, is now the right time to join. Commissioner Winford said early on is the right time to join. Especially for using their quantification software, which helps to calculate and inventory and emissions from City government facilities, city fleet vehicles, buildings, and direct/indirect sources. Utilizing their software and assistance, and once we have it we can compare it to ICLEI's list.

Commissioner Lee said that getting the emissions inventory conducted, inexpensively could be done through AmeriCorp and that the Corp has members to conduct some audits; or another program called Vista through AmeriCorp can help as well. Commissioner Prospero said it is a labor intensive effort in collecting the data; and asked if the college could assist through a volunteer effort.

Commissioner Cattell asked if the City has a volunteer for the ICLEI contact and asked staff if we need a motion to make a recommendation to City Council. Staff member Kerry replied a motion is required to make a recommendation to the City Council. Commissioner Winford said if the City joins ICLEI, ICLEI would like the City to commit to reducing green house gases by a certain percentage such as California's minimum by 2020. Commissioner Fortier agreed that it seemed more reasonable to wait to make a specific recommendation for a percentage reduction until we have someone available to do the work.

Commissioner Cattell agreed the membership was of high value for the assistance, software, program officer, on-call resource coordinator to answer all our questions. She asked how labor intensive is the gathering of data an Commissioner Winford responded that it's basically gathering utility bills to get an estimate of what people and city facilities are using. A year is picked and information is gathered from utilities, gas bills, residential, city and commercial. It's a lot of legwork getting the info and entering the information into appropriate software, database entry. Commissioner would like to talk to NV Energy to see if they can provide the SLT energy consumption per businesses or city and residents. Commissioner Cattell suggested asking the ICLEI Program Officer about how other communities did it.

Commissioner Quandt and other commissioners stated that the value for \$600 would be extremely useful to avoid recreating the wheel and get assistance in developing the process.

Motion: Commissioner Fortier motioned to recommend the City Council join ICLEI with the intention of developing a Climate Action Plan, but not commit to a specific reduction in GHG emission reduction until we have more information. Commissioner Quandt seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously carried.

COMMISSION REPORTS:

Commissioner Morrill informed the Commission he attended Tahoe by Tahoe; he said the group was very informed, it was a good experience, it was a relaxed setting on fallen leaf lake owned by the Forest Service, he explained how the commission was formed; he heard about how Tahoe has experienced mega-droughts in the past. He also said he emailed TRPA about the Regional Plan update and that the TRPA wants to include incentives on green building in the Regional Plan. TRPA representative also indicated they wanted to know what the commission was planning on doing towards green building practices and they are willing to come and speak to Commission about where the City might want to go on green building. Commissioner Morrill said he'd like to hear from TRPA sooner rather than later. Commission gave consensus to invite TRPA to come and speak.

Commissioner Quandt announced she is resigning from the Commission because she doesn't feel she has time to commit to the Commission; she feels the Commission is doing good things and would like to stay involved and offered to provide assistance in any way she can and indicated this really was "of big interest" to her. She read her resignation letter to the Commission. Staff member Kerry informed the Commission they City Council would have to appoint a new member and would request the Council do that at the July 7th meeting. Commissioner Quandt asked to have her contact information included in the meeting minutes. *Elizabeth Quandt, Educator and Science Outreach Coordinator; Lake Tahoe Unified School District. 530-543-2371 x 321. Email: bquandt@ltusd.org*

Commissioner Lee indicated that when Commissioner Fortier went to the TRPA regarding Sierra Colina project, to support the project, there was some confusion about whether she was representing the Commission or representing herself and would like to discuss at future meetings about the protocol of Commissioners when they represent the Commission. Commissioners agreed to be clear about when they represent themselves versus the Commission. Commissioner Fortier indicated she was in support of the Sierra Colina project but was very clear at the TRPA meeting she was representing herself, not the Commission.

Commissioner Morrill met with Peter Buess El Dorado County EcoTourism Coordinator and suggested he be invited to let Commission know what they are doing to encourage eco-tourism. And also spoke with Jeff Cowen at TRPA about the steps TRPA is doing to prevent muscle infestation and was willing to come and inform the Commission on TRPA's efforts; Mr. Cowen reported the TRPA is planning to have a sign in each of the three entry points to California on the issue.

Commission Winford asked for consensus on next agenda. Commissioner Cattell asked that they email their suggestions to Commissioner Cattell by the following Friday. Commissioner Lee agreed to having agenda's planned out by a general theme for each meeting. Commissioner Fortier suggested the next meeting be a planning session; consensus was agreed that the next meeting be a planning session on the Work Program.

Commissioner Morrill would like to know if Commissioners by consensus would agree to him speaking at on behalf of commission about gray water and other issues that he would like to have the Commission's support on. Commissioner Fortier asked for additional information and requested he provide additional input at the next meeting.

STAFF REPORTS:

City Staff member Nancy Kerry explained the City Council approved submission of a grant to the Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 (NSP2) program. She explained the grant's focus on "green building," although it is an undefined term by the federal government. She asked Commissioners to spread the word about the program to contractors, sub-contractors, escrow, title and service professionals to seek support for the program through Letters of Commitment.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: Commissioner Winford motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Lee seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m