

# MINUTES

## ENERGY AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE JULY 29, 2009

- CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman McNelly called the meeting to order at 7:31 a.m.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Committee Members Adamson, Avera, Bassett, Buck, Lucero, McCormack, McNelly, Mitchell, Otter, Twineham
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Committee Member Roberts
- PUBLIC PRESENT:** None
- STAFF PRESENT:** Senior Planner Allen, Planning Manager Zelinka, Clerical Support Norton
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Approval of June 17, 2009 minutes were moved to the next regular meeting.

### **INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL:**

Staff introduced Planning Manager Al Zelinka to Committee Members

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

- a) Review and recommend release for further public comment of Draft Topic Areas for the Sustainable Framework for the City of Fullerton (Heather Allen, Senior Planner)

Staff is seeking input from the committee on the 12 topical areas for the Sustainable Plan. The request is to identify areas that the Committee wants to ultimately develop goals, policies and programs around.

Buck – has trouble with the concept of sustainability and how it applies to some of these areas beyond those relating to the natural environment. Sustainability loses its meaning if it covers everything. He does not see health, happiness and human dignity as part of sustainability.

McNelly – set up a priority list of those areas that would have to be sustained. The list would include of water, food, air, housing, jobs, and sanitation. Water ranks the highest, followed by sanitation.

Mitchell – part of the point of working with sustainability is so that we can sustain our community and to be available to the citizens. Maybe some of the infrastructure problems wouldn't be so weighty if people understood what needs to be in place. She does not think the word "sustainability" is a problem.

McNelly – sometimes things that are the most basic in keeping a society alive are those that are potentially very fragile; maintaining their utility we can rely on them in order to keep a functioning society at a level of which other things can fit in. Funding needs to be supported for long-term sustainability.

McCormack – spoke about the three interlocking components -- environment, society and economics. Without sustaining these components the natural elements would fall apart. He believes that civic participation is a very important component.

McNelly – is our long-term plan that Fullerton can get off the grid and become energy independent so it can sustain itself, or do we need to ramp up to a certain percentage of our energy resources. By a certain date we will produce 10% of our own power. Will we promote wind turbines, grey water systems? What are our goals?

McCormack – agreed that the Committee could look at that option but the other factors must also be weighed. What is the economical feasibility versus the utility of getting off the grid? There may be a way to stay within the system but do it more efficiently and cost effectively **in a way that protects nature**. Everything has to be balanced. The ultimate goal is the sustainability of the community.

Twineham – the word sustainability is so general. It means something different to everybody. What does sustainability mean to Fullerton, especially in relation to the list of topical areas? The last topic on the list (health, happiness and human dignity) does not have anything to do with sustainability. In order to simplify and make the list understandable he suggested the following changes.

1. Land Use
2. Infrastructure
3. Transportation
4. Housing
5. Energy Conservation
6. Water
7. Air Quality
8. Natural Environment
9. Building & Engineering
10. Solid Waste & Recycling
11. Economic Development
12. History and Culture
13. Community Education and Civic Participation
14. Public Health and Safety

Bassett – thought the community would not know what the word sustainability meant. The word is visionary. Change the word to “Visions for this Community” and be more specific in some of the areas. Health, Happiness and Human Dignity promotes the rights of the private landowners. That needs to be balanced against the need for protecting our natural resources and would be appropriate to add into that section.

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Avera – agreed with Committee Member Bassett. If people do not understand the word they will not be able to contribute. Make it simple.

McNelly – you often hear sustainability in relation to ecosystems. The definition is taking part in activities that protect the earth's ecosystems; meeting the needs of the generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

McCormack – come up with a different term. Sustainability is too broad. Let's agree on the framework and then put in the details.

Otter – asked why this is before the Committee.

Allen – City Council directed the ERMCM to be part of the process to develop a Sustainability Plan specific to the City of Fullerton and these efforts also will be integrated into the General Plan Update process.

Adamson – sustainability has a meaning in planning and in the general community, and he is not opposed to using the word. He is more interested in how we will value economics, society, and nature (the measurement process).

Zelinka – interjected the General Plan has been underway for some time. It took about three meetings of the General Plan Advisory Committee to just get through sustainability. The substance was more important than the word. The General Plan will be organized by the three topics plus one. The General Plan Advisory Committee and the Council have embraced this and what they want is a document where all of the policies will provide guidance for making decisions plus an action plan. What do we have to do to accomplish the vision?

Brassett – how much definition do you want?

Staff – we are not at the stage yet to implement or to specifically develop programs. Are there items that we need to add to the list, take out, or simplify the list so that we have ideas to put out to solicit further comments from the community?

Twineham – asked if the Committee would have further opportunity to comment on these areas.

Zelinka – the Committee will have a significant role in reviewing the General Plan and making sure that sustainability is appropriately represented.

Otter – there is a gap in the topical areas. Air quality is not addressed. What about the conflict between private owner's rights and protection of natural resources.

McCormack – air quality and green house gas emissions are more outcomes and results. Some of these topical areas are designed to have an effect and to adhere to the mandated Federal and State regulations. He believes that Community Education/Civic Participation and Health, Happiness and Human Dignity should be stand alone and not folded into the topical areas. Private owner's rights could be woven into land use.

Mitchell – the City is already working within the rules, regulations and policies from the Federal and State. Not opposed to changing the titles of the topical areas but the definitions should remain.

Lucero – (referencing the agenda material provided for the Special Meeting to review West Coyote Hills) preferred the more simplified issue areas identified by Joan Wolff; these are the topics he understands. Stick with the areas within the purview of the Committee.

Air Quality  
Water  
Sewer  
Solid Waste  
Energy  
Hydrology  
Biology

Allen – the Committee needs to expand beyond the natural environment in terms of identifying areas to further develop because the purpose of sustainability is to balance the natural environment with the economy and social aspects.

Otter – members should agree on the completeness, and then discuss heading and content.

McNelly – there are a lot of issues with infrastructure that are not related to land use. Separate Infrastructure from Land Use.

Chairman McNelly entertained a motion.

MOITON by Committee Member Twineham, SECONDED by Committee Member McCormack to approve and recommend that the 14 topics listed be taken and built upon by the public with Committee review at a later date. MOTION passed 7-3 vote. Opposed: Adamson, Mitchell McNelly (based on opinion that original list of 12 items as presented by staff was appropriate as written).

#### DISCUSSION ITEMS

b) None

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

#### COMMITTEE/STAFF COMMENTS:

Chairman McNelly – said he sent out a letter to Committee Members reminding them to sign up for the upcoming combined Anaheim/Fullerton Water District tour on October 16, 17, and 18.

Staff – reiterated that the next step for the Sustainability Plan will be to present the 14 topics to the public for further discussion.

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**ADJOURNMENT:**

Adjourned at 9:01 a.m. to Special Meeting on West Coyote Hills at 6:30 p.m.

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Beverly Norton, Clerical Support