



**BENICIA PLANNING COMMISSION  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, October 9, 2008**

**7:00 P.M.**

**I. OPENING OF MEETING**

- A. Pledge of Allegiance**
- B. Roll Call of Commissioners**

Present: Commissioners Richard Bortolazzo, Rick Ernst, Dan Healy, Rod Sherry,  
Brad Thomas and Chair Railsback

Absent: Commissioner Lee Syracuse

Staff Present: Charlie Knox, Community Development Director  
Mike Marcus, Assistant Planner  
Gina Eleccion, Management Analyst  
Rhonda Corey, Senior Administrative Clerk  
Kat Wellman, Contract Attorney

- C. Reference to Fundamental Rights of Public -** A plaque stating the Fundamental Rights of each member of the public is posted at the entrance to this meeting room per Section 4.04.030 of the City of Benicia's Open Government Ordinance.

**II. AGENDA CHANGES AND DISCUSSION**

None.

**III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

On the motion of Commissioner Healy, seconded by Commissioner Ernst the Election of Officers was continued to the January meeting or such time as new Commissioners are appointed, by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Bortolazzo, Ernst, Healy, Sherry, Thomas and Chair Railsback  
Noes: None  
Absent: Commissioner Syracuse  
Abstain: None

**IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

**A. WRITTEN**

None.

**B. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**V. CONSENT CALENDAR**

On motion of Commissioner Ernst, seconded by Commissioner Sherry, the Consent Calendar was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Bortolazzo, Ernst, Healy, Sherry, Thomas and Chair Railsback  
Noes: None  
Absent: Commissioner Syracuse  
Abstain: From item V (B) only: Commissioners Bortolazzo and Chair Railsback

**A. Approval of Agenda**

**B. Approval of Minutes of September 11, 2008**

**C. Approval of 2009 Meeting Schedule**

**VI. PRESENTATION**

**A. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN – Cal Poly City and Regional Planning**

Guest Speakers: Professor Zeljka Howard, Dr. Adrienne Greve, and Blake Hudelson, student presenter

The Climate Action Plan is the implementation strategy to achieve the greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction target adopted by the City Council on September 16, 2008. The City's project consultant is the Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo City and Regional Planning Department community design lab.

The City encourages everyone to attend. A question and answer segment will immediately follow the presentation.

Community Development Director Charlie Knox welcomed the Cal Poly group and thanked them for their assistance to the City of Benicia

Welcome Presentation by City of Benicia Assistant Planner Mike Marcus informing the public about a Climate Action Plan Workshop to be held on Thursday November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 6:30 PM at the Senior Center (167 East L Street, Benicia). A recommendation was also presented to adopt a resolution accepting the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Report and approving its greenhouse gas reduction targets, to be re-evaluated after the Climate Action Plan's completion in Spring 2009.

Dr. Greve will offer resources that they have already compiled in their research.

**VII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF**

Charlie Knox and Mike Marcus welcomed the Cal Poly staff and thanked them for coming.

Mike Marcus thanked Kathleen Hart from the City Manager's Office for all of her hard work on the project.

Commissioners were reminded of the special meeting scheduled on October 14, 2008 for the Adult Business Ordinance.

## **VIII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioners encouraged students involved in the project to think big, be creative and think of the little things as well as big ideas. Students were also encouraged to offer the citizens of Benicia voluntary challenges to help with the project. Comment was further made that hopefully the students would continue on in this field, as this area of expertise is very critical.

Commissioner Ernst had questions regarding how emissions figures were determined. Charlie Knox advised him to refer to the report that was distributed to Commissioners which is based on actual emissions figures from residences and businesses in the city. Commissioner Ernst further questioned whether the numbers for industry include indirect sources of greenhouse gases such as Pacific Gas & Electric. Charlie Knox advised that yes, tailpipe particulate emissions through the city on the highway as well as citywide were used to determine figures.

Commissioner Bortolazzo questioned whether or not wood-burning fireplaces should still be used. Charlie Knox stated that the issue of wood burning fireplaces would be considered as part of the plan.

Chair Railsback requests that the Climate Action Plan Workshop be televised on November 13, 2008. Charlie Knox was unsure if that is a possibility due to its' location at the Senior Center.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT RE-OPENED**

Gene Doherty-580 Willow-Welcomed students and requested all aspects of the city be considered in addition to the Industrial Park.

Phyllis McKeever-625 East K -Requests fireplace control in regards to consideration of not allowing wood burning fires.

Marilyn Bardet-333 East K -Welcomed students. Stated she has been interested in the issue for a very long time. She stated she is hoping to see a lot of interaction between Commissions, students and citizens. She thanked Mike Marcus for bringing students from his Alma Mater to our City. In addition, she offered to compile a bibliography of her vast amount of books on the subject.

Kathy Carriage-771 West I -Thanked Cal Poly Staff and students for coming. She hopes consideration of unusual ideas will occur in the process.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Railsback adjourned the meeting at 8:07 pm.