

November 18, 2008 Special Meeting

BENICIA CITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

City Council Chambers

November 18, 2008

6:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

Times set forth for the agenda items are estimates.

Items may be heard before or after the times designated.

I. CALL TO ORDER (6:00 P.M.):

II. CONVENE OPEN SESSION:

A. ROLL CALL

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. REFERENCE TO THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF PUBLIC

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Council on any matter not on the agenda that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the City Council. State law prohibits the City Council from responding to or acting upon matters not listed on the agenda.

Each speaker has a maximum of five minutes for public comment. If others have already expressed your position, you may simply indicate that you agree with a previous speaker. If appropriate, a spokesperson may present the views of your entire group. Speakers may not make personal attacks on council members, staff or members of the public, or make comments which are slanderous or which may invade an individual's personal privacy.

A. WRITTEN COMMENT

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

IV. CLOSED SESSION:

NONE

V. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS (6:00 P.M.):

A. [Consideration of a Sustainability Commission.](#)

Sustainability means meeting present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. A sustainability commission or task force could advise the City Council on how to improve City operations to promote environmental protection, public health, and economic well-being.

Recommendation: Provide direction regarding establishment of a sustainability commission.

VI. ADJOURNMENT (7:00 P.M.):

Public Participation

The Benicia City Council welcomes public participation.

Pursuant to the Brown Act, each public agency must provide the public with an opportunity to speak on any matter within the subject matter jurisdiction of the agency and which is not on the agency's agenda for that meeting. The City Council allows speakers to speak on non-agendized matters under public comment, and on agendized items at the time the agenda item is addressed at the meeting. Comments are limited to no more than 5 minutes per speaker. By law, no action may be taken on any item raised during the public comment

period although informational answers to questions may be given and matters may be referred to staff for placement on a future agenda of the City Council.

Should you have material you wish to enter into the record, please submit it to the City Manager.

Disabled Access

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Valerie Ruxton, the ADA Coordinator, at (707) 746-4211. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

Meeting Procedures

All items listed on this agenda are for Council discussion and/or action. In accordance with the Brown Act, each item is listed and includes, where appropriate, further description of the item and/or a recommended action. The posting of a recommended action does not limit, or necessarily indicate, what action may be taken by the City Council.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 65009, if you challenge a decision of the City Council in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City Council at, or prior to, the public hearing. You may also be limited by the ninety (90) day statute of limitations in which to challenge in court certain administrative decisions and orders (Code of Civil Procedure 1094.6) to file and serve a petition for administrative writ of mandate challenging any final City decisions regarding planning or zoning.

The decision of the City Council is final as of the date of its decision unless judicial review is initiated pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedures Section 1094.5. Any such petition for judicial review is subject to the provisions of California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1094.6.

Public Records

The agenda packet for this meeting is available at the City Manager's Office and the Benicia Public Library during regular working hours. To the extent feasible, the packet is also available on the City's web page at www.ci.benicia.ca.us under the heading "Agendas and Minutes." Public records related to an open session agenda item that are distributed after the agenda packet is prepared are available before the meeting at the City Manager's Office located at 250 East L Street, Benicia, or at the meeting held in the Council Chambers. If you wish to submit written information on an agenda item, please submit to the City Clerk as soon as possible so that it may be distributed to the City Council.

 [V-A Sustainability Commission.pdf](#)

AGENDA ITEM
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING: NOVEMBER 18, 2008
INFORMATIONAL ITEM

DATE : November 5, 2008
TO : City Council
FROM : City Manager
SUBJECT : **CONSIDERATION OF A SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION**

RECOMMENDATION:

Provide direction regarding establishment of a sustainability commission.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Sustainability means meeting present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. A sustainability commission or task force could advise the City Council on how to improve City operations to promote environmental protection, public health, and economic well-being.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

Sustainability relates to all of the City's Strategic Plan goals and strategies.

BUDGET INFORMATION:

Budget impacts vary based on whether the advisory group is a commission subject to the Brown Act or a task force. A commission would require significantly greater City resources.

SUMMARY:

Sustainability is the overarching objective of the Benicia General Plan. The Planning Commission is charged with making land use recommendations to the Council that support environmental and economic sustainability. A number of communities in California and elsewhere have also formed sustainability commissions or task forces to advise elected officials. These boards focus on improving city operations to conserve resources, protect air quality and open space, reduce waste, and enhance public health and quality of life.

A Benicia sustainability advisory group might first focus on how to implement the forthcoming Climate Action Plan. However, as this task is currently the purview of the Planning Commission

and accounts for a significant amount of its present workload, Council may wish to consider whether to maintain Planning Commission oversight of the project. The sustainability commission or task force also could make recommendations regarding expenditure of funds from the Valero Improvement Project settlement and even oversee environmental protection efforts in new development projects, such as the Benicia Business Park.

Sustainability advisory groups typically consist of citizen experts in fields such as:

- Water and energy conservation and climate change
- Open space protection
- Waste reduction
- Economic development, finance and business practices
- Transportation
- Construction
- Utilities and infrastructure

CONCLUSION:

Council may wish to consider a number of factors in determining whether and how to establish a sustainability advisory body. These include:

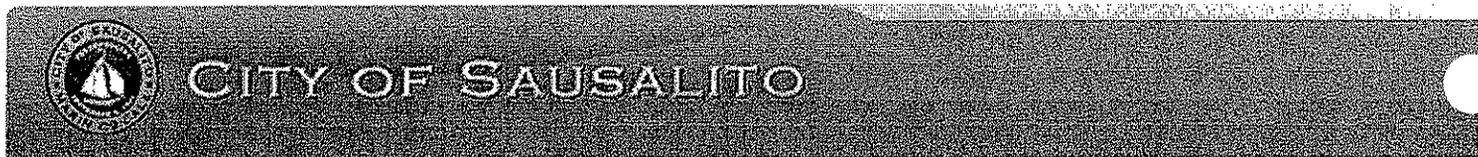
- Degree of authority: task forces tend to be more informal and have greater flexibility in their recommendations than do commissions, which require work programs approved by Council.
- Desired expertise: the number of members and criteria for appointment can greatly affect the functioning of the commission or task force.
- Scarcity of resources: given current and anticipated budgetary constraints, the City may have increasingly limited resources to accommodate new functions.
- Overlapping responsibilities: the Planning Commission, Tree Subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Commission, and the City Staff Green Team all serve in capacities that may be duplicative of a sustainability commission or task force.

Attachments:

- Sausalito and Santa Monica examples

SAUSALITO AND SANTA MONICA EXAMPLES

Special Meeting V-A-3



SAUSALITO SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

November 12, 2008

Mission

Mission

The Sustainability Commission works to create a healthy community now and in the future by proposing measurable solutions to pressing environmental, social and economic concerns to the City of Sausalito, its partners and its people.

Members

Agendas

Minutes

Seminars

Assessment Report

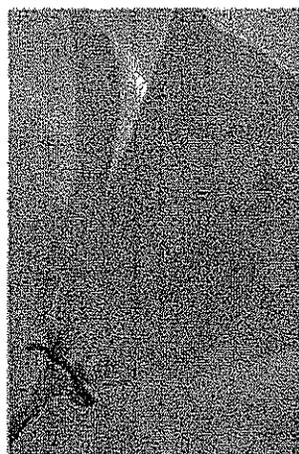
News

Home

The Commission acts as a policy advisory body to the council and city manager in the initiation or development of programs that will create or enhance sustainable practices within the community. The commission will advise on policy matters related to:

- Sustainable practices;
- Businesses that produce sustainable products and services;
- Related issues that directly affect sustainability efforts considered by the city council.

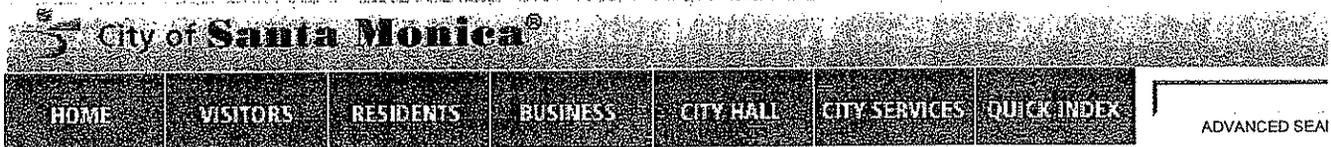
As outlined in the Ordinance, the commission shall:



1. Make recommendations to the council and city manager for the programs or actions designed to implement the recommendations contained in the Sustainability Commission Task Force
2. Create and present an annual work plan to the city council;
3. Meet annually with the city council to secure approval of the work plan;
4. Provide a forum for addressing public concerns related to sustainable practices;
5. Work on sustainability related policies as directed by the council and city manager;
6. Provide input on sustainability policies and practices that reflect community values; and
7. Assist the city council and city manager in balancing community priorities and resources by advising them on sustainability issues.

Copyright ©2003-2008 Sausalito Sustainability Commission | 420 Litho Street, Sausalito, CA 94965
Website Created by MarineStudios

Special Meeting V-A-4



[Home](#) / [City Hall](#) / [Departments](#) / [City Manager's Office](#) / [Office of Sustainability and the Environment](#) / [Sustainable City Task Force](#) / [Sustainable City Task For](#)

The Office of Sustainability
and the Environment

Sustainable City Task Force

[Mission Statement](#)

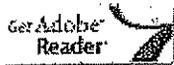
[Meeting Agendas & Minutes](#)

[Membership](#)

[Boards & Commissions Directory](#)

[Sustainable Santa Monica](#)

Contact-Find Us
phone: 310.458.2213
fax: 310.393.1279
email: environment@smgov.net



Sustainable City Task Force

Established in 2003 by the Santa Monica City Council, the Sustainable City Task Force was created to advise City Council and staff during development and adoption of an implementation strategy to meet the goals of the Santa Monica Sustainable City Plan (SCP), and to help raise awareness in the community about sustainability and the SCP. Review the progress yourself by visiting the Sustainable City Progress Report.

Composition:

The SCTF is an expert panel of 11 members appointed by City Council with specific expertise in one or more of the following areas: Planning, Housing, Recreation and Parks, Social Services, Environmental Policy, Education and Health care. In addition, City Council has required that composition of the group ensure fair representation of the following community stakeholder groups: Business, Labor, and Neighborhoods.

City Council Liaison:

Councilwoman Pam O'Connor

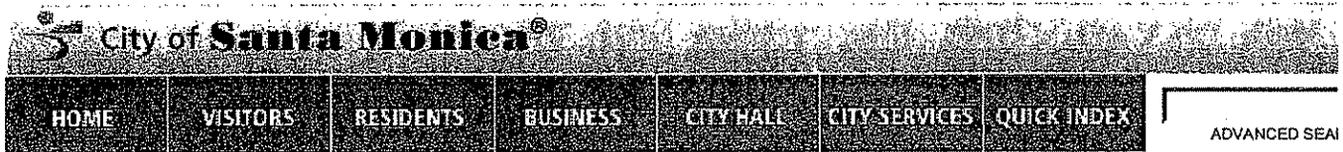
Staff Liaison:

Dean Kubani, Manager, Environmental Programs Division (310) 458-2213

This page was last modified on 08/04/2008

City of Santa Monica · 1685 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90401 · (310) 458-8411 · TTY (310) 917-6626
Copyright © 2008 City of Santa Monica. All Rights Reserved. [Disclaimer](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Accessibility Policy](#) |

Special Meeting V-A-5



[Home](#) / [City Hall](#) / [Departments](#) / [City Manager's Office](#) / [Office of Sustainability and the Environment](#) / [Sustainable City Task Force](#) / [Mission Statement](#)

The Office of Sustainability
and the Environment

Mission Statement

Sustainable City Task Force - Motion adopted by City Council

Sustainable City Task Force

10-28-03 - Item 8B

Mission Statement

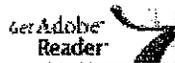
Meeting Agendas & Minutes

Membership

Boards & Commissions Directory

Sustainable Santa Monica

Contact-Find Us
phone: 310.458.2213
fax: 310.393.1279
email: environment@smgov.net



Create a Santa Monica Sustainable City Task Force with members chosen by City Council for their expertise, who may or may not be current board or commission members.

The term of the SCTF will be for five years. The group will present annual progress reports to Council (with City staff taking the primary role in the preparation of those reports).

The SCTF will be comprised of 11 members. Within the group the following areas of expertise should be represented: Planning, Housing, Recreation and Parks, Social Services, Environmental Policy, Education and Health care. In addition, composition of the group should ensure fair representation of the following community stakeholder groups: Business, Labor, and Neighborhoods.

The charge of the SCTF will be to:

1. To advise Council and staff during development and adoption of an implementation plan for the SCP. The target date for adoption is March 2005.
2. Based on the adopted implementation plan, to assist Council and staff with and initial informational campaign. Presentations to City Boards and Commissions, other public institutions in the community, and business and resident organizations would occur from April 2005 through December 2005.
3. With the assistance of City staff, to interact with other City boards and Commissions and with organizations and institutions in the community to bring SCP-related matters to their attention in a timely manner.

This page was last modified on 08/04/2008

City of Santa Monica · 1685 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90401 · (310) 458-8411 · TTY (310) 917-6626
Copyright © 2008 City of Santa Monica. All Rights Reserved. [Disclaimer](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Accessibility Policy](#) |

Special Meeting V-A-6