



CITY OF FULLERTON
ENERGY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 21, 2011
303 West Commonwealth Avenue
Fullerton, California

Chairman McNelly called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman McNelly
Committee Member Avera
Committee Member Brassett
Committee Member George
Committee Member Lucero
Committee Member Mitchell
Committee Member Ortega
Committee Member Rocabado

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

Committee Member Chi
Committee Member Otter
Committee Member Thakur

STAFF PRESENT:

Community Development Director Zelinka
Planning Manager Allen
Assistant Planner Dove
Clerical Assistant Norton

VISITORS PRESENT:

Visitor Chuck Buck (former Vice Chair of the Committee)

Chairman McNelly thanked Mr. Buck for his participation on the Committee and for serving as Vice Chair.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MAY 18, 2011:

Motion made by Committee Member Avera to APPROVE as amended, SECONDED by Committee Member Lucero. Committee Member Ortega abstained.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

1. Election of Vice Chair

Election to replace Chuck Buck who moved out of Fullerton and could no longer serve as Vice Chair of the Committee.

Committee Members Otter (who was not present) and Mitchell were both nominated for Vice Chair. The vote was unanimous to elect Committee Member Mitchell as Vice Chair.

2. Review and provide comment on specific portions of the Public Review Draft of the Fullerton Plan (General Plan Update) relevant to the Energy and Resource Management Committee.

Planning Manager Allen – summarized the Fullerton Plan (an update) to the General Plan

The General Plan comes from State law requirements. Cities and counties are required to do a comprehensive long-range planning effort having to do with the physical development and the various qualities of life issues. There are certain elements that were required. The State law does allow some flexibility to tailor the document to meet its needs.

The Fullerton Plan was initiated in 2007; and a consultant was hired to lead in the process. The General Plan Advisory Committee was formed, working together with staff and the community, to arrive at this stage of development.

For the next two years we went through a visioning process. What Fullerton hopes to become. Providing a sense of purpose and mission. The vision was adopted by the City Council in 2009 to enhance the quality of life for all. Also approved were the topics and general descriptions of what the topics would entail.

There are four master elements:

- The Built Environment
- The Economy
- The Community
- The Natural Environment

Within the master elements there are 20 sub-elements -- some are required by State law; others were determined to be needed by the community. Within the elements there are topics, goals, policies and short-term actions (to be completed within three to five years). The plan has a bi-annual assessment built into the process.

When the Committee is being asked to review a request or a project they can refer to the Fullerton Plan to review the goals and policies supported by the City. The plan will provide more guidance than in the past in decision making.

In June 2011, the General Plan Advisory Committee authorized the release of the public review draft. Planning Commission will look at the draft this fall and City Council in December 2011.

Planning Manager Allen - asked the committee for their comments and anything that they wished to add to the following categories:

- Water
- Air Quality
- Integrated Waste Management
- Natural Hazards
- Committee Design and Development
- Committee Involvement

COMMITTEE/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

Committee Member Mitchell – asked if Committee Member comments make their way to the Planning Commission and the City Council.

Planning Manager Allen – said it is a mix. It depends on the comment(s).

Committee Member McNelly – said he did not see anything in the long-term energy plan for the City that has to do with traditional energy supply (such as what Edison has done through coal fire plants and hydropower. He would like to see an additional long-term energy plan that covers traditional energy supply and some of the premier alternative sources such as solar. What is the City's long-term plan to sustain ourselves in a major power disaster that would secure the City?

Planning Manager Allen – the City does have a Policy to work with electrical generation (reduce green house gases) associated with electrical generation through energy conservation strategies and renewable energy alternatives (Goal 22 under Policy #22 under Air Quality).

Committee Member Lucero – said that Fullerton's vision does not mention energy conservation. He feels that it is essential to have a Chapter on energy and alternative resources.

Planning Manager Allen - the Climate Action Plan does have some goals through the reductions of greenhouse gas emissions.

Committee Member Ortega – much of what is happening in the energy and water sector has to do with the fact that the older system was built on assumptions that are now outdated. One of the best sources of energy you can get is hydro-electric from dams. Even with the good snow pack Hoover Dam is not a long-term reliable source of energy to pump the water we need.

In the City we have some fundamental structural issues that water does not address in this plan. When it comes to water conservation the comments are general in nature. However, the Chapter on Water does not address the structural issues. However, there is integration between water in other chapters. The City is going to adopt a legislative strategy in order to carry out parts of this plan to get funding from State and Federal sources. There is also legislation that will affect water as a component in growth management (SP221); (SP610) that requires a water supply assessment to make sure the City has enough water for 20 years. There are components in Chapter 6 (Growth Management), Chapter 9 (Redevelopment & Revitalization and Chapter 16 (Water). However, the Chapter on water really does not address the issues we need to grapple with over the next 10 to 20 years.

Committee Member Sheridan – asked Committee Member Ortega to expand on what he would like to see in the overall plan that would fulfill what it is that he is looking for.

Committee Member Ortega – said there are other components and other committees that have the purview to fill in the details. One of the issues that the Water Rate Ad Hoc Committee discussed was the water rate structure and how it can adequately support infrastructure, maintenance, development, and conservation. Because Fullerton is an older community, there are issues of fairness that the City will have to grapple with as well as timing and implementation.

Chairman McNelly – the goals and guidelines in relationship to long-term strategy about these issues should not be neglected in terms of the comments and substance down to the neighborhood district and City levels at which focus statements are made that bring the question up. What is the long-term strategy for Fullerton's energy security?

Committee Member Rocabado – agreed with Chairman McNelly's comment that there should be an emphasis on energy and if possible, add a Chapter on energy to the Fullerton' Plan. If a chapter cannot be added at this time, to note that the suggestion was made. If faced with an energy loss such as the City of San Diego did - what is the City's plan to help residents such as (centers that the residents can go to until the power is back on and identify which local centers are equipped with generators).

Committee Member Ortega – noted Chairman McNelly's reference to regional and sub-regional efforts. The City of Fullerton is represented by a member of the Council or a person is appointed to represent the City on the boards of the Orange County Sanitation District and the Metropolitan Water District to vote on programs that come before these districts. Is there any support provided to these representatives, and do these representatives report back to our Committee on how they voted. Fullerton's Plan should be clear on what the City's goals are so that the representatives can vote with knowledge.

Chairman McNelly – every two years the seats are filled by new representatives. This practice can cause difficulty at the level of decision making for the agencies involved making it necessary to constantly re-educate the incoming representatives that have no idea or no expertise in order to make an intelligent decision when ask to vote for or against. There are no qualifications required in order to be appointed as a representative. In a long-term view, how does the City look at the representational questions of the regional systems which are directly affected?

Committee Member Mitchell – commented that staff and department heads are required to be knowledgeable. The appointed and elected people have no such requirements. The representatives who sit on these boards do not report back to the committee(s).

Committee Member Sheridan – said he would like to make a strong statement in the overall plan that the City aggressively go after technology and implement it as a way to conserve energy, he spoke about using technology to conserve energy on street light operation and make sure the City has a long-range plan on communications.

Committee Member Ortega – stated that many of these technology issues are related to payback periods. The City has to take into consideration how long it will take for the energy savings to be offset. Ideas could be submitted to the Finance Committee to evaluate the feasibility and implementation and perhaps tie it to a Federal or State grant.

Committee Member Avera – agreed that the City should always look at the bottom line and how many years it will take for pay back before going forward. Compare the savings verses what it will cost in life expectancy.

Chairman McNelly – spoke about Integrated Waste Management. One element of changes that have taken place from the State level is providing a waste stream separation and recycling opportunities for all households and businesses. Also, there is a recent bill where that level can apply to apartment complexes. In general the policies are pretty strong for long-term. One action in the plan focused on a regional food collection facility.

Planning Manager Allen – said the Short-term Action Plan also includes a food-waste processing facility.

Committee Member Ortega – when green waste is spread on the trails there is methane emissions related to that. Does that play into your green house gas goals? Does the benefit outweigh the harm?

Planning Manager Allen - said that is not something that was analyzed.

Committee Member Ortega – mentioned another issue is community resources for consumers that have to do with energy conservation and water efficiency. After San Diego's outage, he received mailers advertising back up generators that can be installed in your home. Some generators are gasoline powered. In water conservation there is growing concern about hexavalent chromium. Some companies are advising purchasing filters that have not yet been proven. Does any of the sustainability goals relate to properly informing consumers. What kinds of products would contribute to the green house reduction goals?

Committee Member Sheridan - the City may want to consider an Information Resource Center.

Chairman McNelly – suggested that Dave Schickling be approached about establishing such a center.

Committee Member Mitchell – most of the goals support regional and sub-regional waste reduction. What can we do to make sure we are buying into a program that works? An example is the Used Oil Program. None of the collection centers listed accepted used oil.

Committee Member Avera – agreed that he too has not found a center that would accept used oil.

Committee Member Mitchell – asked Assistant Planner Dove if Mark McGee (MG Disposal) had gotten back to her with answers on the questions she asked at the May 18th meeting.

1. How much money do the schools, who participate, receive from the Recycling Program?
2. What schools are still participating?
3. What is the possibility of locating a collection center outside of the Hazardous Waste facility that would accept household grease?

Assistant Planner Dove – said he had not and she would check back with him. She mentioned that Bill Roseberry, who is in charge of the Fats, Oils and Grease Program (FOG), will speak at the next ERMC meeting and can clarify questions about Fats, Oils, and Grease the Committee may have.

Chairman McNelly – said he is trying to get someone at the Orange County Sanitation District to talk to the Committee about the California Waste Discharge Requirements Order that led to the forming of the FOG Program. Also, to brief everyone on the non-dispersible products (such as baby wipes, and diapers). He mentioned seeing a promotion about a Community Garden is there any information available about this? He also asked if the committee could get the status of the water rate and what decision if any has been made by the City Council.

Committee Member Ortega – said that Council Member Sharon Quirk-Silva will be contacting City staff about putting together a Water 101 forum so that everyone is on the same page with the issues and how the water rates are structured. Questions still remain whether or not any increases for infrastructure funding of that 6% would be deferred from the franchise fee. This committee's voice was to defer the increases that were being funded for infrastructure from being added to the franchise fee.

Committee Member Mitchell – the General Plan is an amazing document, particularly she is pleased that there is a lot of emphasis on sustainability.

Community Development Director Zelinka – asked the Committee if they thought their role may change based on their review of the plan, and once the General Plan has been adopted by City Council.

Chairman McNelly – stated that the City has toyed with the idea of creating a joint Infrastructure Review and Energy Resource Management Committee at one time and has changed the Committee's membership throughout the years. The Committee operates by Charter and a City Council Resolution and was originally formed as a recycling committee and evolved from there. Any future changes will ultimately be up to the City Council.

Committee Member Mitchell – said personally she does not think that the Committee has been asked to study enough issues.

Committee Member Ortega – thought that the City Council would need a lot more of the Committee's support in their regional efforts. The other element is the degree in which this committee would have interaction with the appointed representatives to the various boards. It may be possible for the City Council to appoint a knowledgeable nonpolitical person to a board.

Chairman McNelly – said the Committee would like to be able to have an election that would be at the City level to serve on the Orange County Sanitation Board or the Orange County Metropolitan Water District board rather than appointed representative.

Committee Member Sheridan – suggested even if a person could not get on the board they could attend the meetings and report back to the committee.

Committee Member Ortega – advised that there would not be a Water Bond this year to fix the delta. That will have a huge impact on the water rates along with now having to meet more stringent water quality standards.

The following Committee Members left the meeting at 8:50 A.M.

With no further comments or questions the meeting adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 A.M. to the regular meeting on November 16, 2011

Beverly Norton, Clerical Support