

MINUTES
CALISTOGA GREEN COMMITTEE

August 16, 2013

1. ROLL CALL

Committee members present: Committee Chair Karen Chang, Heidi Tice.
Committee members absent: Janice Stenger (excused). Staff member present:
Planning and Building Director Lynn Goldberg.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

3. ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA

The agenda was unanimously adopted as presented.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the June 7, 2013 meeting were accepted as presented.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Continued discussion regarding single-use plastic bags

Planning Director Goldberg reported that the City Council will be considering the Committee's proposal to seek voluntary phase-out of single-use plastic bags, including a letter to business owners, tips for encouraging reusable bags usage and an Information sheet for customers. She displayed a sample of a reusable bag that could be distributed as part of the voluntary compliance program. There are a variety of imprint designs available, or custom artwork could be used if the order is for 6,000 or more bags. A funding source for the bags is still to be determined.

Chair Chang reported that the local Soroptimist organization is willing to cover a portion of the bags' cost. She suggests conducting the local survey of businesses dispensing single-use plastic bags and distributing the merchant information letter in September, then distributing the reusable bags in January, after Cal-Mart has discontinued plastic bags. She will contact Carlo Marchioni to get his final decision on whether he would contribute artwork for the bags.

Committee Member Tice likes the sample bag because it folds up and can easily be carried in a purse. She expressed concerns about the handles' durability and suggested that they be reinforced before distribution. Ms. Goldberg offered to use the sample bag and report back on its durability.

Ms. Goldberg noted that there may be a possibility of some City funding for the reusable bags, but it may have to wait until the mid-year adjustment in the budget, around the beginning of the year. The Committee could also request funding for other activities. Committee Member Tice suggested requesting

funding for next year's Earth Day activities. Ms. Goldberg will include this subject on the next Committee agenda.

B. Continued discussion regarding draft actions for Climate Change Mitigation Plan

Chair Chang would like to see better publicity of PG&E energy conservation programs. She believes that more efficient use could be made of the Calistoga Shuttle by operating on a fixed route. Ms. Goldberg will contact NCTPA to find out if a fixed route had been considered. She will also report on the results of the travel behavior study that is underway, which may reveal whether there are travel patterns that would lend themselves to a fixed route service.

In response to a comment from Committee Member Tice, Ms. Goldberg explained that there isn't really a need to purchase open space within the city limits to ensure its preservation because most of it will be preserved through conditions on development approvals, it is undevelopable habitat or it is owned by a public entity.

Committee Member Tice would like to distribute recycling containers to businesses for their indoor use, which the Committee did previously using containers provided by the County. She would like to see a closer disposal site for long fluorescent tubes. Chair Chang will mention this to Chris Canning, the City's representative on the UVWM Agency board.

Committee Member Tice reported that the Salvation Army will provide a drop-off box for used clothing and other cloth that they recycle into products. She will explore potential locations for a box.

The Committee agreed that the draft actions are ready to be evaluated to quantify their potential impact on greenhouse gas emissions. Ms. Goldberg explained that although the GHG emissions can't be identified for every measure, the analysis will determine which would be most effective in reducing emissions.

6. STAFF REPORTS

Ms. Goldberg reported that five recycling containers had been recently installed on Lincoln Avenue next to trash containers.

7. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS & REQUESTS

Committee Member Tice would like to know whether UVDS is still picking up restaurant waste for composting and what progress has been made on residential pick-up of compostable materials besides yard waste.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned to Friday, September 6, 2013 at 8:30 a.m.

Planning & Building Director

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