



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 North Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
Video Teleconference

The Beverly Hills Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) Community Advisory Committee

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Monday, June 27, 2022

1:00 PM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Date / Time: June 27, 2022 / 1:00 PM

IN ATTENDANCE:

CAAP Community Advisory Committee members Myra Lurie, Alissa Roston, Sharon Ignarro, Wendy Nystrom, Erica Felsenthal, Lee Hilborne, Myra Demeter, Peter Ostroff, Sandra Aronberg, Linda Newmark, Ariel Ouziel, and Susan Kimura.

City Staff: Director of Public Works Shana Epstein, Environmental Compliance and Sustainability Program Manager Josette Descalzo, Senior Management Analyst Melissa Gomez, Utilities General Manager Robert Welch, Assistant Director of Public Works Darren Grilley, and CivicSpark Fellow Tory Brewster.

Consultants: Raimi Associates consultant Walker Wells and Sami Taylor.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Members of the public were allowed to directly address the Committee on any item listed on the agenda.

David Gingold advocated for a fair and inclusive discussion regarding transportation planning for local schools. Gingold expressed concern that Commissions in the City have unfairly blamed traffic on the Hillel Hebrew Academy. Gingold expressed concern that car travel to the school would be restricted (in the form of buses or mandatory carpooling) without providing additional resources to the school.

1) APPROVAL OF APRIL 27, 2022, HIGHLIGHTS

Motion: MOVED by Sandra Aronberg, SECONDED by Myra Demeter to approve the Resolution as presented (11/0).

AYES: All members of the Committee verbally approved the Resolution.

ABSTAIN: None

NOES: None



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CARRIED

2) A RESOLUTION OF THE CLIMATE ACTION AND ADAPTATION PLAN COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS AUTHORIZING PUBLIC MEETINGS TO BE HELD VIA TELECONFERENCING PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953(E) AND MAKING FINDINGS AND DETERMINATIONS REGARDING THE SAME

Motion: MOVED by Lee Hilborne, SECONDED by Sharon Ignarro to approve the Resolution as presented (11/0).

AYES: All members of the Committee verbally approved the Resolution.

ABSTAIN: None

NOES: None

CARRIED

3) DRAFT GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION MITIGATION MEASURES

Raimi associates Sami Taylor and Walker Wells presented information on the newly drafted GHG measures and requested input from CAC members regarding the prioritization of measures to reach the goal of carbon neutrality.

Mitigation Measures

Walker Wells reviewed the six foundational mitigation measures, the top-scoring greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation measures, and additional measures that were put together based on the feedback received from the CAC. Additional transportation measures were discussed.

Sectors

Sami Taylor reviewed the foundation mitigation strategies from four sectors; clean energy buildings, transportation, and solid waste. Sami Taylor reviewed the difference between phasing in measures and mandating measures.

Public Comment

David Gingold disapproved of policies that would discourage car usage and encouraged the City to incorporate wildfire preparedness while discussing transportation.

Steve Mayer requested information about infrastructure costs and alternative funding for changing the mode of transportation.

Discussion



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CAC members requested emergency preparedness plans if the City encourages people to drive less. Members discussed additional transportation measures. Members asked for sensitivity around parking since multi-family residents have limited parking. Further members asked the City to consider whether residents would want to prioritize bike lanes over parking.

4) CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION MEASURES

Raimi and associates consultant, Robyn Wong, presented the draft adaptation measures and input was received from the CAC.

Adaptation Measures

The consultant discussed information about potentially vulnerable community assets, including vulnerable populations, transportation assets, and critical infrastructure. The consultant reviewed the vulnerability assessment methodology, such as interviewing asset managers and reviewing existing City work/plans. Further, the consultant discussed the feedback from the CAC, the City's policy gaps on climate hazards, sectors that the adaptation measures fell into, and explained the purpose of each sector.

Public Comment

David Gingold expressed doubt that community members' actions contributed to the drought. Further, Gingold advocated that community members view the safety of car travel in high regard. Gingold expressed further concern about wildfire safety and would like discussions about transportation and mode shift to reflect this concern.

Discussion

Members asked that the City consider hiring a full-time staff member to implement the CAAP. Further, members requested other considerations for the CAAP, such as tying sewage fees to water fees, making solar permitting easier, and building incentives for businesses.

5) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENT UPDATES

Environmental Compliance and Sustainability Program Manager Josette Descalzo informed the Committee about upcoming community engagement events.

Climate Action Movie Night

- Date: Wednesday, July 20
- Time:
 - Festivities start at 6 PM
 - Movie screens at 7 PM
- Film: Ice on Fire

6) BEVERLY HILLS TRANSIT SYSTEM STUDY



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This item is for information only. The Assistant Director of Public Works, Darren Grilley, discussed the upcoming survey and public meeting coming up in mid-July. The survey will wrap up around September/October. A consultant is reviewing the previous studies, researching what other cities are doing, and obtaining public outreach from the community at large, businesses, resident groups, the chamber of commerce, and local schools to identify the needs in the community. The consultant is also looking into what current transit riders are looking for in an expanded system, what potential riders are looking for, and what obstacles prevent ridership.

Public Comment

David Gingold expressed that the current public shuttle services can take two hours to drop off community members. Gingold expressed that this was not a reliable service for community members to use for appointments. Further, Gingold expressed that within an 8-hour day, the shuttle service is used on average by five community members. Gingold disapproved of future investments in added local shuttles if the current services are not being utilized enough.

Steve Mayer suggested that a transit study survey should be broken up by existing users and potential users because they have different concerns. Mayer expressed interest in knowing price elasticity. Other Cities like West Hollywood do not charge, metro charges with a sliding scale, so Mayer wanted to know how much people were paying for the transit service. Mayer requested that the survey consider the quality of life issues, the importance of safety, and the importance of cleanliness to riders. Mayer requested further discussion about the route of the shuttle being East/West and North/South routes versus a circuitous route.

CAC Comments

CAC members requested more information about the timeline for the implementation of the transit program. Darren Grilley clarified that an implementation timeline could not be decided until the study was completed. The program is expected to be implemented in the 2023 fiscal year. CAC members advocated that parents for local schools provide feedback for the study.

7) CHAIRS REPORT

Item Was Not Discussed

8) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Utilities General Manager Robert Welch highlighted future events CAC members could attend and participate in and reviewed the timeline and plan for the CAC.

Events



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- The Public Works Commission, on July 21, 2022, will introduce the Single-Use Plastic and Styrofoam Ordinance framework.
- The Traffic and Parking Commission, on July 7, 2022, will receive an update on the transit study.

ADJOURNMENT

Date / Time:

June 27, 2022/ 2:59 PM