



Mar Vista Community Council



Green Committee

Sunday, October 25, 2015 - 9:30 A.M.

Mar Vista Farmers Market

Grand View at Venice Blvd.

Tables Adjacent to the Post Office

Minutes

1. Call to order

Meeting called to order at 9:30 A.M.

Attendees – Melissa Stoller, Susan Klos, Robin Doyno, Christopher McKinnon, Christy Wilhelmi, Jeanne Kuntz, Sharon Markenson, Myra Boime, Steve Fox, Kathy Seal, Shelley Wiseman, Mary Farkas, Sherri Akers

2. Public comment

- Melissa: Need to reschedule November and December meetings due to holiday conflict. Will hold one meeting 12/6 for combined months – will send out notice.
- Sherri: Consider whether we want to hold Water Wise Expo for a third year. Information is pretty readily available and service providers are probably too swamped to participate. Consider another concept to collaborate on a festival at the market. **Put on agenda for 12/6 meeting.**
- Steve: Climate Resolve Path to Positive Conference 11/6 - <http://climateresolve.org/path-to-positive-los-angeles-launch/>. Encourage attendance and spread the word.

3. Motion to approve July minutes

Minutes unanimously approved.

4. Presentation: Cathy Seals, Citizen's Climate League: Carbon Fee and Dividend legislation

Normally a 45 to 60 minute presentation – Sharon gave a condensed version.

Presentation:

Citizens Climate Lobby (<https://citizensclimatelobby.org>) is solutions oriented. Local action drives national change. Globally, governments must stop subsidizing corporations taking toxic actions. We need to divert money that is invested in fossil fuels to renewable energy. Currently, externalities are not included in cost of goods – we need a tax on carbon. They Climate Action Lobby propose a \$15 per ton fee on carbon content at point of extraction or point of entry on imported goods. Fees would be refunded to households equally to offset increase in prices. Concept of taxing the things we want less of was effectively used for cigarettes. REMI (Regional Economic Models Inc. - <http://www.remi.com/>) concluded this tax would create 2.8 million jobs in 20 years and lower greenhouse gases to 50% below 1990 levels. 2/3 of US households would come out ahead – it benefits middle and lower income. Cost of inaction is off the charts.

Reduction in health costs and consequences: In 10 years, renewables would become cheaper than fossil fuels. Would include a tariff on fossil fuel products from countries without similar plans to stop runaway production and incentivize other countries to follow our lead. British

Columbia instituted this in 2008 (<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-debate/the-insidious-truth-about-bcs-carbon-tax-it-works/article19512237/>).

Discussion:

Path to support:

- Informational outreach at Green Tent
- Climate Change Expo
- Consider a motion of support if our City Council has a motion supporting it.
- Help facilitate conversation with Andy Shrader and Paul Koretz—they're looking for help in meetings with Karen Bass and Ted Lieu.

We can only help individually – as a committee we have to have Board approval.

Question about how this compares to our current Cap & Trade. Steve expressed the importance of the social engineering component – funds are allocated to public housing in areas impacted by carbon. Sherri likes the component that creates an even playing field by taxing imports at point of entry to discourage moving production off shore – is that lacking in cap and trade?

5. Reports

a. MVCC Green Tent

Jeanne reported all is good. Food Forward emphasis is on education and outreach rather than collection

b. Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance (NCSA)

Sherri has concerns that this operates more like a nonprofit (although it isn't one) and doesn't follow the NC model that we hoped for and concerns about NCSA receiving grants which is not consistent with the ethics code of DONE. Has expressed this concern to Bill Koontz.

It seems to be competing for grants with the organizations that we support and we are concerned that this is a conflict of interest. Melissa feels that our reason for participating was to help other NC's develop green committees and this does not seem to be the focus. It is agreed that we will limit engagement to attending public meetings when they seem useful.

c. Landscaping guidelines for developers

No report.

6. Discussion

a. Green Committee post-Garden Showcase

Discussed the letter that was submitted to the board. The committee agrees that we don't have the resources to hold the garden tour this year. Sherri sent the letter to Lisa Cahill of TreePeople to see if they would be interested in adopting the tour and inheriting the good will but there was no response. The MVCC Board seemed to understand.

Add to the agenda for 12/6 meeting – discussion about an alternate spring event. Discussion about a Climate Change Expo at the Farmers Market—simple action steps, ways to make a difference such as eating lower on the food chain, eliminating investments in fossil fuels, having presenters like Citizens Climate Lobby.

b. How can Mar Vista adopt a carbon neutral goal?

7. Old business

a. Funding motions

The Board of Directors approved funding motions previously passed by the Green Committee. One was to support Save Our Watershed program; it turned out to be time and labor intensive so we'll stop with a few posts that reflect standards to aspire to

b. Policy Motion: Preserving City Trees

The Board of Directors approved Green Committee the policy motion.

8. New business

a. Funding Motion: Green Tent

The Mar Vista Community Council approves the expenditure of up to \$500 to purchase a new Green Tent canopy.

Passed unanimously. Noted that we will also investigate a patch and repair kit.

b. Policy Motion: Solar Energy Petition

The Mar Vista Community Council authorizes the gathering of signatures on the following petition to present to the DWP Board of Directors:

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power is currently proposing an increase of \$10 per month for customers who have installed solar panels. This penalizes people who are trying to go green. DWP's current policies reflect a model of large, centralized energy producing plants that require miles of transmission lines that require costly maintenance. Extreme weather and political events expose these lines to substantial risks. If the public utilities don't get involved in supporting roof-top solar energy, the private sector will. We will then have the same problems as we have with our cable providers. These providers have a monopoly and can charge what they want and give us poor service.

We the undersigned call on DWP to develop policies and services that support roof-top solar energy, and to build the infrastructure to store and utilize the energy generated from roof-top solar panels as well as a skilled workforce to install, maintain and service solar panels. DWP's current policies are modeled on centralized production of energy which is inefficient and ignores the need to develop more decentralized sustainable energy sources.

Discussion

There is state funding for rooftop solar and it has been very successful yet LADWP has not focused on developing storage capacity. DWP is prioritizing major solar farms instead. There is talk that DWP is going to increase charges for solar hook up but Myra & Robin have not been able to verify that. The point of the petition is to insist that LADWP prioritize the development of storage capacity to support expanded rooftop solar.

The committee asked for examples of storage facilities that have been developed (or are in development) by other power providers. We need more clarity on what we are asking for and whether it is deliverable. We also need to have data that supports the cost effectiveness and the comparison of externalities of roof top solar vs solar farms and what the desirable mix is. To consider a motion it needs to be more fully researched and documented.

The committee also stressed the importance of having Myra report to the MVCC Board in her capacity as DWP MOU Liaison as she has not presented to the Board since she was appointed.

Robin and Myra will work on the motion and return to committee

9. Public comment

10. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 10:50 A.M.

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