

**Sustainable Energy Advisory Board (SEAB)
Meeting of September 9, 2014
Meeting No. 99**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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|------------------------|--------------|
| Jason Anderson | Jay Powell |
| John Bumgarner (Chair) | Emily Wier |
| Matthew Ellis | Julie Yunker |
| Douglas Kot | |

MEMBERS ABSENT:

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| Julia Brown | Andrew McKercher |
| Jack Clark | Alison Whitelaw |

I. Call to Order

John Bumgarner called the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M.

II. Non-Agenda Public Comment

None.

III. Adoption of the Minutes

Motion to approve by Julie Yunker. Seconded by Jay Powell. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Announcements and Introductions

The “Electrical Vehicle Day” sponsored by the Center for Sustainable Energy, CleanTECH San Diego and SDG&E is going to be held on Saturday, September 20th, 2014 at Liberty Station. The public will be able to test drive the electric vehicles and learn about electric vehicle charging, incentives, electricity rates, etc.

V. Update on “Solar Permitting Process and other Development Services Initiatives”

Bob Vacchi, Director, and Afsaneh Ahmadi, Deputy Director, of Development Services Department (DSD), provided an update as the progress DSD has made as to the improvements in their processes related to permitting, plan review and inspections. The following improvements were mentioned:

1. Restoration of Saturday and Evening Plan Check Services
2. Self Certification for minor plan checks and completeness review
3. Department Reorganization to allow a stronger management structure and decision-making at the line level
4. Technology Improvements:
 - a. “Open DSD” which will allow people to see the project tracking system data and allow payment of DSD fees on line – This should be implemented by Nov./Dec. 2014

- b. Next goals
 - i. Replacement of the project tracking system
 - ii. Enable electronic submittals – by Spring 2015
- 5. Changes to the Municipal Code should result in:
 - a. Reduction in the number of fees - A “Fee Review” is currently in progress
 - b. Reduction of processing levels for Discretionary permits
 - c. Expansion of Discretionary Permit exemptions
- 6. Moved the location where PV permits would be reviewed from downtown to the Kearny Mesa location and added staff which resulted in a 2 day turnaround for review and issuance of a permit. No more need to make an appointment. The turnaround time has been reduced from 30 days to 2 days.
- 7. Extended inspection services on Saturdays

Questions for DSD Staff:

1. Where did all of these ideas come from and how long for implementation?
Response: All of the managers in DSD got together and came up with the list and hope to have all of them implemented within the next 1½ years.
2. Are you sufficiently funded?
Response: We are partially funded for the “Project Tracking System” and are looking at additional financing options. We’re working with our Financial Management Dept.
3. How does the number of reviews and permits compare to last year? Are you observing a trend line and are you prepared to meet the increased demand?
Response: Yes, we are asking for additional positions in the next year’s budget.
4. Did DSD review the Climate Action Plan (CAP) and is DSD prepared to meet the needs related to the CAP.
Response: Yes, DSD staff did review the CAP and is aware of the requirements.
5. How is DSD staff handling the SB407 requirements as related to water efficiency upgrades?
Response: Currently we are following the existing Municipal Code requirements. Once the Municipal Code is amended, we will work on meeting those requirements.

VI. Workshop on “Future Initiatives for SEAB” – facilitated by Matt Ellis

Matt Ellis led the discussion:

Purpose: Energy 2030, Renewable Energy, Community Interaction & Participation, Coordination, Report to the Mayor’s Office

Scope: Advise the City Council via the Mayor on Energy Policy

Efficacy: Influence via letters, Other?

Goals: Energy Disclosure, CCA, CAP, Smart Growth, Review Pending Rules and Regulations, Define SEAB Duties, Net Zero

Comments/Questions:

- Would like to explore other possible ways to improve the efficacy of this body.
- Are we effective? Do we have examples of where we've been successful?
- Should we focus more narrowly?
- One of the functions of this board is to identify what are the options/choices and the implications of choosing certain policies. I think we do that.
- To whom do we speak? Who is our audience? Who is our best ally in the City? If it's the Mayor, is he the best person for that role? Building a strong partnership with a particular Mayor can be a short term win.
- Can we articulate ourselves better?
- What are the structural impediments to success, if any?
- If we look at the history of this Board....If this Board didn't exist, a lot of things wouldn't have happened.
- One goal: To get a response back from the Mayor's office to our letters.
- CAP is the biggest driver. CAP is going to formulate the policies which will lead to goals.
- Having goals will allow us to be more focused.
- Once the CAP is passed, all of the individual policies will need to be implemented. We can have a lot of influence over the modification of the municipal codes/policies that come out of CAP.
- We are supposed to report to the Rules Committee every 6 months.
- We can probably do other things that will make us more visible and successful when the letter comes out.
- One thing we could do is have a different forum for these meetings.
- Our audience is missing as to the City Council and Mayor's Office.
- Also, perhaps have meeting every 60 days that are more "powerful."
- John Bumgarner mentioned that he had met with Council President Gloria at one time and his comments were as follows:
 - Get a voice that people want to listen to.
 - Have consistency of actually meeting.
 - Speak to the economic interest of the City.

Result: Need to continue the discussion at next month's meeting.

John Bumgarner mentioned that the next month's agenda will focus on the following:

- What is the product that we can produce?
- What are the elements of efficacy?
- If we're going to meet with the Mayor's office and the Council President, who will be attending those meetings?
- Should we go to 60 day meetings and should we meet at a different location?

VII. Update on Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)

A draft should be available from the Community Choice Partners by October.

VIII. TAC Committee Meeting Update

Next meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, September 10th. Douglas Kot will attend.

IX. Suggested Guests for Upcoming Meetings

It was decided that future guests will be postponed until after the discussion on SEAB's role and responsibilities and the dates/location of future meetings has been decided.

X. Legislative Update

1. CaliforniaFIRST will be going in front of City Council on September 16th seeking approval to be third PACE provider for City of San Diego residents.
2. AB327 was passed last year and there will be hearings next week. It's an effort to flatten tiers and put a \$10 flat fee for all rate payers.
3. AB758 – Expecting that the implementation plan will come out later this month.

XI. City Update:

Dave Weil mentioned that the City was looking at possibly putting Solar on landfills.

XII. New Business

None.

XIII. Round-Table Announcements

None.

XIV. Adjourn

John Bumgarner adjourned the meeting at 12:00 P.M.