MEETING DATE: January 11, 2010

AGENDA ITEM : Discussion of the Subject of Sustainability, including a Report from the Sustainability Subcommittee, and the Topic of Water Conservation.

ATTACHMENTS

Sustainability Subcommittee Meeting Notes from October 15, 2009 meeting and Action Items for December 10, 2009

Notes

Review of notes from past meeting

1. The notes from the September 10, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant

2. Charles announced that we received an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant award, which will fund projects at two local parks. He mentioned that we may include these projects as part of a larger energy efficiency project to be discussed later.

Breadth of committees re: sustainability issues

3. Charles, Gary and Scott summarized the two different visions for a sustainability committee or committees that we had discussed at the September 10th meeting.
4. Scott described his support for narrower, focused committees at this point on issues like landscaping standards and AB 811 implementation.
5. Gary expressed support for a broad committee focused more generally on sustainability issues, as opposed to narrower committees.
6. Mark acknowledged the breadth of the topic of sustainability and suggested that the city might not be the best place to house such a committee given the challenges that committees often face when they have to operate within the structure of the City (i.e. complying with Brown Act requirements, etc.). He recommended that City staff participate in the committee, just not "own" the committee. He mentioned that he has seen committees like the one he is suggesting focus on 1) low-hanging policies (i.e. plastic bag ordinances), 2) organizing special events, and 3) educating with community forums, etc.
7. Mark also mentioned that another possibility besides the ones Scott, Mark, and he brought up is to incorporate this committee into the General Plan process. However, the timeline on that option would be longer.
8. Scott said that he was fine with the concept of a sustainability committee outside of City Hall, but indicated that there is still a need for input on specific topics.
9. Mark suggested that it might be preferable to ask people to informally help on those specific topics rather than to form formal committees.
10. Gary recognized some of the challenges with the requirements imposed on formal committees, but also suggested that they are beneficial because they show the Council's commitment to the issue of sustainability and also encourage more commitment from participants. He expressed a desire to have a central

place for the public to come and discuss sustainability issues, and suggested that another possibility is that we could open the Sustainable Subcommittee up to the community.

11. Per Gary's suggestion, we decided to discuss the different options for a committee or committees re: sustainability with the full City Council.

<u>RFP for PPA and Performance Contract</u>

12. Charles reported that he talked to someone from Chevron about potentially partnering with the school district on an RFP for a power purchase agreement (PPA). Based on this discussion, Charles didn't think that there would be financial benefits from partnering with the school district and it might just complicate the process.
13. Charles also reported that staff is also looking at the separate but related issue of possibly entering into a performance contract whereby a company would audit city buildings and use the audit to find energy savings sufficient to fund other improvements.
14. Charles indicated that Honeywell is looking at putting together a proposal. Charles would like to get more companies involved, though, and thus staff is in the process of drafting an RFQ now.
15. Scott mentioned that DWP has a program to install solar photovoltaic on private property and asked if there might be an opportunity for the city to encourage solar through making the addition of solar a condition of development or working with private property owners in other ways.
16. Sol mentioned the article that was distributed at the meeting, which described two recent bills that were signed that will encourage the placement of solar photovoltaic by requiring utilities to pay people more for the energy they feed into the system (a.k.a. feed in tariff).
17. Suggestions were also made for additional places where solar panels could be installed, including the Kirk Douglas Theater and the Senior Center parking lot.
18. Charles mentioned that West LA College is considering turning 10100 Jefferson into a solar park and is interested in partnering with the city. He indicated that we are in the preliminary stages of exploring that option.
19. Craig mentioned that requests for the purchase of small amounts of solar photovoltaics have been removed from the budget proposal by Finance in the past.
20. Charles indicated that we would probably have the RFP for the PPA and performance contract prepared and ready to go by the end of the year.

<u>AB 811</u>

21. Helen provided a summary of LA County's efforts to create a countywide AB 811 program. She went over the timeline, which is relatively aggressive and provided a brief overview of some of the details that the County has yet to finalize in the areas of: 1) eligible owners and properties, 2) eligible improvements, 3) financing, and 4) grants. She mentioned that LA County is asking COGs and cities to write letters of support for the County's grant applications.
22. Gary expressed support for the program, but indicated that we should make sure the letter of support doesn't commit us to joining the program prior to City Council officially making that determination.

Ahwahnee Principles

23. Damian reported that Santa Monica has decided on language for its resolution re: the Ahwahnee Principles. Santa Monica is planning to "affirm its support" for the original, water, and economic development principles. It is planning to "endorse" the climate change principles. Beverly Hills is also planning to "affirm its support" for the principles.
24. Mark expressed the opinion that he was not uncomfortable with that language but that he thought it was a little odd.
25. Gary what we plan to do with these principles after we affirm our support for them. Charles responded that will use them as a reference document that helps guide us as we make policies, similar to the way we use the AIA study as a reference.
26. There was agreement that we should pass draft a resolution with somewhat similar language to Santa Monica and Beverly Hills for the Council's consideration.

Model Water Efficiency Ordinance

27. Helen provided a summary of the contents of the Model Water Efficiency Ordinance that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) created. DWR is requiring that all jurisdictions pass the Model Ordinance or one at least as effective by January 1, 2010 or the Ordinance will go into effect automatically.
28. The ordinance is a lengthy document that spells out specific requirements for a landscape documentation package, including a worksheet, soil management report, landscape design plan, irrigation design plan, and grading design plan for new or rehabilitated landscapes over 2,500 or 5,000 square feet requiring a permit, plan check, or design review. It also has some provisions covering existing landscapes over 1 acre in size.
29. Scott explained that Beverly Hills is adopting an ordinance that has a consistent 2,500 square feet requirement and lists the details in regulations rather than an ordinance itself.

30. Helen suggested that we may want to consider something similar to Beverly Hills, but that we'll know more after the meeting that DWR is holding on Oct. 20th.
31. Gary suggested that we bring up this issue again as the first item on the agenda for the next meeting, which we agreed to do.
32. Charles suggested that another department besides Public Works would be most appropriate to take the lead on this ordinance, since it relates to private property or large public parcels rather than the public right-of-way. He and Sol will discuss who should be involved.

Other

33. Scott mentioned that he was emailed by someone who has smart irrigation system that waters 20 minutes per day rather than 15 minutes and asked about whether we should amend the ordinance to take that into account.

Next Meeting

34. We did not schedule the next meeting. It was subsequently scheduled for 12/10/2009 at 7:30 am.

Follow-Up/Action Items

1. 6/4/09 (Gary) – Put ARRA projects on City website (Eric).
2. 7/10/09 (Scott) – Look into the feasibility of creating a Sustainable Community Plan based on a model plan and how best to do this (separately or independently).
3. 10/15/2009 – Bring PPA RFP/performance contract back to the Subcommittee (Eric).
4. 10/15/2009 – Provide County with letter of support re: AB 811 (Helen).
5. 10/15/2009 – Bring resolution re: Ahawahnee Principles to City Council (Damian).
6. 10/15/2009 (Gary) – Discuss Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance at next meeting.
7. 10/15/2009 – Look into whether Water Conservation Ordinance should be changed to accommodate smart irrigation systems that water for 20 min (Helen).