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THE CULVER CITY SUSTAINABILITY SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE CITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CULVER CITY SUSTAINABILITY
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

August 22, 2024
6:30 p.m.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Mayor McMorrin called the special meeting of the Sustainability Subcommittee of the City Council to order at 6:32 p.m. in the Dan Patacchia Meeting Room at City Hall and via Webex.

Present: Yasmine-Imani McMorrin, Mayor
Freddy Puza, Council Member

Staff Present: Sean Singletary, Environmental Programs and Operations (EPO) Manager
Wallis Nash, Senior Management Analyst
Shetauna Smith, Environmental Programs and Operations (EPO) Inspector
Alicia Ide, Management Analyst

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Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Community Announcement by Members

None.

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Information Items from Staff

None.

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Public Comment - Items NOT On the Agenda

Mayor McMorris invited public comment.

The following member of the public addressed the Subcommittee:

David Coles discussed the idea of different tiers of garbage bins to incentivize the public to produce less waste; outreach; allowing participation for the average resident; appreciation for the regular Subcommittee meetings; taking sustainability seriously; rooftop solar on City-owned buildings; City goals; feasibility; challenges; placing solar on City Hall or the Police Department roof; visibility; symbolic value; free site assessments available; the climate crisis; the importance of taking action as soon as possible; leaf blowers; compliance; progress; and he indicated that enforcement staff had been helpful.

Sophia Kennedy was called to speak but was not present online or in person.

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Receipt of Correspondence

MOVED BY COUNCIL MEMBER PUZA, SECONDED BY MAYOR MCMORRIN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE SUSTAINABILITY SUBCOMMITTEE RECEIVE AND FILE CORRESPONDENCE.

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Consent Calendar

Item C-1

Approval of Minutes for the Sustainability Subcommittee Special Meeting on July 22, 2024

MOVED BY COUNCIL MEMBER PUZA, SECONDED BY MAYOR MCMORRIN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE SUSTAINABILITY SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING ON JULY 22, 2024.

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Action Items

Item A-1

Receive and Discuss an Update Regarding the Outreach Plan for the Proposal to Ban Single-Use Plastic Beverage Bottles, Balloons, Butts (Smoking), Astro-Turf, and Single-Use Bags Not Pre-Exempted by California Public Resources Code

Staff provided a summary of the material of record; discussed survey tactics; social media; email outreach; and materials to be handed out.

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding distribution of materials at the Environmental Programs and Operations (EPO) booth at Fiesta La Ballona; policy that restricts or seems to take away autonomy; considering the way issues are framed into account; looking for ways to keep plastic out of the waterways; education about sustainability and climate goals; taking a neutral approach; data collection; consumer behavior; feedback in favor of the bans; opposing parties; ensuring there would be no favoritism toward either side; comments from the community about wanting to help formulate the questions; avoidance of words referring to banning and restrictions; placing the focus more on environmental impacts; in-person vs. online feedback; developing qualitative feedback; the Senior Center Newsletter; determining how things relate to SB54; concerns with exemptions to beverage bottles; and reuse requirements.

Mayor McMorris invited public comment.

The following members of the public addressed the Subcommittee:

Maria Stockham, Coalition for Responsible Celebration, provided background on the organization; acknowledged environmental impacts of balloons; discussed proper disposal; unintended consequences of a complete ban; taking a more focused approach; banning the intentional release of balloons; proper disposal; recycling; education; community engagement; reducing environmental impacts; and she expressed willingness to share resources they have developed and to

collaborate with Culver City to promote practices that balance protections with the ability to celebrate.

Melody Pianga was called to speak but did not respond.

Adrian Waite, Party City, noted that the previous speaker had covered most of their talking points; discussed banning the intentional release of balloons; educating customers on recycling balloons; ensuring that every balloon has weights; and educational information provided to customers.

Lisa Brubaker was called to speak but did not respond.

Nadzeya Baturevich was called on to speak but did not respond.

David Coles received clarification that the survey was available at culvercityrecycles.com and that retroactive enactment of a turf ban would be a policy decision; he felt that the only way a turf ban would be effective was if it would be retroactive; he questioned whether the Coalition for Responsible Celebration was a front as he believed there was no coordination of responsible celebrators; discussed his experience at kids' birthday parties; stated that he had never seen weights on balloons; asserted there would be no wide-spread compliance; proposed that a more effective approach would be to ban helium as those are the balloons that become a problem; discussed proper disposal; being realistic; he noted that a ban would not kill being able to be festive; and he encouraged skepticism about whether commercial interests or public interests were weighing in.

Sophia Kennedy was called to speak but did not respond.

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding appreciation for the presentation; regular presentations at upcoming meetings; and encouragement to the public to fill out the survey.

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Item A-2

Receive and Discuss a Presentation Regarding Proposed Application for United States Department of Agriculture Grant Application for Composting Programs

Wallis Nash, Senior Management Analyst, provided a presentation on the proposed application for the United States Department of Agriculture grant application for composting programs.

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding origin of the idea; participation by multi-family units; prioritizing any areas with organics receptacles; start date; leveraging the grant with another grant; rolling out the service in May; providing community compost hubs; servicing; staffing; volunteers; matching funds; the end goal to have organics service at every property; compliance with AB1383; avoiding trucking; keeping things local; number of bins; the ability to adaptively manage the program and scale up; the trial program; other communities with robust participation; organizing a volunteer system; community driven usage of City resources; and helping get the program started.

Mayor McMorris invited public comment.

The following member of the public addressed the subcommittee:

David Coles expressed support for the program; discussed popular programs in other cities; the percentage of the population who would voluntarily participate; incentivizing waste reduction; and he asked for help with engaging the Farmers Market to participate noting a lack of progress so far.

MOVED BY COUNCIL MEMBER PUZA, SECONDED BY MAYOR MCMORRIN AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE SUSTAINABILITY SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE CITY COUNCIL RECOMMEND THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE PROPOSED APPLICATION FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE GRANT APPLICATION FOR COMPOSTING PROGRAMS.

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Public Comment for Items NOT on the Agenda

Mayor McMorris invited public participation.

The following member of the public addressed the Subcommittee.

Nick Burrows sent a message indicating that he did not want

to speak.

Sophia Kennedy was called to speak but did not respond.

Lisa Brubaker indicated not being able to join the meeting earlier; noted that she was a balloon designer; reported emailing her comments; expressed concern with getting lumped in with single-use plastic; discussed helium balloons; clarification that many decorators do not use helium as it is cost prohibitive; balloons filled with air; opposition to a full ban as there are different ways to use balloons; different types of balloons; support for banning balloon releases; proper disposal of balloons used at the Democratic Convention; and she asked for partnership to solve issues rather than just enacting a ban.

Alicia Ide, Management Analyst, reported that Sophia Kennedy was still not available online to speak; she indicated that the video would be posted online in a week; and she encouraged anyone who wanted to email a comment for submission to Subcommittee Members.

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Members Requests to Agendize Future Items

Council Member Puza asked that the Police Station be considered for solar panels.

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding coordination of Clean Air Day by the City Manager's Office; recognition planned for the September 23, 2024 City Council meeting; past social media and email blasts about City efforts; staff agreement to investigate and gather further information; a suggestion to hold an event next year; the Walk and Rollers event; Walk to School Day; becoming a Climate Crisis City; sustainability elements of the General Plan; creating a Climate Action Plan; preparation for 2030; and becoming a climate-ready community.

Mayor McMorris asked that due diligence be done by investigating the feasibility of all City spaces for potential solar; discussed understanding what is available; identified programs; and she asked that the City amplify Climate Action Polluza at West Los Angeles College.

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding staff outreach regarding charging opportunities; opening up the survey for commercial stakeholders to employees; support for being inclusive; Climate Action Polluza from October 24-26 at West Los Angeles College; the date for the next meeting; and room availability.

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Items from Subcommittee Members/Staff

None.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 7:34 p.m., the Sustainability Subcommittee of the City Council adjourned to October 10, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

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Alicia Ide
SECRETARY of the Culver City Sustainability Subcommittee of
the City Council Culver City, California

APPROVED

Yasmine-Imani McMorrin
MAYOR, Sustainability Subcommittee of the City Council
Culver City, California