

Sustainability Task Force
April 19, 2010
3-5:00 pm, Conference Room One

As Chair Ann Schwab was absent, Scott Wolf acted as Chair for this meeting.

General Comments - No Specific Goal/Policy:

- ▶ Hire or designate a City employee to be the City Sustainability Coordinator. General agreement is that Linda Herman would be the best candidate.
- ▶ Wolf: Wants to see more about reclaiming areas and restoring areas.
- ▶ Buckley: Wants partnership with CPUC, an inventory of community gardens, promotion by city groups, and buying from gardens. Promote composting and the use of collection agencies to get the waste for compost. City should be promoting green or sustainability groups. We might want to think about exploring our own City energy source. A Sustainability Coordinator should be hired or whatever it takes.
- ▶ Stevens: We need to be conscious about being too prohibitive. Needs to be general so we don't have to spend a lot of time reworking it as problems come up.
- ▶ Zener: Thinks the verbiage and divisions are very good but is disturbed by the generalities and no nitty-gritty on how to implement. He wonders about the distance between the platitudes and implementation. Essence seems to be on infill, mixed use, vehicle miles traveled. Seems to be undue emphasis on municipal aspects. Needs more emphasis on community wide aspects.
- ▶ McNall: Doesn't really seeing the action items as happening. They don't really have much impact in the wording. Gives the example of Portland, OR and everything they've done.
- ▶ Luvaas: There's a lot of suggestive language and not much teeth. In the 1994 General Plan, a lot was suggested but nothing was ever done about it. We aren't making any headway on a lot of things, just putting it off. If no teeth, things will just continue to be put off. This plan needs to be tightened up.

Goal 1: Balance the Environment, Economy and Social Equity

Action 1.3.2 Buckley: Say "Sustainability Publications". Do we really want a handbook? Maybe a magazine or email group would be better. Handbook wouldn't reduce waste. Wants verbiage about coordinating with other groups, like BCAG or the County.

Policy 1.5 Sustainability Partnerships

1.5 Buckley: Doesn't go far enough, we should be coordinating with them, not just know about them.

****Potential Policy 1.6** (New policy suggested by Luvaas)

1.6 Luvaas: There ought to be something mentioned regarding public health needs. He wants public health to specifically be mentioned by name.

Goal 2: Increase Effective Citizen Participation in Local Government

Policy 2.1: Public Participation

2.1 Duisenberg: Regarding citizen participation and fostering partnership, in Chico, that's very

extensive. Wants citizen leadership celebrated and mentioned more often.

2.1.1 Stallman: Focus on “safe” technology. Protect the people around the cell towers. How are people protected from technologies that are unknown or unproven. We need to provide educational opportunities to the people of Chico. Need to continue to provide opportunities for people to learn about natural spaces. Environmental education needed.

Policy 2.2: Outside Agencies - Strengthen the language and add an action item (City of Chico Website links to other meetings).

2.2 Grossman: Wants more teeth put into that statement. Add an action to this policy.

Goal 3: Lead the Way to a Sustainable Chico by Reducing the Environmental Impact of City Operations

Policy 3.1: Sustainable Products and Services

3.1.1 Stallman: How is “local” going to be defined? With some sort of measurement? Need a good definition of green. It’s such a vague word, means something different to different people.

Policy 3.2: Municipal Energy Use

3.2.2 Luvaas: He suggests that as the City reduces energy use, we need to promote the City’s ideas that worked.

3.2.3 Luvaas: Fossil fuel use has to be reduced in the next 10 years by 80%. We need to see what we can do to reduce fossil fuels.

Policy 3.3: Municipal Water Reduction

3.3.1 Strengthen language and add bins in parks.

3.3.2 Luvaas: More recycling bins are the only action that’s mentioned. City Council should do everything we can to reduce, reuse, etc. Suggested a new action (3.3.2) to reduce consumption. Don’t leave it up to the task force to take a facilitating role. City needs to be more assertive. Let’s get behind things.

Policy 3.4: Sustainable Fleet

3.4.1 Luvaas/Stallman: Select vehicles with the best, most reasonable long-term solution in mind.

**** Potential Policy 3.5**

Luvaas: He suggests a new policy, eliminate toxic products. Conduct regular audits of municipal facilities to identify and replace toxic products.

Goal 4: Encourage Green Development

Green development needs stronger incentives.

Expand financial partnerships to create incentives.

Grossman: Composting is an issue that the City should be addressing; it’s very important.

McNall: There’s no mention of infill in Goal #4. He wants more incentives for green building because it saves money and resources.

Duisenberg: Wants to encourage and make solid incentives for green buildings.

DiGiovanni: It might be problematic to reduce fees for LEED or green projects. Need more

definition for fees as to the impact of the project on the public. Now everyone is paying the same fee for a 1,200 sf home as for a 3,500 sf home. Fees per sf would lead to more compact and more mixed use. A tiered fee schedule could be considered.

Policy 4.1: Green Public Buildings

4.1.3 Luvaas: He suggests a new policy talking about green infrastructure.

Policy 4.2: Water Efficient Landscaping

Pushnik: Wants to see some type of incentive for LEED development for existing housing stock.

4.2 Stallman: Need “low water” or “native” landscaping.

Policy 4.3: Green Development Practices

4.3.1 Buckley: Put more teeth into it. Green development: Explore adopting a green building code, or use the checklist to make some required. Need to address the existing housing structures and look at energy efficiency.

4.3.3 Giampaoli: He encourages green development, but why is this a mandate? It goes beyond “encourage”. . Reflective roofing for instance, why do we have to pinpoint this requirement on new development, which brings new jobs.

4.3.5 Luvaas: He suggests a new policy to reduce storm water runoff, green it up as much as we can.

Goal 5: Increase Energy Efficiency and Reduce Nonrenewable Resource Consumption Citywide.

Explore having a City utility company.

Policy 5.1: Energy Efficient Retrofits

5.1 Include a new reflective roofing action

5.1 Strengthen language, not just encourage, or at least say how.

5.1 McNall: He is concerned about this. Needs to emphasize existing housing stock, report focuses on where energy savings can be found and that would be in existing housing stock.

5.1.1 Buckley: Wants the action to be a little more vague to give more flexibility. Explore projects with PG&E. Explore financial partnerships with PG&E.

5.1.2 Add programs that reduce energy use in existing structures

5.1.2 Stallman: Also encourages continuance of energy efficiency in current housing and commercial stock, all existing structures.

Policy 5.2: Energy Efficient Design

5.2 More green building incentives (Fees, fast track building permits, etc.)

5.2 Wolf: Wants to establish standards for all new structures. Pacific Supply has many Energy Star roofing materials.

5.2 Wolf: Lower the fees or fast track permits for those designing in a greener way.

5.2.1 Give incentives for building housing to certified standards

5.2.1 Dobbs: “Suggest, encourage, promote” are used a lot, it’s vague language; be more direct.

5.2.3 Passive solar (include a landscaping example)

5.2.3 Giampaoli: Soften language to “encourage”. Code already covers. Use the word

encourage, rather than what is being used.

5.2.3 Stallman: Needs some more specifics. Passive solar, needs some notation of landscaping and it's impact on solar.

5.2.3 Grossman: Needs more indepth study. How about electric charging stations. Anything for the City in the works? Wants mandates that these are located somewhere in the City.

5.2.4 Add a new action to encourage alternative construction materials

5.2.4 Giampaoli: Doesn't like it. It could change the continuity of the neighborhood.

5.3 City should take a role in developing these sites.

5.2.x Wolf: Remove barriers for alternative building types such as straw bales, etc.

Goal 6: Reduce the Level of Carbon Emissions Citywide

Policy 6.2: Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Climate Action Plan

6.2 Pushnik: Wants another point for public engagement instead of just a committee.

6.2 Luvaas: Keeping the climate action plan updated. Include some type of language that says we look further than 2020, probably 2030. Go further with our goals.

6.2.4 Call for public outreach about the City's GHG plans

6.3 Board Notes: Review language regarding individual projects

Goal 7: Support Local Food System

Add a policy about composting (promote it, require its collection, educate)

Expand collective composting

Policy 1: Community Food System

7.1.1 Board Notes: GMOs - support the use of non-GMOs (seed, food, etc.)

7.1.1 Stallman: Farmers Markets...suggest no GMOs in markets.

7.1.2 Pushnik: Can we create incentives for use of local food in restaurants, stores, etc.? A statement of support on the menu or something like that.

Policy 2: Support Community Gardens

7.2.2 Luvaas: City should take an active role in utilizing underused acreage for community gardens. Gardens in new subdivisions or in multifamily units. Suggest additional policies because we don't want to lose more ag land, need to preserve land. Zone property so it won't be developed.