

**Minutes of the
SAUSALITO SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION**

**6:00 P.M. in the Conference Room at 420 LITHO STREET, SAUSALITO, CA
Thursday, February 4, 2009**

1. Call to Order at 6:05 pm.

2. Roll Call:

Present: Bill Ring, Monica Towers, Ray Gergus, Ken Kurtzig

Absent: Sue Currier, Alix Spivack

Visitors: Grant Hoag, P.E. CDM Inc., Jonathan Goldman, City of Sausalito

3. Approval of the Agenda – M/S/P to move the presentation by Grant Hoag, CDM Inc. and Jonathan Goldman, City of Sausalito to the next item on the agenda.

4. Presentation by CDM and the City of Sausalito. - Every five years, the City engages an engineering consultant to review the sewer parcel assessments and assessment levels for fairness and adequacy. This year is particularly important because of the legal action on the City and associated sanitary districts by the EPA and the State of California. The Commission reviewed the draft recommendations of the consultant without taking action at this meeting. The intention is to review the handouts presented and to put the issue on the agenda for the March meeting. The Commission does not have the expertise to comment on the size of the proposed plan but can comment on its desirability and form.

The sewer system is in need of significant repairs as evidenced by the recent spills of raw and partially treated sewage into the Bay. The needed diagnostics, maintenance and repairs will require a significant increase in the parcel tax. The consultant recommends a 45% increase this year followed by a 26% increase two years later. In addition, the consultant also recommended a modification of the basis for commercial parcels.

A further factor in the planning of sewer programs is the settlement with Riverwatch that compels the City to allocate \$100,000 to programs to improve sewer laterals. The City intends to work with the Sausalito – Marin City Sewer District to expand their program to help homeowners inspect and repair their sewer laterals.

At the meeting, several Commissioners noted that homeowners could be motivated to agree to the proposed increases given the appropriate information. The City should point out the magnitude of the ecological problems and their significance to the local environment. It will be a "hard sell" if the City simply identifies the financial consequences of potential actions by the governmental agencies.

The secretary will send the handouts to the absent members.

5. M/S/P to approve the minutes of the January meeting.

6. Bay Cities Refuse Services - No action as Greg Cristie had a medical emergency and could not attend.

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7. Public Comment. – Commissioner Kurtzig noted that he has been working with Berg Holdings in the Marinship area as a part of his business, IReuse. Berg has increased its recycling from 6% to 63%.

8. Unfinished Business

- A. Flyers – The flyers from the Belleview Washington area cannot be copied because the images are copyrighted. Commissioner Towers will contact BCRS to see if they can find suitable graphics for our flyers.
- B. Outreach – No report
- C. Website – Some updating has occurred but more is needed. The loss of Commissioner Faber will involve a different approach to the newsletter.
- D. Solar Panels – No progress
- E. No Bottled Water Ordinance – No progress
- F. Green Expo – No progress
- G. Noise Ordinance – No progress
- H. Overwatering in City parks - No progress
- I. Hazardous Waste – Commissioner Kurtzig will contact BCRS to see if the Commission and BCRS can sponsor an electronics pickup day. There is a possibility that BCRS is not licensed to do this. If so, the Commissioner Kurtzig will look into engaging a properly licensed contractor.

9. New Business - None

10. Agenda for Next Month

- A. Sewer system
- B. Electronics pickup
- C. City to become a Certified Green Business
- D. Other unfinished business items

11. Adjournment at 7:45