



Staff Report

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A CITIZENS' GREEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

Summary

Approval of the attached resolution would direct staff to create a Citizens' Green Advisory Committee.

Background

Cities across the peninsula are making efforts to improve their environmental sustainability and reduce their carbon footprint. As part of the City's Vision Statement, the City Council has emphasized that our actions today should preserve and enhance Belmont's beauty to make it even lovelier for our grandchildren. The City of Belmont has accomplished many objectives towards meeting its goal of becoming a sustainable "green city." The following are just some examples:

- Developing a resident city services voucher program for purchase of a "green" vehicle.
- Working towards using solar electric power in City facilities such as the library.
- Eliminated Building Permit fees for solar electric systems.
- Considering sponsorship of residential solar electric program.
- Using biodiesel in fleet with diesel engines and working toward converting heavy vehicle fleet to clean diesel and compressed natural gas (CNG).
- Replacing police detective vehicles with more fuel-efficient Dodge Charger.
- Completed energy audit to determine power consumption and carbon footprint.
- Purchasing energy-efficient computer equipment.
- Installed energy-efficient air conditioning in City buildings.
- Supporting state legislation to promote renewable energy.

Staff recommends that the Council establish a citizens' committee to assist the City in becoming more environmentally sustainable. Staff is seeking Council direction on how to create such a committee; specifically regarding its name, mission, composition, and duration. For the purpose of this report, the proposed committee will be referred to as the "Citizens' Green Advisory Committee."

Discussion

I. Name

Staff suggests calling the committee the “Citizens’ Green Advisory Committee,” although Council may select a different name if it so desires. For example, the City of San Mateo has a “Sustainability Advisory Committee” and the City of San Carlos has a “San Carlos Green Task Force,” which perform similar functions as Belmont’s proposed committee.

II. Mission

An important part of establishing the Citizens’ Green Advisory Committee is forming its mission statement. As discussed previously, the purpose of creating the committee is to gather additional ideas to enhance the City’s efforts towards environmental sustainability. The Committee would provide valuable input and support the City’s action toward meeting goals such as:

- Energy efficiency and conservation.
- Green buildings.
- Waste reduction and recycling.
- Climate-friendly purchasing.
- Alternative energy and low-carbon fuels.
- Sustainable land use and smart growth.
- Promoting individual and community action.
- Tree planting.

Attachment B gives a brief overview of the Institute for Local Government’s California Climate Action Network, including a checklist of Best Practices for Climate Protection. The Citizens’ Green Advisory Committee could base its work plan on this checklist, which rates the effectiveness of local government actions to promote climate protection.

The San Carlos Green Task Force lists its mission statement as the following (see <http://www.sancarlosgreen.org/>):

San Carlos Green is a community task force whose goal is to inspire a more environmentally conscious and sustainable community. Working in collaboration with City government, the group is engaging residents and the business community in environmental initiatives that reduce the city’s carbon footprint and promote sustainable practices.

- *Reducing Waste and Providing Safe Disposal of Hazardous Materials*
- *Maximizing Energy and Water Conservation*
- *Promoting Green Building Practices*
- *Implementing Sustainable Landscaping and Maintenance Practices*
- *Enhancing the Urban Tree Canopy*

The City of San Mateo authorizes its Sustainability Advisory Committee to do the following (see http://www.cityofsanmateo.org/government/board_sac.html):

- *Work with City staff and a consultant to develop and recommend to the City Council a plan that identifies and prioritizes practices and programs to further the City's sustainability efforts. The plan will include recommendations for practices the City could encourage and/or require of residents and businesses and recommendations residents and businesses can undertake on their own.*
- *Engage and educate the community in the value of increased sustainable practices and solicit input on the impact and acceptance of potential sustainable practices.*

The City's Green Team believes the San Mateo mission is more consistent with goals and objectives of the City of Belmont. The only modification that staff suggests, is deleting the reference to "consultant" in the first bullet.

III. Composition

Staff suggests that the Citizens' Green Advisory Committee could be comprised of the following individuals (total of eleven):

- City Council (1 member)
- Planning Commission (1)
- Parks Commission (1)
- Finance Commission (1)
- Neighborhood Associations (2 total)
- Chamber of Commerce (1)
- Sustainable San Mateo County (1)
- Community Members at Large (3)

The City of Belmont's Committee could be comprised differently. For example, the City of San Mateo's Sustainability Advisory Committee is formed in the following manner:

- Brandt Grotte, City Council Member (committee chair)
- Kelly Moran, Planning Commissioner (Robert Gooyer, alternate)
- Marion Weiler, Public Works Commissioner
- Ellen Ulrich, Parks & Recreation Commissioner
- Linda Asbury, Chamber of Commerce designee
- George Studle, Association of Realtors designee
- Linda Jansen of Salesforce.com, Large employer representative
- Tom Rounds, Sustainable San Mateo County designee
- Rafael Reyes, San Mateo Climate Action designee (Stephanie Reyes, alternate)

The San Carlos Green Task Force founding members are responsible for certain areas of environmental sustainability. They are organized in the following way:

- Sustainable Gardening, Integrated Pest Management and Urban Tree Canopy – Pat Bell and Margaret Desmond
- Water & Energy Conservation, Green Buildings – Suzanne Emerson
- Energy Conservation, Green Buildings and Task Force Communications – Ann Iverson
- Recycling, Waste Reduction and Disposal of Hazardous Materials – Pat Potter
- Climate Change – Suzanne Emerson and Ann Iverson

IV. Duration

If the Council chooses to establish the Citizens' Green Advisory Committee, a termination date should be considered. For example, the committee could be given direction to complete this mission within six months or one year. Should the committee develop, and have adopted specific deliverables that would be beneficial for the committee to extend its term, the Council could consider it at that time.

General Plan/Vision Statement

The Citizens' Green Advisory Committee compliments the City's Vision Statement by working towards preserving and enhancing the community for future generations.

Fiscal Impact

Additional staff time.

Public Contact

Posting of City Council agenda.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council provide direction to staff, including approving the attached resolution establishing the Citizens' Green Advisory Committee.

Alternatives

1. Take No Action.
2. Refer back to staff for further information.
3. Deny the request.

Attachments

- A. Resolution
- B. Overview of Institute for Local Government Climate Action Network

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Fil
Finance Director

Jack R. Crist
City Manager

Staff Contact:

Thomas Fil, Finance Director
(650) 595-7435
tfil@belmont.gov

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELMONT
ESTABLISHING THE CITIZENS' GREEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that public participation is necessary in helping the City achieve its goals and objectives of becoming more environmentally sustainable;

WHEREAS, the Citizens' Green Advisory Committee is consistent with the City's Vision Statement and Economic Development Program;

WHEREAS, the Citizens' Green Advisory Committee is comprised of eleven (11) individuals in the following manner: City Council (1), Planning Commission (1), Parks Commission (1), Finance Commission (1), Neighborhood Associations (2), Chamber of Commerce (1), Sustainable San Mateo County (1), and Citizens at Large (3);

WHEREAS, the City Council has established the mission statement of the Citizens' Green Advisory Committee;

WHEREAS, the Citizens' Green Advisory Committee will terminate one (1) year from adoption of this resolution, at which time Council will review the Committee and consider extending the term for an additional period of time;

WHEREAS, the Citizens' Green Advisory Committee would encourage the community to think globally and act locally;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Belmont establishes the Citizens' Green Advisory Committee.

* * * * *

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Belmont at a regular meeting thereof held on October 23, 2007 by the following vote:

AYES, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

NOES, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

ABSTAIN, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

ABSENT, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

CLERK of the City of Belmont

APPROVED:

MAYOR of the City of Belmont