



CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

Report: The Establishment of a Sustainability Commission

1. Motion directing staff to prepare an ordinance to amend the Glendale Municipal Code to establish a Sustainability Commission to advise and make recommendations to the City Council on matters related to the implementation of the City Glendale sustainability policies, and help engage the community by participating in various public education, outreach, and promotional activities related to sustainability.

COUNCIL ACTION

Item Type: Action Item

Approved for September 1, 2020 **calendar**

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Submitted by:

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Reviewed by:

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Approved by:

Yasmin K. Beers, City Manager

RECOMMENDATION

Staff respectfully recommends that the City Council provide direction to create and establish a commission of the City to be known as the Sustainability Commission.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

In June of 2020 City Council asked staff to research the feasibility of establishing a Sustainability Commission.

Staff reached out to a number of organizations in the region that have established similar advisory commissions. Staff contacted the following cities: Pasadena, Burbank, Palm Springs, Chula Vista and Long Beach. Additionally, a community group provided input that was taken into consideration in developing the staff's recommendations.

All the Cities contacted responded with information that followed along similar lines.

- All the Cities outlined the purpose and functions of the Commission to advise City Council on sustainability policy matters to address issues such as; air quality, water quality, resource conservation, transportation, renewable energy, environmental justice, design and the built environment, the preservation and improvement of urban areas.
- Advise City Council on the development of Climate Action plans and Sustainability plans.
- In most cases the Commissions' functions included an outreach and education component and cooperation with other organizations exercising interest in the same fields.
- The City of Palm Springs also established a process for creating (Ad hoc or Standing) Subcommittees to work on issues and identify topics for further development. The Subcommittee refines these ideas and products and presents them to the Commission for consideration or approval based on the topic.

City of Glendale Sustainability Commission Recommendations

The purpose of the Sustainability Commission would be to provide advice to the City Council and City Departments in the areas of low emissions development, nature based development, circular development, resilient development and equitable and people centered development and other related fields as determined by the City Council. The Sustainability Commission will work in conjunction with the Sustainability Officer and City Departments regarding the Greener Glendale Plan, Climate Action Plans and to monitor progress toward established and future sustainability goals.

Duties and functions of the Sustainability Commission could include:

1. Advise City Council on low emissions development initiatives including; reducing greenhouse gasses emissions from; the built environment, transportation, waste generation and food systems. The Sustainability Commission may advise the City Council on renewable energy strategies prioritizing clean fuel policies and transportation.
2. Advise City Council on nature based development prioritizing regeneration of the natural environment focusing on nurturing and protecting healthy air, water and soil resources that provide essential ecosystem services.
3. Advise City Council on circular development initiatives prioritizing sustainable waste management, green procurement, recycling and sustainable building design.
4. Advise City Council on the creation of a comprehensive climate action plan and a sustainability plan with measurable goals and benchmarks to ensure year to year progress.
5. Advise City Council on development patterns that safe guard the natural support systems for human life to ensure that the natural and built environment in and around the City improves livability and promotes human health.
6. Seek participation of local and regional businesses, public interest groups in delivering solutions supporting sustainability goals.
7. Conduct regular meetings regarding socially and environmentally sustainable practices and receive public comment. Support education and outreach related to the City's sustainability practices.
8. Sustainability Commission may prepare a proposed work plan identifying areas of focus and the need or wish to establish subcommittees .

Possible Qualifications:

Members of the Commission shall be appointed by City Council Members and shall be individuals with advocacy, interest, background or represent these target sectors:

- Zero waste, reducing, reusing and recycling waste
- Education and community engagement
- Environmental Justice
- Transportation
- Energy and Water
- Public Health
- Urban Design

- Climate mitigation and adaptation strategies
- Greenhouse gas inventories

With the exception of students of a school, each member shall be a qualified elector of the city at the time of appointment and during incumbency. Elected officials may not serve on the commission. Active commissioners are not allowed to serve on more than one board/commission/committee (as defined in Title 2 of the Glendale Municipal Code) at the same time.

Possible Membership Scenario

- Five members
- Four year terms
- Three term limit
- Two student ex officio non-voting members serve one year terms and are appointed by the commission.
- No compensation

Staff is seeking direction from City Council on the stated purpose, structure and function of the proposed Sustainability Commission. The next step would be for staff to return to Council with an Ordinance to amend the Glendale Municipal Code to be able to establish a Sustainability Commission.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1: Direct staff to prepare an Ordinance to establish a Sustainability Commission based on staff's recommendations.

Alternative 2: The City Council may wish to establish a Sustainability Commission with a modified scope of work.

Alternative 3: The City Council may consider any other alternative not proposed by staff

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

N/A

EXHIBITS

None