

**PLANNING COMMISSION OF MONTEREY PARK
AGENDA**

**REGULAR MEETING
Monterey Park City Hall Council Chambers
320 West Newmark Avenue**

**Tuesday
May 10, 2022
6:30 PM**

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the City of Monterey Park is to provide excellent services to enhance the quality of life for our entire community.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Documents related to an Agenda item are available to the public in the Community Development Department – Planning Division located at 320 West Newmark Avenue, Monterey Park, CA 91754, during normal business hours and the City's website at <http://www.montereypark.ca.gov/AgendaCenter>.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

You may speak up to 5 minutes on Agenda item. You may combine up to 2 minutes of time with another person's speaking. No person may speak more than a total of 10 minutes. The Chairperson and Planning Commission Members may change the amount of time allowed for speakers.

Per the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please call City Hall at (626) 307-1359 for reasonable accommodation at least 24 hours before a meeting. Council Chambers are wheelchair accessible.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Sam

FLAG SALUTE

Chairperson Sam

ROLL CALL

Chairperson Tammy Sam, Vice Chairperson Ricky Choi, Jack Chiang, Peter Fung

AGENDA ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, CHANGES AND ADOPTIONS

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS. While all comments are welcome, the Brown Act does not allow the Commission to take discuss, deliberate, or take action on any item not on the agenda. The Commission may briefly respond to comments after Public Communications is closed. Persons may, in addition to any other matter within the Commission's subject-matter jurisdiction, comment on agenda Items at this time. If you provide public comment on a specific agenda item at this time, however, you cannot later provide comments at the time the agenda Item is considered.

ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

[1.] PRESENTATIONS – None.

[2.] CITY OF MONTEREY PARK- CONSENT CALENDAR – None.

[3.] PUBLIC HEARING – None.

[4.] OLD BUSINESS – None.

[5.] NEW BUSINESS

5-A. DISCUSSION OF PLANNING COMMISSION TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

It is recommended that the Planning Commission consider:

- (1) Providing staff with direction as to whether there is interest from the Planning Commission to attend trainings; and
- (2) Take such additional, related, action that may be desirable.

5-B. GOING GREEN DRAFT WORK PROGRAM

It is recommended that the Planning Commission consider:

- (1) Providing staff with feedback on the *Going Green* Draft Work Program; and
- (2) Take such additional, related, action that may be desirable.

[6.] COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS

[7.] FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURN

Next regular scheduled meeting is on May 24, 2022.



Planning Commission Staff Report

DATE: May 10, 2022

AGENDA ITEM NO: 5-A

TO: The Planning Commission
FROM: Steve Sizemore, Interim Director of Community Development
Jessica Serrano, Planning Manager
SUBJECT: Discussion of Planning Commission Training Opportunities

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Planning Commission consider:

1. Providing staff with direction as to whether there is interest from the Planning Commission to attend trainings; and
2. Taking such additional, related, action that may be desirable.

BACKGROUND

Throughout the year, there are several training opportunities that are offered for Planning Commissioners by various agencies, such as the League of California Cities, Institute for Local Government, American Planning Association, and Planetizen, among others. Most training opportunities are offered at a cost, and there are a few free trainings available.

The most comprehensive of these trainings is the *Planning Commissioners Academy* offered by the League of California Cities ("League Academy"). The League Academy is offered every year around March and is held at various locations throughout California. In the past few years, the League Academy was held in Sacramento, Long Beach, and San Ramon, except in 2021, the League Academy was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

You can view prior League Academy sessions at the following link:

<https://www.calcities.org/education-and-events/event/2022/03/16/default-calendar/planning-commissioners-academy>

In past years, funding has not been available to send the Planning Commission to the academy and other trainings. Staff is seeking input from the Planning Commission to see if there is interest in attending a session should funding become available.

FISCAL IMPACT

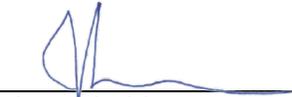
Potential impact may include adding Planning Commission training to the Community Development budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023, up to \$5,000.

Respectfully submitted and prepared by:



Steve Sizemore,
Interim Director of Community
Development

Reviewed by:



Joaquin Vazquez
Deputy City Attorney



Planning Commission Staff Report

DATE: May 10, 2022

AGENDA ITEM NO: 5-B

TO: The Planning Commission
FROM: Steve Sizemore, Interim Director of Community Development
Jessica Serrano, Planning Manager
SUBJECT: Discussion of *Going Green* Draft Work Program

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Planning Commission consider:

1. Providing staff with feedback on the *Going Green* Draft Work Program (“Draft Work Program”); and
2. Taking such additional, related, action that may be desirable.

BACKGROUND

In 2021, the Monterey Park City Council identified “climate change” in a set of priorities to be accomplished during the 2021/2022 fiscal year. The City has already taken steps towards addressing climate change through various actions such as: the creation of the Environmental Commission in 2005, adoption of the *Climate Change Action Plan* in 2012, and most recently, adoption of revised *Housing* and *Safety Elements* and new *Environmental Justice Element* in 2022.

Staff prepared the Draft Work Program to create a roadmap for *Going Green*, an initiative which will address climate change mitigation and adaptation within the community. *Going Green* will seek to answer the following questions:

- How can the City of Monterey Park integrate all of its existing plans/actions into a comprehensive, understandable, and attainable process?
- How can this process help the City mitigate emissions and identify strategies allowing the community to adapt to the changes that already have and/or will occur?

The timeframe for *Going Green* will be May 2022 through July 2023. The Draft Work Program describes 5 phases, including:

- Phase 1: Approval of Process and Initiation of Team Effort
- Phase 2: Develop and Implement a Community Outreach Campaign
- Phase 3: Report Back to City Council
- Phase 4: Issue Identification and Development of Policy Alternatives

➤ Phase 5: Approval and Implementation of Plan of Action

At the core of *Going Green* is community engagement and mobilization to address climate change, health, and sustainability issues. The final work product of *Going Green* will be a Plan of Action which identifies policies, programs, and actions that will represent the voice of the community and will help to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Staff is requesting Planning Commission feedback on the *Going Green* Draft Work Program and Timeline contained in Attachments 1 and 2.

FISCAL IMPACT

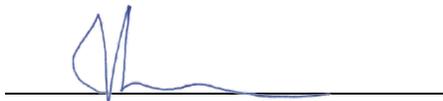
None, staff time and resources will be absorbed into the Department Budget. Additionally, the City was awarded \$310,000 in Local Early Action Planning (LEAP) Grant funding. This funding may be used to fund technical studies for that may be needed for *Going Green*.

Respectfully submitted and prepared by:



Steve Sizemore,
Interim Director of Community
Development

Reviewed by:



Joaquin Vazquez
Deputy City Attorney

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: *Going Green* Draft Work Program
Attachment 2: *Going Green* Timeline

ATTACHMENT 1

Going Green Draft Work Program



DRAFT WORK PROGRAM

Monterey Park

Going Green

“A Community Wide Effort to Mitigate Climate Change”

In 2021, the Monterey Park City Council identified a set of priorities to be accomplished during the 2021/2022 fiscal year. This outline has been prepared to help the City Council develop a process and provide direction to the Staff on one of those priorities, climate change.

For the city to adequately address climate change, and allocate appropriate resources towards achieving that goal, it is important to create a roadmap that is comprehensive, understandable, and attainable. The first step in this process is to really define what the Council and Community mean when they say, “climate change”. The following is taken from the NASA Website:

“Climate change is one of the most complex issues facing us today. It involves many dimensions – science, economics, society, politics and moral and ethical questions – and is a global problem, felt on local scales”

According to NASA, responding to climate change involves a two-pronged approach:

1. Reducing emissions of and stabilizing the levels of heat-trapping greenhouse gases in the atmosphere (**“mitigation”**).
2. Adapting to the climate change already in the pipeline (**“adaptation”**).

Defining an issue is best done by looking at the basics or root of the issue. Even NASA acknowledges that climate change is complex. Tackling climate change on a global scale can be a daunting task. At the local level it can be time-consuming, tedious, and overly technical. The results are difficult to attain, and the community can lose interest. However, many everyday things members of a community do things that are beneficial in reducing climate change, not under a climate change or adaptation umbrella, but to increase their own efficiency.

Fortunately, Monterey Park has already taken a series of steps to address the climate change issue. These steps include:

- In **2005**, City Council initiates the creation of an Environmental Commission tasked with addressing issues related to water, energy, and waste conservation and to educate the public on these important issues.
- In **2008**, the City Council adopts a resolution supporting “Green Activities” to achieve environmental sustainability.
- In **2012**, the City Council adopts a Climate Change Action Plan to develop strategies and programs aimed at reducing Green House Gas Emissions.
- In **2014**, the City Council approves two new elements to its General Plan, a Healthy Communities Element, and a Sustainable Communities Element.
- In **2020**, the City Council adopts an Urban Water Management Plan that ensures adequate water supplies for existing and future needs.
- In **2022**, the City Council adopts a revised Safety Element and new Environmental Justice Element. Each of these elements include climate change policies and implementing actions. The Safety Element will identify risk and create policy and programs to prevent loss from occurring from future natural hazard events. The Environmental Justice Element will create policy/programs that lessens impacts for disadvantaged neighborhoods concerning pollution, access to food/housing, civic engagement, and physical activity.

The question that needs to be asked is ***How can we integrate all these plans/actions into a comprehensive, understandable, and attainable process? One that helps the City of Monterey Park mitigate emissions and at the same time identify strategies that allow the community to adapt to the changes that already have and/or will occur?***

One way to answer that is to look at what other Cities have done. Cities in California have generally, taken two approaches to address climate change. One is the creation of a Climate Action Plan, and the other is development of a Sustainability Plan. A Climate Action Plan lays out strategies that mitigate climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Sustainability Plans, on the other hand, are much broader in scope and address environmental, economic, and social considerations beyond those directly related to climate change. The goals and initiatives contained in a Climate Action Plan are typically only one component of a broader sustainability plan; however, climate mitigation strategies have multiple benefits in other areas of sustainability. Communities can incorporate the goals and initiatives related to climate mitigation into a sustainability plan.

Since Monterey Park has already adopted both documents, we need to review them, along with other similar documents, and determine if they are plans that sits on a desk or are they truly effective in mitigating Green House Gases. The goal will be to use a commonsense approach that allow us to take these documents out of the office and into the Community.

A community that envisions a sustainable future, where the City and its community members, collaborate to reduce GHG emissions and while supporting the City's goals of enriching lives and fulfilling the cultural, economic, and educational ambitions of residents.

We all know the Community of Monterey Park is passionate about the environment and community members do many things to reduce negative impacts associated with Climate Change. If the City can harness the energy and passion of our residents and community leaders, then we will be able to define the issue and create solutions that are understandable and attainable.

We need to establish a process that identifies and analyzes potential programs and procedures that are understandable and relatable to the public, and when combined, will have a dramatic impact on the reduction of greenhouse gases.

The core concept of this process will be community engagement and mobilization of the community to address climate change, health, and sustainability issues and create a document that is usable and achievable.

The following outline and timelines are established to serve as a guide during the initial planning stages of this process:

Phase I – Approval of Process and Initiation of Team Effort

The first task will be to take the Work Program to select Commissions (Environmental, Planning, Parks/Recreation, Traffic/Safety, Community Participation, Economic Development, Business Improvement District). The purpose will be to draft a Neighborhood based Community Outreach effort (Zoom meetings/Survey etc). The goal is to listen to the Community and see what they have to say. The results of the outreach will be presented to the City Council and once City Council direction is given; City staff will create an interdepartmental team (Go Green Team) made up of all City Departments that will be tasked with managing the process. The first task will be to review the effectiveness of the current goals and policies within the Climate Action Plan, Sustainable Community and Healthy Community Elements and determine if these plans are being utilized. In addition, the team will research state and federal law and look at best practices as they relate to climate change. The Go Green Team will review material, conduct interviews, hold workshops and meetings, and help develop policies that will assist the City Council in developing effective climate change strategies.

Time Frame: May – September 2022

Phase 2 – Develop and implement a Community Outreach Campaign

To help the define what climate change means to the Community its important to listen to what they have to say. The following will be part of an aggressive Outreach effort.

Stakeholder Meetings

Hold a series of Stakeholder meetings. Community Stakeholders will be made up of residents, business and community leaders who have a strong interest in climate change and would provide valuable insights into proposed policies and programs. The stakeholder will provide helpful input on the content of the community workshops, online survey, and educational handouts.

City Commission Interviews

Interview Commissioners on a one on one basis for feedback and suggestions in developing a broad based, supportable program to implement effective climate change strategies.

Community Workshop

Hold a series of Community Workshops geared towards educating and mobilizing the Community on the importance of effective climate change strategies.

Online Community Survey

Develop an online community survey using SurveyMonkey and will prepare a summary of the results.

Educational Handouts and Materials

Prepare educational flyers that can be used as a handout at community events and popular City locations to inform residents about the climate change and tell them how to get involved.

City Website & Social Media Content

Provide content for the City's website and social media channels to help promote community engagement efforts for the climate change efforts.

Time Frame: October 2022 – January 2023

Phase 3 – Report back to City Council results of Tasks 1 and 2

Review and discuss the status of the climate change study. Provide an overview of the Community outreach efforts, policy considerations and anticipated process and timelines. This is a critical step that will allow the City Council to comment and give direction to staff at the onset of the policy development phase.

Time Frame: February – March 2023

Phase 4 – Issue Identification and Development of Policy Alternatives

After receiving the Policy Direction Statement from the City Council, the Go Green Team will work with the respective Commissions and the Community in researching, developing, and analyzing potential policies/programs identified in the Policy Direction Statement that will define how Monterey Park addresses climate change.

Time Frame: April – May 2023

Phase 5 – Approval/Implementation of a Preferred Plan of Action

With input received from the Community, Commission's and City Council, the Go Green Team will draft a series of programs/policies/updates for City Council consideration that will achieve the City Councils goal of a creating a comprehensive, understandable, and achievable process and/or plan that excites the Community and mobilize them into action to help mitigate and adapt to the challenges imposed by climate change.

Time Frame: – June – July 2023

ATTACHMENT 2
Going Green Timeline

GOING GREEN DRAFT WORK PROGRAM

Timeline: May 2022 - July 2023

May – June:
Present Draft Work Program to select Commissions, and City Council

August – September:
Create *Go Green Team* and develop Community Outreach Campaign

February – March:
Present Community Outreach results to City Council and obtain direction

June – July:
Review of draft and final approval of Plan of Action

PHASE 1

PHASE 2

PHASE 3

PHASE 4

PHASE 5

July:
Begin evaluation of existing City programs and plans and research State/Federal laws and

October – January:
Launch Community Outreach Campaign

April - May:
Development of Plan of Action

Implementation:
- Dept. Goals
- Budget
- Programming