



DATE: February 3, 2020

AGENDA ITEM # 4

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Donna Legge, Recreation & Community Services Director
SUBJECT: Energy Independence for Parks and Facilities Subcommittee

RECOMMENDATION

Discuss and recommend establishing an Energy Independence Subcommittee and appoint Subcommittee members

Background

At a special meeting on January 8, 2020, Commissioner Lindermeier expressed an interest in reducing the carbon footprint, energy and cost associated with the operations of City parks and facilities. The Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) recommended that the item be placed on the February 3, 2020, agenda.

In an effort to seek direction and coordinate efforts the Environmental Commission, staff has learned that the Sustainability Division is a component of the Community Development Department and a newly hired Sustainability Coordinator will plan, organize and coordinate a new Climate Action Plan that strives to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, further environmental sustainability programs, establish and implement an action plan for City operations and the community-at-large.

The current Climate Action Plan, adopted in December of 2013 and can be accessed on the City's website at

https://www.losaltosca.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/environmental_commission/page/36221/adopted_final_los_altos_cap.pdf

The Sustainability Coordinator will also implement the City's Solid Waste Program, including public education and outreach and other tasks related to increasing landfill diversion rates. The Sustainability Coordinator will also serve as the new liaison to the City's Environmental Commission. As a City-wide effort, it is not recommended that the PARC get too far ahead of the rest of the City. The Sustainability Coordinator will be collecting the data needed to help guide the next phase of the Climate Action Plan. Some funds have been dedicated for FY 2021 to also hire a consultant to assist with this effort when the data will be available. As a result, it is anticipated that the work will not be initiated until a little later this year. Once the data is collected, it will be made available to the Commissions so they can make recommendations/suggestions, accordingly.

Should a Subcommittee be established, staff will assist the Subcommittee in connecting with the Sustainability Coordinator.