

**Sustainability Committee  
Meeting Minutes**

Monday, November 17, 2025 – 5:30 PM  
Alexander Hughes Community Center, Grove Room  
1700 Danbury Road, Claremont, California

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Director Swan called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:**

COMMITTEE MEMBER: CHINN, EBINER, HASKELL,  
HINES, LAM, MAY

**ABSENT:**

COMMITTEE MEMBER: CONDON, DISTELRATH,  
MEDAK

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Cari Dillman, Community Services Manager  
Robin Heydman, Administrative Assistant  
Kristin Mikula, Community Services Manager  
Jeremy Swan, Community Services Director

**CEREMONIAL MATTERS, PRESENTATIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***Introduction***

Jeremy Swan, Community Services Director, introduced new Sustainability Committee Member Kathy May.

**COMMITTEE ITEMS**

1. **Selection of Chair and Vice Chair for the Sustainability Committee**

Jeremy Swan, Community Services Director, solicited nominations for the office of Sustainability Committee Chair for the 2025-2026 term.

Committee Member Haskell nominated Committee Member Chinn for the office of Chair.

Director Swan invited public comment.

Robin Heydman, Administrative Assistant, announced that no written public comment had been received regarding the selection of Sustainability Committee Chair.

There were no requests to speak.

Director Swan closed public comment.

***Committee Member Ebiner moved to appoint Christopher Chinn to the office of Chair, seconded by Committee Member Haskell, and carried on a roll call vote as follows:***

**AYES:**                      ***Committee Member – Ebiner, Haskell, Hines, Lam, May***  
**NOES:**                      ***Committee Member – None***  
**ABSTENTIONS:**        ***Committee Member – Chinn***  
**ABSENT:**                  ***Committee Member – Condon, Distelrath, Medak***

Chair Chinn opened nominations for the office of Sustainability Committee Vice Chair.

Committee Member Haskell nominated Isabel Ebiner for the position of Vice Chair.

Chair Chinn invited public comment.

Administrative Assistant Heydman announced that no written public comment had been received regarding the selection of Sustainability Committee Vice Chair.

There were no requests to speak.

Chair Chinn closed public comment.

***Committee Member Haskell moved to appoint Isabel Ebiner to the position of Vice Chair, seconded by Chair Chinn, and carried on a roll call vote as follows:***

**AYES:**                      ***Committee Member – Chinn, Haskell, Hines, Lam, May***  
**NOES:**                      ***Committee Member – None***  
**ABSTENTIONS:**        ***Committee Member – Ebiner***  
**ABSENT:**                  ***Committee Member – Condon, Distelrath, Medak***

2. Training on Open Meeting Laws, Public Records Act, Conflict of Interest Rules, and Claremont's Elected and Appointed Official's Handbook (Pre-Recorded Video)

Staff provided the video presentation.

Committee Member Ebiner requested that a copy of the training video be distributed to the Committee.

Jeremy Swan, Community Services Director, responded to questions from the Committee regarding serial meetings and appropriate participation by committee members at other meetings.

Chair Chinn invited public comment.

Administrative Assistant Heydman announced that no written public comment had been received on this item.

There were no requests to speak.

Chair Chinn closed public comment.

***The Committee received the report.***

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Chinn invited public comment.

Administrative Assistant Heydman announced that no written public comment had been received.

There were no requests to speak.

Chair Chinn closed public comment.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Chair Chinn invited public comment on the Consent Calendar.

Administrative Assistant Heydman announced that no written public comment had been received on this item.

There were no requests to speak.

Chair Chinn closed public comment.

***Committee Member Haskell moved to approve the Consent Calendar, seconded by Committee Member Hines, and carried on a roll call vote as follows:***

**AYES:**                    ***Committee Member – Chinn, Ebiner, Haskell, Hines, Lam, May***

**NOES:**                    ***Committee Member – None***

**ABSENT:**                ***Committee Member – Condon, Distelrath, Medak***

3. Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes of April 21, 2025

Approved and filed the regular Sustainability Committee meeting minutes of April 21, 2025.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

4. Claraboya Pine Tree Proactive Removal and Replacement Program

Cari Dillman, Community Services Manager, provided a PowerPoint presentation.

Manager Dillman responded to questions from the Committee regarding the data that was collected from the 2022 and 2025 windstorms, the number of City pine trees that fell during the 2022 windstorm, the results of the survey sent to Claraboya residents in early fall, the health and potential life span of the Canary Island pine trees, the logistics and cost of the removal of the trees, fire hazard concerns specifically for Canary Island pine trees, Canary Island pines being a species that is the least prone to catch fire, ingress and egress concerns for the Claraboya neighborhood in case of emergencies, and the study of the impact of the removals on greenhouse gases.

Chair Chinn invited public comment

Administrative Assistant Heydman announced that one written public comment had been received on this item.

Larry Olin, Claremont resident, spoke against the removal of the trees and expressed concerns about the potential decrease in value of the homes once the trees are removed.

Harald Gault, Claremont resident, spoke in favor of the removal of trees and expressed his safety concerns and complaints regarding the pinecones and debris from the trees.

Allen Allen, Claremont resident, spoke in favor of the complete removal or replacement of the trees, expressing concerns about emergency responder access time in emergency situations and the nuisance debris from the pine trees.

Valerie Martinez, Claremont resident, expressed concerns about the extremes that the City is proposing to take to complete the removal of all the trees.

Tom Telford, Claremont resident, spoke in favor of the removal and replacement of the pine trees, emphasizing concerns for safety.

Fred Roth spoke against the removal of the trees and stated that he believes the trees to be in good health and not a concern.

John Niero, Claremont resident, spoke against the removal of the trees in the Claraboya area, expressed his opinion of the survey being biased, and stated that the removal of the trees would be harmful to the ecosystem.

Unidentified speaker expressed safety concerns about ingress and egress to the street and fire hazard concerns.

Robert Blackburn, Claremont resident, spoke against the removal of the Canary Island pine trees.

Unidentified speaker spoke in favor of removing the Canary Island pine trees.

Chair Chinn closed public comment.

Committee Member Ebner strongly recommended removing Option 3 from the proposed program and suggested input and data from emergency response groups be gathered to address the safety concerns expressed.

Manager Dillman and Jeremy Swan, Community Services Director, responded to additional questions from the Committee regarding removal options, LA County Fire Department trimming standards and how the City meets or exceeds the requirements in place by the Fire Department, nesting season and its effects on the trimming schedule, potential for additional research on different bird nesting seasons, funding for the tree removals, tree failure statistics from the previous windstorms, the recording of full tree failures versus small branches and debris, responsibility for removal of the private eucalyptus trees in the area, and the estimated timeline for a decision on this program.

The Committee asked staff to include the minutes from the November 17, 2025 Sustainability Committee Meeting in the agenda packet for the December 3, 2025 Community and Human Services Commission. The Committee also requested that additional information, including input and data from college groups and emergency response agencies, be included in future reports.

***The Committee received and filed the report.***

The Sustainability Committee recessed at 7:10 PM.  
The Sustainability Committee reconvened at 7:15 PM.

5. Sustainability Annual Report 2024

Kristin Mikula, Community Services Manager, provided an oral report.

Manager Mikula and Jeremy Swan, Community Services Director, responded to questions from the Committee regarding the Active Transportation Plan survey, the timeline for receiving data and preparing the annual report, presenting the report to various Commissions and the City Council, concerns about gas leaf blowers, concerns about vehicle emissions throughout the City, and promoting electrification throughout the City.

Chair Chinn invited public comment.

Administrative Assistant Heydman announced that no written public comment had been received.

There were no requests to speak.

Chair Chinn closed public comment.

***The Committee received and filed the report. A subcommittee of Committee Members Haskell, Lam, and May was formed to discuss the goal of reducing community-wide natural gas usage by promoting electrification.***

6. Schedule Meetings Calendar for 2026

Jeremy Swan, Community Services Director, informed the Committee that the Sustainability Committee Meetings will be held quarterly and provided proposed dates for the 2026 calendar year.

Director Swan responded to questions from the Committee regarding expectations for updating the Sustainable Claremont Plan, the indicator tables and goals, what data has changed within the last five to six years that will need to be updated in the Plan, and the option to have multiple subcommittees

Chair Chinn invited public comment.

Administrative Assistant Heydman reported that no written public comment had been received.

There were no requests to speak.

Chair Chinn closed public comment.

***The Committee set the 2026 Sustainability Committee Meeting Schedule for February 23, 2026, April 20, 2026, July 20, 2026, and November 16, 2026.***

**REPORTS (STAFF)**

Jeremy Swan, Community Services Director, stated that Item #4 would be presented to the Tree Committee Meeting on Wednesday November 19, 2025.

Kristin Mikula, Community Services Manager, announced that she will reach out in January to the Committee Members regarding data gathering efforts for the 2025 Sustainability Annual Draft Report.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Chinn adjourned the regular meeting of the Sustainability Committee at 7:58 PM. The next regular meeting of the Sustainability Committee will be held on Monday, February 23, 2026.

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Chair

ATTEST:

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Robin Heydman  
Recording Secretary