MINUTES



REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 14, 2014, 7:00 p.m. El Cerrito City Hall – Council Chambers 10890 San Pablo Avenue This Meeting Place Is Wheelchair Accessible

Miner called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Roll Call:

Chair Miner, Doan, Schaadt, Solari, Weinstein, Wildenberg

Absent: Members Benjamin, Krueger, Pavel, Spitalnik, Vice Chair Goudey Also Present: Maria Sanders, Staff Liaison

- 1. Council/ Staff Liaison Report <u>Sanders</u> reminded members that they should attend the Joint EQC/ Parks and Recreation Commission Study Session on the *Urban Greening Plan* to be held on October 22. She also reported that a City Council Community Choice Aggregation Study Session to go over the results of the Marin Clean Energy Membership Analysis for the City of El Cerrito is tentatively scheduled for November 18, 2014. <u>Doan</u> announced that he will need to resign due to time conflicts with his new job. <u>Miner</u> announced that <u>Krueger</u> may resign or take a leave of absence.
- 2. Comments from the public on non-agenda items None.
- 3. **Approval of the Minutes** Motion to adopt Committee minutes from the August 12 and September 9 meetings, with a correction to add "food" to the August 12 motion to expend \$500 towards the Music for Madera event. (Weinstein/Doan/Unanimous)
- **4. Revisit and Refine EQC Work Plan and Budget** <u>Miner</u> circulated a revised draft of the EQC Work Plan (attached), based on discussion from the Committee meeting on September 9. After further discussion, he proposed that he incorporate comments and bring a refined Work Plan document back to the Committee for consideration during the November meeting.
- 5. Hillside Natural Area Open Space Fundraising Weinstein gave an update to the Committee on the status of fundraising, noting a total of \$62,000 raised to date. He reported that the Music for Madera Festival went well and raised several thousand dollars and that there is currently a \$5000 challenge grant from a private donation. Motion for the EQC to sponsor another Music for Madera Festival next year in October for the purposes of raising funds for Hillside Natural Area maintenance and improvements (Weinstein/Solari/Unanimous). Motion to expend \$250 towards promotional materials for the Madera Open Space Campaign (Weinstein/Doan/Unanimous).
- **6.** Environmental Lecture Series <u>Miner</u> led a discussion regarding the development of an EQC Lecture Series. It was decided to do no more than 3 events per year and to plan them enough in advance to make sure they get into the regular garbage bill inserts and Recreation Brochures. <u>Schaadt</u> will investigate being the lead on this effort.

COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION

To request a meeting agenda in large print, Braille, or on cassette, or to request a sign language interpreter for the meeting, call Maria Sanders, Staff Liaison at 215-4361 (voice) at least FIVE (5) WORKING DAYS NOTICE PRIOR TO THE MEETING to ensure availability.

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- 7. Green Teams: Update and Action Items Weinstein made a motion to hold a Green Team Clean-up at a place to be determined on November 15 (Weinstein/Schaadt/Unanimous). Motion to authorize up to \$150 for food and food ware for the upcoming Volunteer Recognition Event (Wildenberg/Weinstein/Unanimous).
- 8. Eco Film Series: Updates and Action Items Miner announced that he attended the Breakthrough Communities film event held by the City of San Pablo and thought it might be worth considering sponsoring a similar, low key film showing in El Cerrito.
- 9. Announcements and future agenda items The following items were discussed:

Consideration of Upcoming Agenda Items

- 1 Revisit and Refine EQC Work Plan and Budget November
- 2 CCA November
- 3 Pollinator Pathways and Healthy Gardening workshop November
- 4 Grey Water November
- 5 EQC Member Recruitment
- 6 EQC Calendar of Events
- 7 Trash mitigation strategies January
- 8 Presentation to kick-off public comment period for the Active Transportation Plan Deferred
- 9 Hillside Natural Area Festival TBD in May 2015

<u>Upcoming Meetings + Events | more details online at www.el-cerrito.org/newgreen</u>

- Music for Madera October 12
- Volunteer Recognition October 16
- 10. **Adjournment** Miner adjourned the meeting at 8:52 PM.

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Environmental Quality Committee regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the El Cerrito Recycling + Environmental Resource Center Administrative Office at 7501 Schmidt Lane, El Cerrito, Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 pm

Attachment 1:

Draft Revisions to EQC 2013-2014 Work Plan

Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee (EQC) to establish goals and priorities for FY13/14. Discussion and ideas were generated during the August and September monthly public EQC meetings. Committee members reviewed the 2012 goals and priorities, accomplishments, the El Cerrito climate action plan targets, and then shared what they would like to accomplish in the next fiscal year.

The draft was reviewed at the October Meeting of the EQC, Comments from the meeting are incorporated in this final 2013/14 EQC Responsibilities, Mission, Goals and Focus. City Mission which helps guide EQC:

The City of El Cerrito serves leads and supports our diverse community by providing exemplary and innovative services, public places and infrastructure, ensuring public safety and creating an economically and environmentally sustainable future.

EQC's duties and responsibilities as stated in the EQC Charter Resolution.

- 1. To serve in an advisory capacity to the City Council, staff, other boards, commissions, and committees, and the citizens of the City with regard to environmental quality issues within the City of El Cerrito.
- 2. To recommend programs, policies, and ordinances to the City Council and promote the City's environmental quality efforts.
- 3. Promote and foster public awareness, education, interest and support for environmental quality efforts, foster volunteer opportunities, and educate El Cerrito citizens regarding environmental quality and issues relating to environmental impacts

Major accomplishments since 2012: (See accompanying action plan workbook for detail on the 50+ action items completed)

- 1. Climate Action Plan
- 2. Compostable Foodware Ordinance
- 3. Walkable El Cerrito

The EQC's mission is to educate, inspire, and activate ourselves and our community to sustainably thrive. The EQC goals are to:

- 1. Promote Community & Individual Action & Engagement
- 2. Champion Environmental Policies, Ordinances & Bills
- 3. Help businesses and residents be more sustainable and environmentally friendly
- 4. Support greenhouse gas reduction, recycling & energy efficiency
- 5. Protect & create open green space and wildlife friendly residential areas

- 6. Involve learners of all ages
- 7. Support sustainable water use and healthy creeks

To that end, the EQC focus activities for FY13/14, in no particular order:

- 1. Green Teams/Volunteer Events Dave Continue to propose, plan and implement specific volunteer events and activities.
- 2. Eco Films Howdy & Paloma Continue to educate, inspire and activate our community through the regular showing of environmental films and lectures featuring guests and discussion.
- 3. Support El Cerrito's Climate Action Plan by asking the City Council to fund a CCA feasibility study. Mark We would also write a background paper explaining why it is a good idea and work to get public support for the study.
- 4. EQC Education (Open) Develop a list of speakers & topics to present at EQC meetings to educate members on pertinent environmental issues.
- 5. Green Business Program Mark Support existing certified green businesses to get re-certified.
- 6. Urban Greening Plan Mark, Dave and Howdy steering committee members contribute to planning and attend workshops.
- 7. Grey water Renee (Mark and Robert on team) increase public awareness of technology and options
- 8. Energy Efficiency Mark support city projects to reduce energy use and CO₂ emissions including: residential and business energy efficiency improvements, transportation efficiency (increased bike/ped trips, efficient vehicles, electric vehicles), engage the remergent PACE programs, EV awareness event.
- 9. Support Madera Open Space initiative Dave
- 10. Green Building (Complete) Energy Upgrade California Workshop attended by many local residents
- 11. Bee Friendly Renee endorse EC to be the first Pollinator (bee/butterfly/hummingbird, etc.) Friendly City in the USA habitat quality and patch work continuity, review use of neonicotinoids, Pollenator Pathways, Develop and conduct workshop on use of garden chemicals
- 12. Support Earth Hour City Challenge (Complete) and coordinate and promote events in El Cerrito for Earth Hour, March 29, 2014.
- 13. Trash Mitigation Strategy (Dave) Develop policies and actions to reduce and eliminate trash at its source

Potential new topics (expansions of existing topics):

<u>Energy efficiency and renewables installation</u>. Work on how we can engage the reemergent PACE programs (California First, or others?), as our county is currently not participating as far as I can tell.

Solar access ordinance. I think there is an important need for giving some structure and appreciation to solar access as a CAP support, maintaining the potential for reliable solar energy generation, both PV and passive solar heating.

EV awarness/education event. (invite local EC EV owners to meet and talk with others, offer experiences, test drives, etc.)

Greywater and rainwater harvesting. In addition to further outreach based on our work to date, I think an important aspect of this could be an "infiltration versus hardscape" component that seeks to educate and implement policies encouraging water infiltration and storage in the soil rather than the high degree of run off we currently have. Perhaps even explore the potential for a "no net hardscape" cap and trade type of hardscape limitation in the City.

Help to develop and implement policies in the Urban Greening Plan

continuation of pollinator habitat education/outreach/policies (specific policies and education around particular native plants for native bees, butterflies, etc.) work to reduce household/landscape pesticide use another avenue to look at hardscape and water infiltration/storage

Conservation easements. Explore the potential to partner with local land trusts to encourage infill development to invest in conservation easements to protect open space and agricultural land in the City and immediate support communities (county/neighboring counties). For instance, by creating a relationship with the Brentwood Agricultural Land Trust we could strengthen local community relationships and economic ties while supporting CAP environmental goals of a low carbon local food shed. This could be similar to a sister city, but it would be more like sister support/inter-reliance community relationship.