



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 9, 2015, 7:00 p.m.
El Cerrito City Hall – Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Avenue

This Meeting Place Is Wheelchair Accessible

Chair Goudey called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

Roll Call:

Chair Goudey, Members Mackie, Milliken, Pavel, Solari, Spitalnik, Weinstein

Absent: Vice-Chair Schaadt, Members Benjamin, Miner, Wildenberg

Also Present: Maria Sanders, Staff Liaison.

1. **Council/ Staff Liaisons Announcements and Reports** – Sanders announced the last MCE Community Meeting on June 18.
2. **Comments from the public on non-agenda items** – None.
3. **Approval of the Minutes** – Motion to adopt May 12, 2015 minutes. (Schaadt/Miner/Unanimous).
4. **EQC Member Appointment Process** – Goudey reported on the results of his interview with EQC member applicant Charles Hargrove, nominating Hargrove for appointment. Motion to recommend that City Council appoint Hargrove to the EQC, effective July 1, 2015. (Spitalnik/Mackie/Unanimous).
5. **Draft Urban Greening Plan** – Community Development staff Melanie Mintz gave a presentation on the City's Draft Urban Greening Plan (contained in EQC binder). Members of the public made comments about how greening projects would deter illegal dumping. On behalf of Friends of Five Creeks, Susan Schwarz submitted comments regarding the Urban Greening Plan (contained in the EQC binder), stating that the Plan mandated the development of many additional plans and did little to address the deferred maintenance needs of the open space the City currently controls. Weinstein thought it might be good to review the comments from Friends of 5 Creeks before the EQC made a recommendation on the Plan. Susan Schwarz recommends making the plans and policy language listed in the Plan to more conditional – so City is not devoting all resources to the planning. Mintz was able to clarify that the City did address many of her concerns in the subsequent Final Draft of the Plan that was recently posted on-line and that is currently being reviewed by the EQC. Pavel provided comments requesting that the Plan be pro-active about responding to drought conditions and planning for a changing, drier climate. Goudey commented that the Plan did not contain enough urban greening opportunities in the flats. Motion to hold off final discussion of the Urban Greening Plan until next meeting, and, as timing allows, have staff submit an addendum to the City Council item when it considers adoption. (Weinstein/ Solari/Unanimous/Spitalnik absent).
6. **EQC Work Plan, Budget, Calendar of Events** - The following EQC activities were discussed:

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.

- Hillside Natural Area Festival – Sunday, May 17 – Weinstein reported that the event went well, with perhaps over 200 visitors attending the event. Sanders requested that the planning group and the City meet to debrief on several logistical issues so that next year is even more successful.
- July 4th Festival – Goudey reported that the EQC will have a table at the Festival. Ideas of topics to highlight included drought awareness and grey water education (Milliken), getting more Green Team sign-ups (Weinstein), providing outreach materials for Music for Madera (Weinstein) and MCE.
- Green Teams – Weinstein announced that the next event will take place July 12 at noon at the Northern Gateway. Weinstein also reported that he met with OESD staff member, Stephen Prée, committing to 4 clean-ups per year and 2 trash assessments.
- EQC Speaker Series – Goudey introduced 3 potential talks on plant pathogens that attack native plants with speakers that might include Greg Lyman and Susan Schwarz.
- Co-Sponsorship – Nothing reported.
- Eco-Film – Nothing reported.
- Music for Madera – Weinstein announced music is lined up and that he will be coming back with a proposed budget for the EQC to consider.

7. Announcements and Future Agenda Items – Pavel mentioned that she went to the National Adaptation Forum and would be happy to share her experience at a future meeting. She also acknowledged Weinstein for all his volunteerism.

Consideration of Upcoming Agenda Items

1. Drought Awareness – TBD
2. Grey Water Education – TBD
3. Train the Trainers/Sustainable Living - TBD
4. Another July meeting on Urban Green Plan. July 21 city council meeting.

8. Adjourned at 9:30 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