



MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, June 8, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

Creekside Conference Room

10890 San Pablo Avenue

This Meeting Place Is Wheelchair Accessible

Call To Order: 7:08 PM

Roll Call: Chair Goudey, Members Hargrove, Mackie, Milliken, Miner, Solari, Weinstein

Absent: Vice-Chair Schaadt, Pavel, Spitalnik

Also Present: Maria Sanders, Staff Liaison

- Council/ Staff Liaisons Announcements and Reports** – Sanders circulated invitations to EQC members from EBMUD Director Andy Katz to EBMUD's annual update meeting to be held on June 15.
- Comments from the public on non-agenda items** – El Cerrito resident Sean O'Connor requested that the City reduce litter on the Donal Lumber lot by putting trash cans on the lot. He also is interested in there being another Green Team event at Baxter Creek.
- Approval of the Minutes** – Hargrove requested that the minutes be changed to reflect that he was not present during the May 10 Meeting. Motion to adopt the minutes of the Committee meeting on May 10, 2016, with changes requested by Hargrove (Miner /Milliken/Unanimous).
- Informational Presentation on the Planning for a Safe, Modern Library in El Cerrito** - Due to staff unavailability, Sanders requested that this item be deferred to another meeting.
- EQC Budget and Calendar of Events**
 - Hillside Festival Debrief** – Weinstein reported that the event went very well, with more people attending this year than last year. He estimated that maybe more than 200 people attended. Miner agreed and said that he met a lot of people who had never been to the Hillside Natural Area (HNA)- which was a success since one of the main goals of the event is to increase awareness about the HNA. Weinstein also reported that the event raised \$1700 towards HNA restoration activities. However, he feels more thought should be given to more effective ways to use the Festival for fundraising purposes.
 - Green Teams Ohlone Greenway Weed Pull** – June 18 – Sanders announced that she and staff member Stephen Pree will coordinate tools and snacks and meet people at the site. Miner, Goudey, and Schaadt said they will be attending the event.
 - Grey Water Education** – Solari provided an update regarding the workshop on drought resilient gardening and grey water systems. The date is tentatively set for either September 19 or September 27. She is currently lining up speakers and would like to publicize the event in City News and Views and Greener El Cerrito.

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.

- We Love Our Volunteers Event – Weinstein would like to defer this item until after the beginning of the year. He feels the EQC is quite busy with other issues and would like to see if the Committee could first reinvigorate the Green Teams before holding the event.
- Environmental Workshops – Milliken reported that she will be attending a phone conference call regarding planning for the City of Richmond National Plug-In Day. There may be an opportunity for El Cerrito to partner on this event with the City of Richmond in order to get more visitors to the event.

6. **Environmentally Preferred Purchasing** – Mackie reported that she and resident Ashley Fisher both researched various EPPs and are in the process of evaluating the best parts of each, as well as procurement resources that may help in the implementation of an EPP. Goudey expressed an interest to help out when needed. Miner thought the goal of the City’s EPP should be to help City employees keep sustainability in mind when they make purchasing decisions. Goudey circulated a draft letter (contained in EQC binder) to the City Council regarding EPP and sustainability decisions as they consider approving the budget at their upcoming meeting on June 17. He requested that the EQC review, make edits, and consider sending on behalf of the EQC to the City Council. After members discussed the contents of the letter, members composed an alternate letter, reading as such: “As the City Council prepares to consider the city’s biannual budget, the Environmental Quality Committee would like to recommend that attention be paid to the Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Policy and to the goals of the Climate Action Plan. The EQC has just begun exploring enhancements to the city’s Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Policy. We believe that the city’s environmental policies should be a high priority when it comes to budget and purchasing, especially when those environmental impacts are accompanied by immediate and/or future cost savings.” Motion to accept the letter as drafted and to submit to City Council (Solari/ Miner/ Unanimous).

7. **Announcements and future agenda items** – Milliken announced that Measure AA, the Bay Area-wide bay wetlands restoration initiative, passed.

Consideration of Upcoming Agenda Items

- 1 Conversation with Building Official - August
- 2 Trends in Solid Waste Management –Sept
- 3 Climate Action – Yes, let’s include as a standing agenda item
- 4 Presentations from other environmental stakeholders in the City – TBD
- 5 Rat Poison and AB 708 Consumer Products Content Information- TBD
- 6 Drones in Hillside Natural Area – TBD
- 7 Conversation with Supervisor John Gioia – TBD
- 8 Tool Lending Library – TBD
- 9 California Plastic Bag Ban Referendum - Sanders

8. **Adjournment** – 8:45

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 p.m.