



Minutes

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 13, 2018, 7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers

10890 San Pablo Avenue

This Meeting Place Is Wheelchair Accessible

Call to Order: 7:03 PM

Roll Call: Chair Miner, Vice-Chair Milliken, Members Goudey, Kittleson, Miller, O'Connor, Pavel, Sobul, Solari, Spitalnik, and Tsutsui

Absent: Members Schaadt and Weinsten

Also Present: Rochelle Pardue-Okimoto, Council Liaison, Maria Sanders, Operations + Enviro. Services Manager, Will Provost, Staff Liaison, Gabrielle Ruxin, El Cerrito CivicSpark Fellow

1. **Council/Staff Liaisons Announcements and Reports** – Pardue-Okimoto discussed the Mayfair project, which will convert a parking lot into affordable housing near the El Cerrito Del Norte BART station. She announced the relocation of the senior center, that the Contra Costa Public Defender's office founded a rapid response program to give legal representation to immigrants, and that the city is in a trial period with LimeBike. She also noted that the Council approved a resolution in support of Prop 68, which could bring money to state and local parks, and mentioned that the Library will be expanding its hours.

Provost announced that the City recently applied for a CivicSpark fellow that would focus on multifamily outreach for the 2018-2019 service year.

2. **Comments from the public on non-agenda items** – Sri Lekha introduced herself as an El Cerrito resident who is doing research on sustainability education for the Association for Sustainability Education. She is looking into what people know about sustainability and the knowledge gaps that exist and she will be conducting interviews for her research.
3. **Approval of the Minutes** – Motion to approve the Tuesday, February 13th minutes (O'Connor, Tsutsui, unanimous).
4. **Presentation from Economic Development Committee** – Paul Hernandez of the Economic Development Committee spoke about the measurements of economic development that the committee is looking into and asked for feedback on environmental metrics that align with the Climate Action Plan.

EQC members discussed possible environmental metrics to track, including: carbon sequestration by trees in El Cerrito, water pollution metrics, waste metrics, MCE light green and deep green enrollments, water usage, data on walking, biking, and public transit transportation infrastructure, green purchasing metrics, public transit ridership, demographic data, PACE financing data, green businesses, school rankings, public health statistics, food produced locally, and new jobs for young people.

Sanders noted that CalRecycle has waste data that is updated regularly. Goudey offered to help the Economic Development Committee with the environmental data collection. Pavel recommended looking at David Korten's Agenda for a New Economy.

5. Climate Action Plan Implementation-

Committee members heard updates, participated in discussion and considered possible action items regarding implementation of the Climate Action Plan:

- Evaluating Permitting Fees for CAP Related Development Activities
 - Goudey introduced that the City readjusts the permit fees each year and that there are things the City may want to use permit fees to incentivize related to the Climate Action Plan.
 - Sanders recommended that the EQC form a subcommittee to look at the fees and report back findings, which will ultimately go to the Community Development Department. Sanders provided background on permit fees and things to consider when establishing incentives.
 - Committee members engaged in a discussion of setting permit fees and measuring incentive effectiveness.
- MCE Deep Green Living Lightly Campaign
 - MCE Rate Changes effective Mar 1: PG&E increase will make MCE's Light Green cost 2-5% lower than PG&E for typical customers.
 - Deep Green is now only about \$2 more than PG&E for the average residential customer (451 kWh/month usage) and about \$5 more for average commercial customers (1272 kWh/mo usage). More info at www.mcecleanenergy.org/rates/
- CCA & CPUC Updates

6. Parks & Recreation Facilities Master Plan-

Committee members heard updates on the El Cerrito Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Planning process and reports from members of the plan's Citizens Advisory Group.

- Public Meeting #3- March 29, 6:30pm, City Hall Council Chambers
- Public Meeting #4- May 23, Time TBD, City Hall Council Chambers
- Miner noted that the advisory group recently reviewed survey and public meeting results.

7. EQC Budget and Calendar of Events-

Committee members heard updates, participated in discussion and considered possible action items regarding planning, logistics, and expenditures for the EQC calendar of events, including:

- Future Workshops:
 - Workshop on Pollinators and Butterflies (3/27)- Council Chambers 7pm
 - East Bay Electrification Expo (Nov 2018)
 - Milliken announced that the City of Berkeley is organizing an event that would bring manufacturers, installers, and education to residents.
 - MCE Heat Pump for Professionals and/or Multi-family LIFT workshop
 - Goudey noted that MCE is open to hosting another training nearby and doing LIFT awareness as well.
 - Heat Pump Homes Tour, Electrification, and/or Solar
 - SunShares
 - Provost has a call set up soon to find out more information on how El Cerrito can get involved.

- Green Team Cleanups:
 - February 17- Madera Property Broom Pull
 - Goudey noted it was a Friends of Five Creeks (FOFC) partnership event and there were about 15 students in attendance.
 - March 4- Plaza BART and Ohlone Greenway
 - May 26- Northern Entryways
 - July 8- Cleanup TBD
 - September 15-Cleanup TBD
 - November 18- Northern Gateways- Baxter Creek
- Other Events:
 - Hillside Festival 2018 (5/4-5/6)
 - Miner announced that the Trail Trekkers made a budget and will need banners, flyers, brochures, and a porta potty.
 - Motion to approve \$1,500 for the Hillside Festival (O'Connor, Solari, unanimous)
 - Earth Day (4/21)/ Work Parties
 - Miner announced that the EQC will be clearing under the power lines with PG&E and O'Connor will be holding a separate cleanup.
 - Provost announced that Gabrielle Ruxin will be holding a work party as well, removing invasive plants from the Madera property.
 - Bike to Work Day (5/10)
 - Urban Forest Committee Arbor Day Ivy Pull (N/A)
 - El Cerrito Resident Robin Mitchell noted that Arbor Day has passed, but the Urban Forest Committee wants to work with the EQC in the future.
 - National Drive Electric Week Event (Berkeley) Sept 15
 - Milliken announced that this event will occur at a Farmers Market in Berkeley and the EQC can co-sponsor it and have a table.
 - Motion to co-sponsor the Drive Electric Week Event (Goudey, Spitalnik, unanimous)
- Film and/or Educational Events
 - Film Showing- “Demain” (3/10)
 - Pavel noted that they would like to have an intergenerational focus for the next screening.
 - El Cerrito resident Sri Lekha announced that she could get in touch with the school to promote events through school outreach.

8. Elections for Chair and Vice Chair-

- Provost noted that Miner and Milliken both had one nomination.
- O'Connor nominated himself for Vice-Chair.
- Motion to nominate Miner for Chair (Milliken, Tsutsui, unanimous)
- Motion to nominate Milliken for Vice-Chair (Milliken, Solari, unanimous)

9. Announcements and future agenda items

Heard committee member announcements and suggestions for future EQC agenda items.

- Goudey noted that there are two Fix-it clinics in Berkeley coming up.
 - Goudey is in talks with the library and City about hosting a clinic.

10. Adjournment- 8:58 PM