



Minutes

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 10, 2018, 7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers

10890 San Pablo Avenue

This Meeting Place Is Wheelchair Accessible

Call to Order: 7:06 PM

Roll Call: Chair Miner, Vice-Chair Milliken, Members Goudey, Kittleson, O'Connor, Tsutsui, and Weinstein

Absent: Members Miller, Pavel, Sobul, Solari, and Spitalnik

Also Present: Will Provost, Staff Liaison; Gabrielle Ruxin, El Cerrito CivicSpark Fellow

1. **Council/Staff Liaisons Announcements and Reports** – Provost announced that there will be a commissioner dinner on May 31st at Los Moles and participants should RSVP. Other upcoming events include Earth Day on April 21st and Bike to Work Day on May 10th.
2. **Comments from the public on non-agenda items** – Cordell Hindler invited committee members to see the show “Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike” at the Contra Costa Civic theater. He also suggested that the EQC invite John Gioia to speak at one of their future meetings and that they have more young people join the committee. Gisele Verrier introduced herself as a resident that is passionate about environmental issues and that she has applied to become a member of the EQC. Alison Moreno introduced herself as a resident that is also interested in joining the EQC. Beth Molnar introduced herself as another resident interested in joining the EQC. She runs an arts education nonprofit focused on creative reuse and she recently moved to El Cerrito.
3. **Approval of the Minutes** – Motion to approve the Tuesday, March 13th minutes (O'Connor, Milliken, unanimous).
4. **EQC Member Appointment Process**– Motion to schedule an interview for Beth Molnar half an hour before the next EQC meeting (Tsutsui, O'Connor, unanimous).
 - Miner, O'Connor and Tsutsui volunteered to form an ad-hoc subcommittee to interview Ms. Molnar before the next meeting.
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 noted that the subcommittee wrote some suggestions for permitting fees. The subcommittee examined and discussed:
 - Where fees should be evaluated
 - Why certain fees were higher than others
 - If reducing fees would incentivize the desired behavior
 - The potential for higher subsidies for environmental leadership projects

- Provost announced that the letter drafted by the EQC subcommittee was given to the building department to review before making a formal recommendation.
 - Due to the quick turnaround, they are not able to address everything the EQC outlined this year.
- MCE Deep Green Living Lightly Campaign
 - Goudey attended the Clean Power Coalition meeting and noted that this campaign aims to have community groups make a pledge to enroll a certain number of people in MCE's 100% renewable "Deep Green" option
 - Goudey suggested the City of El Cerrito create a team for the campaign
 - Motion to look into creating a City of El Cerrito team for the MCE Living Lightly Campaign (Tsutsui, O'Connor, unanimous).
- CCA & CPUC Updates

6. Parks & Recreation Facilities Master Plan-

Committee members heard updates on the El Cerrito Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Planning process.

- Public Meeting #3- April 26, 6:30pm, El Cerrito Community Center
- Public Meeting #4- May 23, 6:30pm, City Hall Council Chambers
- Provost noted that the fourth meeting will include a presentation of the draft plan and will be merged with the Park & Recreation Commission meeting. There will be time for discussion afterwards.

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:

- Educational Events, Films, and Workshops:
 - Workshop on Pollinators and Butterflies (3/27)
 - Tsutsui noted the workshop was a success and there were about 100 people in attendance
 - Takeaways from the event include having everyone write their email on the sign in sheet, appealing to youth, and having a local focus.
 - East Bay Electrification Expo (Nov 2018)
 - Milliken and Goudey spoke with MCE and they believe there is a need for training professionals, city staff, and customers. However, MCE had a low turnout for their training for professionals.
 - PG&E offers trainings and will pay for instructors to come.
 - Milliken noted that MCE is making a list of contractors who install heat pumps and are willing to work with MCE.
 - Heat Pump Homes Tour, Electrification, and/or Solar
 - SunShares
 - Provost is looking into next steps, which may involve a staff report
 - Milliken will share staff report from the City of Berkeley
 - Motion for EQC to approve staff to look into SunShares (Goudey, O'Connor, unanimous)
 - Sponsor Fixit Clinic in El Cerrito
 - Date set for June 9th from 12:30-4pm at the El Cerrito library
 - Motion to co-sponsor Fixit Clinic and allocate \$200 for food for the volunteer coaches (Milliken, O'Connor, unanimous).

- Green Team Cleanups:
 - May 26- Northern Entryways, Co-sponsored by Rotary Club, 10am-12:30pm
 - July 8- Northern Gateways, 10am-12:30pm
 - September 15-Cleanup TBD
 - November 18- Northern Gateways- Baxter Creek
- Other Events:
 - Earth Day (4/21)/ Work Parties
 - EQC members that are tabling will plan to set up around 11:30am.
 - Hillside Festival 2018 (5/4-5/6)
 - Weinstein passed out brochures and announced it will be a three day festival with about 15 events.
 - Bike to Work Day (5/10) 7-9am
 - National Drive Electric Week Event (Berkeley) Sept 15
 - Milliken announced that Hilltop Mall in Richmond is hosting an Electrify America event on 4/11 from 10am-6pm.
 - Weinstein would like to add a volunteer appreciation event in the future.

8. Announcements and future agenda items

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

- Tsutsui noted that the EQC should keep Proposition 68 on their radar.
- Goudey mentioned that the City should look into the idea of improving stormwater infiltration in front of parking strips and residential areas by changing the vegetation.
 - One idea was for the City to have a standard rain garden design that could help facilitate the process of installing one.
 - Provost noted that it would be difficult to have it be a City approved rain garden, since these require engineering and are site specific.

Consideration of Upcoming Agenda Items

1. Next Steps for Policies in Work Plan
2. Urban Greening Plan Implementation
3. City Purchased Vehicles
4. Climate Adaptation, Sever Weather Events, and Emergency Preparedness
5. Partner with LimeBike on event/education

9. Adjournment- 8:49 PM