



Minutes

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 8, 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: Vice-Chair Milliken, Members Goudey, O'Connor, Pavel, Sobul, Tsutsui, and Weinstein
Absent: Chair Miner, Members Kittleson, Solari, and Spitalnik

Also Present: Rochelle Pardue-Okimoto, Council Liaison; Will Provost, Staff Liaison; Gabrielle Ruxin, El Cerrito CivicSpark Fellow

- 1. Council/Staff Liaisons Announcements and Reports – Council Liaison Pardue-Okimoto** announced that the Council supports SB912, which would allocate some surplus state funds to homelessness programs and affordable housing, she mentioned that the household hazardous waste program at the recycling center has been doing well, and she provided a number of other updates from Council on a range of topics, including: a potential new hotel on San Pablo Avenue, updates to the City's master fee schedule, a new MOU with the Police Employees' Union, the City's stance on cannabis laws, recent developments on inclusionary zoning policies, and the City's consideration of becoming a charter city. Provost announced that Rebecca Miller resigned from the EQC. He also noted that the ECCRU Artist in Residence will be hosting an exhibit on June 23rd at the recycling center.
- 2. Comments from the public on non-agenda items –None.**
- 3. Approval of the Minutes –** Motion to approve the Tuesday, April 10th minutes (O'Connor, Tsutsui, unanimous).
- 4. EQC Member Appointment Process–** After attending three meetings, Beth Molnar was interviewed by Tsutsui, Goudey, and O'Connor just before the EQC meeting. Goudey noted that Molnar runs a Green Art Workshop and is new to El Cerrito. She hosted an Earth Day Workshop with kids creating bugs out of recycled materials and is also interested in the Artist in Residency program and engaging youth. Motion to recommend to City Council Molnar's appointment to the EQC (Goudey, Pavel, unanimous). Provost announced that Sheila Tarbet and Alison Moreno have also submitted applications and have now attended three meetings. Interviews for Alison Moreno and Sheila Tarbet will occur on June 12th, half an hour before the next EQC meeting. Sobul, O'Connor, and Tsutsui volunteered to interview them.
- 5. Climate Action Plan Implementation-** Committee members heard updates, participated in discussion and considered possible action items regarding implementation of the Climate Action Plan:

- Living Lightly Campaign- MCE Deep Green
 - Milliken announced that El Cerrito has created a team and has a goal for 50 Deep Green sign ups. People can sign up through Living Lightly, even if they are already enrolled in Deep Green, to help El Cerrito meet its goal.
 - Commissioner recognition dinner at Los Moles
 - Milliken proposed announcing the Living Lightly campaign at the dinner
 - Weinstein offered to do the announcement if Miner is unable to make it
- Evaluating Permitting Fees for CAP Related Development Activities- Update
 - Provost noted that the recommendations from staff were more narrow than what the EQC looked into, due to the limited scope of the current inquiry.
 - Goudey felt that the EQC recommendations were not all considered.
 - Goudey also mentioned that at the Council Meeting, they discussed that the transfer tax through the charter could involve energy efficiency and seismic rebates and it may be something the EQC wants to look into and support.
 - EQC members engaged in a discussion of the transfer tax for the charter city measure and how to effectively impact the City's policies.

6. 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:
 - June 9- Fixit Clinic, 12:30pm-4pm, El Cerrito Public Library
 - Goudey noted that there are other volunteer roles that EQC members can help with.
 - O'Connor offered to help with registration.
 - SunShares (Fall 2018)
 - Provost noted that he is still working on getting a letter from the City.
 - East Bay Electrification Expo (Nov 2018)
 - Milliken stated that she will have more information later.
- Green Team Cleanups:
 - May 26- Northern Entryways, Co-sponsored by Rotary Club, 10am-12:30pm
 - July 8- Northern Gateway, 10am-12:30pm
 - Weinstein is working to get this cleanup co-sponsored by the Girl Scouts.
 - September 15- Cleanup TBD
 - Provost noted that this will align with coastal cleanup day and will likely occur at Cerrito Creek.
 - November 18- Northern Gateways- Baxter Creek
- Other Events:
 - Bike to Work Day (5/10)
 - Goudey asked if there is a Living Lightly flyer they can give out.
 - Milliken will try to make one by Thursday.
 - 4th of July (7/4)
 - Milliken proposed that Molnar can do something to engage with kids.
 - Weinstein proposed creating a new banner for the EQC.
 - Sobul and Weinstein will work on creating a banner.
 - Milliken noted that they can figure out staffing at the next meeting

- National Drive Electric Week Event in Berkeley (9/15)
- Earth Day (4/21)/ Work Parties- Debrief
 - EQC members reviewed the cleanups along San Pablo, in the Hillside Natural Area, near the Recycling Center, and at Canyon Trail Park.
- Hillside Festival 2018 (5/4-5/6)- Debrief
 - Weinstein noted that it was pretty successful overall.
 - Weinstein had an idea to do a photo contest for next year.
 - Pam Austin noted that it went smoothly, but she worries about the loss of getting everyone together in one place.
- Volunteer Appreciation Event- TBD
 - Milliken noted that it was at the recycling center in the past and that there were awards given and speakers.
 - Weinstein noted that he would also consider inviting people to a local pub or restaurant and that previous appreciation events had beer and wine.

7. 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- April 26, 6:30pm, El Cerrito Community Center- Debrief
- Public Meeting #4- May 23, 6:30pm, City Hall Council Chambers
 - Provost noted that this will be a more formal meeting with a public comment period.

8. Announcements and future agenda items

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

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, Severe Weather Events, and Emergency Preparedness
- 5 Partner with LimeBike on event/education
- 6 Presentation and Discussion on Green Infrastructure
- 7 Climate Action Plan Implementation Update

Tsutsui noted that this was the 3rd year of the City Nature Challenge and the Bay Area won this year and added that this could be a potential Hillside Festival event. O'Connor added that he would like to lead a broom pull in fall at the Madera Property. Pavel mentioned that the film subcommittee is gathering a list of potential films to screen and will share at the next meeting. She also noted that her non-profit is working on an environmental literacy blueprint for the state curriculum for schools and she can get someone to come speak to the EQC about their work.

9. Adjournment- 9:04 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 p.m.