



Minutes

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 8, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers

10890 San Pablo Avenue

This Meeting Place Is Wheelchair Accessible

Call to Order: 7:04 PM

Roll Call: Chair Miner, Vice-Chair Milliken, Members Goudey, Molnar, Moreno, O'Connor, Pavel, Sobul, Solari, Spitalnik, Tarbet, Tsutsui, Weinstein

Absent: Member Verrier

Also Present: Will Provost, Staff Liaison; Kaiya Levine, City Climate Corps Fellow

- 1. Council/Staff Liaisons Announcements and Reports** – Miner introduced the new Council Liaison for the EQC, Paul Fadelli. Fadelli introduced himself and told committee members about his background in environmental policy and various roles at the state, regional, and local level. He discussed his support for the EQC and interest in further pursuing reducing plastic use, decarbonization, and reducing wildfire risk.
- 2. Comments from the Public on Non-Agenda Items** – Daniel Hamilton spoke to the EQC about his interest in being a member of the committee. Hamilton announced that he is a resident of El Cerrito with a background in environmental and decarbonization work. Currently he is the Sustainability Manager with the City of Oakland.
- 3. Approval of the Minutes** – Motion to approve the Tuesday, December 11th minutes (Sobul, O'Connor, unanimous).
- 4. Environmental Quality Volunteer Awards** – The EQC discussed formalizing the award process for future environmental awards and recommending that the City Council name the awards the “Ron Eggherman Environmental Quality Volunteer Awards” as a way to recognize Eggherman’s volunteer efforts. The Committee decided to continue this discussion at the next meeting after talking to Eggherman’s family.
- 5. Real Property Transfer Tax Rebates for Energy Efficiency** – Provost discussed the passing of Measure V, which allows new homeowners to receive a rebate for part of their property transfer tax if they complete energy efficiency projects, seismic projects, or water conservation projects. He went on to explain that implementation of the program is still under development but the EQC will be able to review and provide feedback on the administrative forms once they are completed.
- 6. EQC Discussion on Community Engagement Strategies** – Committee members discussed past outreach strategies that have proven successful in engaging the public. Pavel recommended the EQC keep an up to date list of contacts and organize the list to target community members’

specific interests. The Committee considered the value of official City posts on social media over individual members promoting EQC events, and decided that promotion from multiple sources would be most effective. Members discussed using the following tactics:

- City Newsletters: Green Happenings, A Greener El Cerrito, News and Views, Recreation Brochure, and website updates
- Film and public education events
- Workshops and seminars
- Digital flyers and posts
- Social media presence: Nextdoor, Facebook, El Cerrito website, etc.
- Tabling at the Recycling + Environmental Resource Center

7. **Climate Action Plan Implementation – Miner** talked about the City’s goals for participating in CCA programs and increasing the amount of residents joining Deep Green. In 2019, a major goal is to assess the City’s Climate Action Plan implementation. El Cerrito has already done a community-wide greenhouse gas inventory and a municipal greenhouse gas inventory. Members are waiting to hear a report which evaluates what strategies have been implemented and what areas need more work. The report is expected to be delivered in the summer. Goudey also announced that Contra Costa County is updating their county-wide CAP and there will be public meetings.

8. **EQC “Year of Plastic Pollution Prevention” Implementation** – The ad-hoc plastic subcommittee reported on ideas to support the EQC’s goal of prioritizing reducing plastic pollution in 2019. They suggested ideas to educate residents on Earth Day or through presentations, and they hope to make progress in time for Plastic-Free July. Provost updated the committee about the draft expanded food ware ordinance that City staff is working on and told members that the EQC can review and give feedback on the ordinance when the first draft is ready.

9. **EQC Budget and Calendar Events** – The Committee heard updates, participated in discussion, and considered possible action items regarding planning for the EQC calendar of events including:

• **Educational Events, Films, and Workshops**

- East Bay Electrification Expo (Thursday, Feb 7, 2019)
- Earth Day (April 13, 2019)
- 6th Annual Hillside Festival (May 3-5)
 - Motion to co-sponsor and provide \$1,500 in support for the 6th Annual Hillside Festival (Weinstein, O’Conner, unanimous).
- Bike to Work Day (May 2019)
- 4th of July
- National Drive Electric Week Event
 - Berkeley Event (Saturday, Sept 14, 2019)
 - Richmond Event (weekday, Sept 2019, TBD)
- SunShares 2019 Participation (August – November)
- Fixit Clinics 2019

Pavel discussed showing the film “Albatross” or “Trees in Trouble” at some point this year and featuring short films at the City’s Earth Day event.

- **Green Team Cleanups:**
 - Jan. 19, Saturday, Central Park and Cerrito Creek
 - March 10, Sunday, Del Norte BART to Baxter Creek
 - April 13, Saturday, Earth Day, Cerrito and/or Baxter Creek
 - June 1, Saturday, Northern Entries and San Pablo Avenue
 - Aug. 17, Saturday, Central Park and Cerrito Creek or Ohlone Greenway
 - September 21, Saturday, Coastal Cleanup Event
 - October date TBD, tree planting with Urban Forest Committee
 - Nov. 2, Saturday, Baxter Creek

Motion to host City Nature Challenge April 27th in the Hillside Natural Area (Tsutsui, Spitalnik, unanimous)

Motion to host February 16 Broom Pull at the Madera Property in the Hillside Natural Area (Goudey, O'Conner, unanimous)

10. Announcements and Future Agenda Items –

Consideration of Upcoming Agenda Items

- Urban Greening Plan Implementation
- City Purchased Vehicles
- Climate Adaptation, Severe Weather Events, and Emergency Preparedness
- Partner with LimeBike on event/education
- Green Infrastructure Plan Public Meeting
- Climate Action Plan Implementation Update
- Brown Act Presentation from City Clerk
- Wildfire Preparedness and Potential Efforts around Smoke/Air Pollution
- Expanded Food Ware Ordinance
- Citizen Scientist Initiative or Event
- Community Engagement Discussion

11. Adjournment – 9:10 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.