



Minutes

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 12, 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, and Weinstein

Absent: Member Verrier

Also Present: Paul Fadelli, Council Liaison; Will Provost, Staff Liaison; Kaiya Levine, Climate Corps Fellow

- Council/Staff Liaisons Announcements and Reports** – Provost announced that LimeBike will not continue to operate its bike-share program in El Cerrito. The program was successful in that it was a one-year pilot program and had 18,000 rides. The City is still interested in a bike share program, however, and will continue working to pursue opportunities to develop a regional program with other municipalities. Arbor week is being celebrated this week and the Urban Forest Committee is hosting events. He went on to commend Milliken and Miner on a great presentation to City Council featuring the EQC's work plan for 2019. Provost also announced a program being developed that aims to manage PCBs in the building demolition process. City Staff intend to present the proposal to the El Cerrito City Council in April. The program will reduce pollution in stormwater runoff.
- Comments from the public on non-agenda items** – Jean Harte reiterated the importance of "Green Mondays" and asked that the EQC discuss possible implementation of meat reduction practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Approval of the Minutes** – Tsutsui requested to amend the February minutes to clarify that the City Nature Challenge will be looking at all local species. Motion to approve the Tuesday, February 12th minutes as amended (Molnar, O'Connor, unanimous)
- EQC Member Appointment Process** – The Committee discussed interviewing resident Daniel Hamilton before the next EQC meeting, in preparation for recommending his appointment to the EQC. Motion to create an ad-hoc subcommittee to interview Hamilton and report back to the EQC (Tsutsui, O'Connor, unanimous).
- EQC "Year of Plastic Pollution Prevention" Implementation**– Provost shared copies of a markup of the existing Food Ware Ordinance with committee members, displaying language that could be added to expand the ordinance. The draft included ideas for expanding the

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 Will Provost, Staff Liaison at 525-7622 (voice) at least FIVE (5) WORKING DAYS NOTICE PRIOR TO THE MEETING to ensure availability.

current ordinance to include plastic straws and decrease the City's generation of single-use plastic waste.

6. EQC Budget and Calendar of 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**

- Earth Day (April 13)
 - Goudey may lead a Broom Pull at the Madera Property in the Hillside Natural Area. Committee members may also conduct a work party on the PG&E Right-of-way.
 - Provost thanked Solari for volunteering to help coordinate Earth Day.
 - Miner volunteered to operate a projector for showing films at the Earth Day lunch.
- City Nature Challenge in HNA (April 27)
 - Tsutsui announced that Friends of Five Creek is also doing a City Nature Challenge and next year the group will consider formally joining the Nature Challenge competition.
- 6th Annual Hillside Festival (May 3-5)
 - Weinstein asked that committee members continue to promote the festival to friends, local families, and colleagues.
- Bike to Work Day (May 9)
 - Provost announced that the “Energizer Station” table will be set up at the El Cerrito Plaza BART by the bike lockers.
 - Goudey and EQC plan to put up an arch over the Ohlone Greenway and some members may attend to talk to participants about programs in El Cerrito.
- 4th of July
 - The Committee discussed what their table will feature and how to engage residents at the event. Miner suggested that the committee have some kind of event/contest to interact with the public, possibly an Instagram photo contest. Provost suggested a waste sorting game. Molnar volunteered to work on an activity.
- 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
 - Goudey stated that Fixit Clinics have grown and will now be held at the Community Center. Because of this, there may be increased costs for having to pay a staff member to facilitate the event space.
 - Motion for the EQC to fund the event on April 20th with a budget not to exceed \$400 for food and potential staffing. (Goudey, O'Connor, unanimous)

• **Green Team Cleanups:**

- Feb. 16, Saturday, Madera Property Broom Pull
 - The event was successful and greatly supported by the students and parents of the volunteers from Congregation Netivot Shalom.

- Motion to conduct additional Broom Pulls with the El Cerrito Trail Trekkers on March 23 and other dates in the Spring (Weinstein, Goudey, unanimous).
- March 10, Sunday, Del Norte BART to Baxter Creek
 - Event went well and had about 10 volunteers show up to work.
- 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

7. Outreach Materials – The committee members discussed possible media to educate the public on various sustainability practices. The committee also discussed a recent proposal from an El Cerrito resident to help create a tri-fold brochure that encompasses the programs available to the community.

8. Climate Action Plan Implementation – Members heard updates, participated in discussion and considered possible action items regarding implementation of the Climate Action Plan.

- Living Lightly Campaign - MCE Deep Green
 - 7% Deep Green as of November 2018
- CCA & CPUC Updates

9. Elections for Chair and Vice Chair – Miner and Milliken discussed the process for annually electing a Chair and Co-Chair of the EQC, which will take place at the April 2019 meeting. Members may make nominations prior to the next meeting by submitting them to the Staff Liaison or they may make them at the next meeting.

10. Announcements and future agenda items –

The Committee heard announcements and suggestions for future EQC agenda items. Pavel noted a new exhibit at the David Brower center titled “Sea Change” and would like to report back on a climate event she is attending that will feature Al Gore.

Consideration of Upcoming Agenda Items

- 1 Elections for Chair and Vice Chair (April 2019)
- 2 Urban Greening Plan Implementation
- 3 City Purchased Vehicles
- 4 Climate Adaptation, Severe Weather Events, and Emergency Preparedness
- 5 Green Infrastructure Plan Public Meeting
- 6 Climate Action Plan Implementation Update
- 7 Brown Act Presentation from City Clerk
- 8 Wildfire Preparedness and Potential Efforts around Smoke/Air Pollution
- 9 Real Property Transfer Tax Rebates – Discuss Implementation/Promotion of Program
- 10 Collapse of Insect Population
- 11 Meatless “Green Mondays”
- 12 Environmental Quality Volunteer Awards – Formalizing and Renaming

11. Adjournment – 9:00

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.