



Minutes

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 9, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers

10890 San Pablo Avenue

This Meeting Place Is Wheelchair Accessible

Call to Order: 7:05 PM

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

Absent: Members Pavel and Weinstein

Also Present: Paul Fadelli, Council Liaison; Will Provost, Staff Liaison

- Council/Staff Liaisons Announcements and Reports** – Councilmember Paul Fadelli thanked the Environmental Quality Committee for their work in supporting and providing input on the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan. He noted that the City will need to find ways to raise money and identify funds to implement the Plan and to achieve other goals related to fire prevention, for example. Councilmember Fadelli also highlighted the need for voters to extend Measure A which provides important revenues for the City's Swim Center and other facilities. Provost thanked EQC Chair Mark Miner for his service as a member of the Committee and as Chair for two consecutive terms. He announced an upcoming meeting on April 30, intended to inform residents on changes in the international recycling markets and how that is impacting El Cerrito's recycling programs. Provost also discussed the possibility of hosting a workshop at the next EQC meeting to provide input on a regional transportation proposal to redesign the San Pablo Avenue Corridor.
- Comments from the public on non-agenda items** – Cordell Hindler, Richmond, invited members to view "All the Way" at the Contra Costa Civic Theatre. He also suggested that the Committee host a presentation on the Brown Act and work with LimeBike to host a presentation for residents on bike-sharing.
- Approval of the Minutes** – Motion to approve the Tuesday, March 12th minutes as amended (O'Connor, Sobul, unanimous).
- EQC Member Appointment Process** – Milliken provided an update on the difficulty in scheduling an interview before the meeting, for an Ad Hoc Subcommittee of the EQC to interview the current applicant Daniel Hamilton. Milliken noted the Subcommittee will try to interview Hamilton before the next meeting, but suggested that he still move forward in the process. Motion to recommend to the City Council the appointment of Daniel Hamilton to the EQC (O'Conner, Moreno, unanimous).
- Real Property Transfer Tax Rebates – Implementation/Promotion of Program** – Provost provided an update on the implementation of the Real Property Transfer Tax (RPIT) rebate program for seismic and conservation improvements and Committee members discussed how to promote the program.

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)
 - O’Conner mentioned his planned work party located around the Northern Entryways and Baxter Creek.
 - Goudey reiterated that he will be leading a work party to remove French Broom at the Madera Property in the Hillside Natural Area.
 - Solari is taking the lead on supporting the lunch and volunteers at the Community Center on the day of the event and will also provide materials needed to show films at the event.
 - Miner volunteered to operate the computer and projector to show the short films selected by Pavel and Tarbet.
 - City Nature Challenge (April 27)
 - Tsutsui discussed the upcoming event he is organizing and mentioned two smart phone applications that help people learn more about the natural world, including Seek and iNaturalist. The event will help orient attendees to these applications.
 - 6th Annual Hillside Festival (May 3-5)
 - Provost noted the Hillside Festival brochure has been released with a trail map of the Hillside Natural Area.
 - Map/Schedule: el-cerrito.org/DocumentCenter/View/11402
 - Bike to Work Day (May 9) 7am – 9am at the El Cerrito Plaza BART Station
 - Goudey volunteered to construct the Arch above the Ohlone Greenway, as has been done in past years.
 - 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 Clinic (May 11) 1pm – 4pm, El Cerrito Community Center
 - Goudey highlighted the upcoming Fixit Clinic and that the group is now accepting bicycles. Committee members discussed how to promote the event.
- **Green Team Cleanups:**
 - March 23, Saturday, Madera Property Broom Pull – Debrief
 - April 13, Saturday, Earth Day, Moeser ROW / Madera Property Broom Pull
 - 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 an additional Broom Pull on the Madera Property with the El Cerrito Trail Trekkers at 10am on April 28 (Goudey, O’Conner, unanimous).

6. **EQC “Year of Plastic Pollution Prevention” Implementation** – Miner discussed the idea of developing a problem statement for the EQC around plastics to help guide the Committee’s actions moving forward. Robin Mitchell, El Cerrito, reminded the EQC that

Plastic Free July is coming up. O’Conner noted that he is aiming to use no plastic during the month of July. Committee members discussed film ideas including “Albatross” and “the Last Straw”.

Goudey mentioned Berkeley’s recent foodware ordinance and how powerful it was to have young people involved and supporting the initiative. Members discussed the upcoming 4th of July event and the desire to create a game that would engage and educate residents on the problems around plastic and recycling.

7. **Climate Action Plan Implementation** – The Committee heard brief updates on MCE’s Living Lightly Initiative.
8. **Elections for Chair and Vice Chair** – Chair Miner and Vice-Chair Milliken began the discussion to complete the process of annually nominating and electing a Chair and Vice Chair of the EQC. Provost noted nominations that he had received prior to the meeting for Milliken to serve as Chair and Tsutsui to serve as Vice Chair. O’Conner nominated Milliken for Chair and O’Conner for Vice Chair.
 - Motion to nominate Milliken for Chair (Spitalnik, O’Conner, unanimous)
 - Motion to nominate Tsutsui for Vice-Chair (Solari, Spitalnik, unanimous)
9. **Announcements and future agenda items** – The committee had the opportunity to hear announcements and suggestions for future EQC agenda items.

Consideration of Upcoming Agenda Items

- Urban Greening Plan Implementation
- City Purchased Vehicles
- Climate Adaptation, Severe Weather Events, and Emergency Preparedness
- 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
- Collapse of Insect Population
- Meatless “Green Mondays”
- Environmental Quality Volunteer Awards – Formalizing and Renaming
- Educate Community on Recycling Market Changes

10. **Adjournment – 8:55pm**

These minutes, as well as Agenda and other materials, 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.