



Staff Liaison
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MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Thursday, July 18, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Avenue

This Meeting Place is Wheelchair Accessible

7:00 p.m. CONVENE REGULAR MEETING Chair Milliken called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. **ROLL CALL – Present:** Chair Rebecca Milliken; Members Howdy Goudey, Mark Miner, Alison Moreno, Sean O’Connor, Jeff Sobul, Renee Solari, Ellen Spitalnik, Sheila Tarbet, Gisele Verrier, and Dave Weinstein
Absent: Vice-Chair Neil Tsutsui; Members Daniel Hamilton, Elizabeth (Beth) Molnar, Paloma Pavel
Also Present: Will Provost, Staff Liaison
2. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC – None.**
3. **COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**
Staff Liaison Will Provost announced that the City is anticipated to receive a prestigious Beacon Award this year, from the Institute for Local Government, recognizing the City’s commitment to addressing climate change. Provost also noted the City Council’s recent approval of a Public Tree and Shrub Ordinance, which will provide a foundation for the City’s Tree Program and enable the City to pursue the “Tree City USA” designation.

Council Liaison Paul Fadelli highlighted multiple ongoing and recent City efforts, including: the weed abatement and fuel clearing program, designed to protect the community from fire risk; the development of an affordable housing task force; the decision to place a measure on the November ballot that would extend the current Measure A funding, which will be used for parks and facilities improvements; and PG&E’s decision to potentially shut off power in specific areas, during certain times, to reduce risks to public safety.
4. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting on June 11, 2019.

Moved/Second: Members O’Conner/Sobul **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the minutes of the **June 11, 2019** EQC meeting **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None
5. **PRESENTATION ON DRAFT GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN**
Staff Liaison Will Provost provided a presentation on the Public Draft of the City’s

Green Infrastructure Plan, intended to improve stormwater quality in El Cerrito. The presentation was followed by a discussion with the EQC and members of the public in attendance.

6. EQC BUDGET AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Hear updates, participate in discussion, and consider possible action items regarding planning, logistics, and expenditures for the EQC calendar of events, including:

- 4th of July
 - Committee members noted that the EQC booth may have been the best the Committee has ever created and that the “Plastic Free” display should continue at future events.
 - El Cerrito resident Denice Dennis highlighted the importance of educating the public on plastics.
- Educational Events, Films, and Workshops
 - National Drive Electric Week Event
 - Berkeley Event (Saturday, Sept 14, 2019)
 - Richmond Event (Thursday, Sept 19, 2019)
 - SunShares 2019 Participation (August – November)
 - El Cerrito Workshop (October?)
 - Provost shared that the City will be hosting a workshop on October 3rd at the El Cerrito City Hall
 - Film Event
- Green Team Cleanups:
 - July 20, HNA Broom Pull with Friends of Five Creeks and EC Trail Trekkers
 - Aug. 17, Saturday, Central Park and Cerrito Creek or Ohlone Greenway
 - Event will take place at Baxter Creek and Northern Gateways
 - September 21, Saturday, Coastal Cleanup Event
 - October TBD, Tree Planting with Urban Forest Committee
 - Event has not been developed
 - Nov. 2, Saturday, Baxter Creek
- EV 101 Workshop
 - Committee members discussed the possibility of hosting a workshop in November, to be determined at a future meeting.

7. EQC “YEAR OF PLASTIC POLLUTION PREVENTION” IMPLEMENTATION

(20 min.) Hear updates, participate in discussion, and consider possible action items regarding implementation of the EQC’s “Year of Plastic Pollution Prevention”.

- Educate Community on Recycling Market Changes
 - El Cerrito resident Barbara Chan shared that she has begun a letter writing campaign to manufacturers.
 - Spitalnik proposed doing additional education events on recycling, including on options for the domestic processing of materials.

8. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Hear updates, participate in discussion and consider possible action items regarding implementation of the Climate Action Plan.

- Climate Emergency Declaration
 - Provost noted that City Staff is current developing language for a Climate Emergency Declaration that would be presented to the City Council in

August.

- MCE Deep Green Initiative - "20K by 2020"
 - Goudey discussed a workshop held by MCE to support engagement on CCA and CPUC issues.
- CCA & CPUC Updates
- Implementation and Financing Options

Committee members discussed the desire to provide input on the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan Update.

Moved/Second: Members Goudey/Weinstein **Action:** Passed a motion to form an Ad-hoc Subcommittee to make a list of potential recommendations for the SPASP Update **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None

Barbara Chan, El Cerrito, stated that the El Cerrito Progressives will be showing a film titled "From Paris to Pittsburg".

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Hear committee member announcements and suggestions for future EQC agenda items. Potentially engage in discussion and make decisions regarding logistics of EQC consideration of items including:

- Urban Greening Plan Implementation
- City Purchased Vehicles
- Climate Adaptation, Severe Weather Events, and Emergency Preparedness
- 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
- Lending Libraries for Tools, Toys, etc.
- Pest Management and Local Wildlife (e.g. raptors)

Verrier shared her interest in bringing forward the following topics to the EQC:


- Coyote Education
- RPTT Rebates for Energy Efficiency – Education
- PG&E Emergency Power Shutoff
- EQC Skills/ Resource List

10. ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.


In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Staff Liaison, (510) 525-7622. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title I).

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the members regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the El Cerrito Recycling + Environmental Resource Center (7501 Schmidt Lane) during normal business hours.

Approved by EQC. 8/13/19.



EQC Chair



EQC Staff Liaison

8/13/19

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