



Staff Liaison
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MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, September 8, 2020 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 –

Vice-Chair Molnar called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

1. **ROLL CALL** – Chair Neil Tsutsui; Vice-Chair Beth Molnar; Members Rebecca Milliken, Howdy Goudey, Sean O’Connor, Dave Weinstein, Mark Miner, Renee Solari, Daniel Hamilton, Ellen Spitalnik, and Sheila Tarbet
Absent: EQC Members Paloma Pavel and Jeff Sobul
Also Present: Will Provost, Staff Liaison; Laureteen Brazil, City of El Cerrito Waste Prevention Specialist
2. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**
Vanessa Warheit introduced herself as a new homeowner in El Cerrito with a background in environmental organizations and stated that she is interested in the work of the EQC.
3. **COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**
Provost provided highlights with an overview regarding the Clean Water Program Annual Report to the Regional Water Quality Control Board. He fielded questions about the Climate Emergency Ad Hoc Subcommittee and provided an overview of the City’s potential next steps for updating the Climate Action Plan.
4. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (10 min)**
Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting on August 11, 2020.

Moved/Second: Members Molnar/O’Connor **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the minutes of the August 11, 2020 Regular EQC Meeting **Ayes:** Unanimous
Noes: None **Abstentions:** Spitalnik/Hamilton/Solari
5. **ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND RACIAL FRAMEWORK (30 min.)**
Hamilton provided a presentation on the City of Oakland’s 2030 Equitable Climate Action Plan, from which a robust discussion ensued with an exchange of ideas to propel a similar initiative forward in El Cerrito.

The EQC discussed the idea of developing “shovel-ready” project ideas to pursue grant funding at a later date.
6. **CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION (20 min.)**
Committee members heard updates, participated in discussion and considered

possible action items regarding implementation of the Climate Action Plan.

- Electrification Efforts
 - Miner proposed doing more to engage with and educate contractors to understand the benefits of electrification and how to help homeowners make these upgrades.
- MCE Clean Energy & California Public Utilities Commission Updates
- MCEv Vehicle Rebate
 - Income Qualified Program for customers at 300% of Poverty Line
- MCEv Charging Grants for Workplaces and Multifamily Housing

7. **EQC BUDGET AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

The Committee participated in discussion and considered activities that could take place outdoors and be self-guided during COVID-19.

- Educational Events, Films, and Workshops
 - Green Team Cleanups / Broom Pulls:
 - Dates: Oct. 24 – Northern Entryways
 - Social Distancing Protocols
 - Coastal Cleanup Events – Self-guided Cleanups
 - Fix-it Clinic(s)
 - 7th Annual Hillside Festival (Postponed)
 - Bike to Wherever Day (September 2020)
 - BayRen Energy Efficiency Workshop – Debrief
 - SunShares 2020 (Sep – Nov)
 - National Ride Electric Week Events – Register at <https://drivecleanbayarea.org/ndew/>

Possibilities were robustly discussed with regards to building the work plan for 2021.

8. **Plastic Reduction Efforts and Food Ware Ordinance** (10 min.)

Provost provided a brief update on the status of the proposed Expanded Food Ware Ordinance.

9. **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** (10 min.)

EQC Members heard and provided announcements and suggestions for future EQC agenda items. Spitalnik reiterated her interest in having the EQC do more on fire and emergency preparedness.

- Collaboration with the Urban Forest Committee
- EQC Collaboration with Young People in El Cerrito
- Tool/Toy Lending Library
- City Support for Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (HR 763)
- Urban Greening Plan Implementation
- Climate Adaptation, Severe Weather Events, and Emergency Preparedness
- Community Member Suggestions (e.g. Meatless Green Mondays, Leaf Blowers)
- Real Property Transfer Tax Rebates for Energy Efficiency – Education
- PG&E Emergency Power Shutoffs
- EQC Skills/Resource List
- Fire Presentation

10. **ADJOURNMENT** The meeting adjourned at 9:09 PM.



Neil Tsutsui, Chair

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Environmental Quality Committee meeting of **September 8, 2020** as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.



Will Provost, Staff Liaison