



Staff Liaison
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MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

TELECONFERENCE

<https://elcerrito.webex.com/elcerrito/onstage/g.php?MTID=e615e7b42b552bf190036b443dff379f3>

7:00 p.m. CONVENE REGULAR MEETING – Chair Tsutsui called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

- 1. ROLL CALL** – Chair Neil Tsutsui; Vice-Chair Beth Molnar; Members Howdy Goudey, Mark Miner, Sean O’Connor, Paloma Pavel, Jeff Sobul, Renee Solari, Sheila Tarbet, and Dave Weinstein
Absent: EQC Members Rebecca Milliken and Ellen Spitalnik
Also Present: Paul Fadelli, Mayor; Will Provost, Staff Liaison; Laureteen Brazil, City of El Cerrito Waste Prevention Specialist

Moved/Second: Members Tsutsui/Solari **Action:** Passed a motion to switch the order of items 6 and 7 on the agenda. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None
Abstentions: None.

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

El Cerrito resident Rose Vekony confirmed that this is the 2nd EQC meeting that she has attended and reiterated her interest in serving on the EQC. She shared that she is interested in transportation, the BART Plaza development, and other environmental issues. Climate Reality Project’s Fred Bialy introduced himself and his interests in brainstorming on climate related issues, building electrification, and his interests in understanding the EQC’s activities. Mark Levine introduced himself. He shared his interests in electrification and the Climate Action Plan.

3. COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS

Vice-Chair Molnar introduced the EQC’s new Council Liaison, Mayor Paul Fadelli. The Mayor shared his priorities which include the Climate Action Plan and the Expanded Food Ware Ordinance. He announced that the El Cerrito City Council Climate Action Ad-Hoc Subcommittee will begin meeting again. He provided an update on the budget crisis, mentioning the CAFR and acknowledging that the projected deficit has been reduced for this fiscal year, but cautioning that more cuts may still be necessary to re-establish a healthy reserve.

Staff Liaison Will Provost announced that the City of El Cerrito ranked second on the new Contra Costa County Climate Report Card. Additionally, he discussed a study that is being undertaken to determine if privatizing curbside recycling

operations would be beneficial to the City. The study will take up to three or four months to complete. He will keep the EQC apprised of developments.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting on January 12, 2021.
Moved/Second: Members O'Connor/Tarbet **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the Minutes of the January 12, 2021 EQC meeting **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None **Abstentions:** None

5. EQC MEMBER APPOINTMENT PROCESS

The EQC discussed interviews held with Chris Lynch and Buddy Akacić and considered motions to recommend them for appointment to the EQC. The Committee discussed scheduling an interview for Rose Vekony and scheduled it for March 9th with Chair Neil Tsutsui and Member Rebecca Milliken as a back up.

Moved/Second: Members Tsutsui/O'Connor **Action:** Passed a motion to recommend Chris Lynch for appointment to the EQC. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None **Abstentions:** None.

Moved/Second: Members Sobul/O'Connor **Action:** Passed a motion to recommend Buddy Akacić for appointment to the EQC. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None **Abstentions:** None.

6. EQC BUDGET AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The committee participated in discussions and considered activities that can take place during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Educational Events, Films, and Workshops
- Green Homes Tour – Will Provost and Amy Kiser made a presentation on behalf of Member Rebecca Milliken. The virtual tour will take place the end of May or beginning of June.
 - Moved/Second:** Chair and Member Tsutsui/Goudey **Action:** Passed a motion to allocate \$500 to co-sponsor the virtual 2021 Green Home Tour. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None **Abstentions:** None.
- Green Team Cleanups / Broom Pulls
 - Member Dave Weinstein provided an update on the dates for planned events.
 - Cerrito Creek (Feb 20)
 - Broom Pull Events (Feb 27 and March 14)
 - Earth Day (April 24)
 - Baxter Creek Cleanup (June 6)
 - Cerrito Creek (Aug 15)
 - Coastal Cleanup Event (Sept) TBD
 - Northern Entryways (Oct 16)
 - Baxter Gateway Cleanup (Dec 5)
- Fix-it Clinic(s)
 - Member Howdy Goudey provided information about hosting virtual clinics
- Earth Day 2021
 - Staff Liaison Will Provost provided an update that the City is promoting self-guided clean-ups, confirming that there will not be a gathering with a lunch this year.
 - The committee discussed EQC Earth Day 2021 activities that could include a virtual gathering with a film and/or a presentation and discussion.
- 8th Annual Hillside Festival – May 2021

Member Dave Weinstein provided information about this event restraining from gathering and instead encouraging virtual activities or small events exclusively.

- City Nature Challenge – Will take place in the 3rd week of April

7. ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND RACIAL FRAMEWORK

Chair Neil Tsutsui suggested a clean-up that targets a location within, or outside of, El Cerrito that includes the most vulnerable populations and to host an environmental improvement event in the month of April. The committee discussed partnerships and trainings. The ad hoc subcommittee will do further research to determine logistics and will report back to the full committee for next steps.

8. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The committee discussed plans to update the Climate Action Plan and outside grant funding. The committee discussed developing a framework for a Climate Action Plan 2.0

9. PLASTIC REDUCTION EFFORTS AND FOOD WARE ORDINANCE

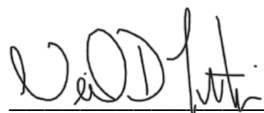
Will Provost provided an update and Mayor Paul Fadelli noted his interest in seeing the Expanded Food Ware Ordinance move forward, once appropriate given the pandemic's negative impacts on businesses.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Vice-Chair Beth Molnar announced her hiatus for the next few meetings.

- Committee Education/Training on Equity and Environmental Justice
- Recycling Update and EQC Support in Implementation of Recent Legislation
- Committee Education/Training on Equity and Environmental Justice
- Briefing from the Fire Department / How can the EQC help with preparedness?
- Climate Adaptation, Severe Weather Events, and Emergency Preparedness
- PG&E Emergency Power Shutoffs
- 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
- Community Member Suggestions (e.g. Meatless Green Mondays, Leaf Blowers)
- Real Property Transfer Tax Rebates for Energy Efficiency – Education
- EQC Skills/Resource List

11. ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 9:24 PM.



Neil Tsutsui, Chair

This is to clarify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Environmental Quality Committee meeting of **February 9, 2021** as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.



Will Provost, Staff Liaison