



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

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

TELECONFERENCE

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

Staff Liaison

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7:00 p.m. CONVENE REGULAR MEETING – Chair Tsutsui called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

1. ROLL CALL – Chair Neil Tsutsui; Members Buddy Akacić, Howdy Goudey, Chris Lynch, Mark Miner, Sean O'Connor, Paloma Pavel, Ellen Spitalnik, Sheila Tarbet, and Dave Weinstein

Absent: Vice-Chair Beth Molnar; EQC Members Rebecca Milliken, Jeff Sobul, and Renee Solari

Also Present: Paul Fadelli, Mayor; Will Provost, Staff Liaison; Laureteen Brazil, City of El Cerrito Waste Prevention Specialist

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

El Cerrito resident Rose Vekony confirmed that this is the third EQC meeting that she has attended. Nick Brooks introduced himself and noted his interest in learning more about EQC activities. Aaron Darden introduced himself. He shared that he is attending to learn more.

3. COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS

Mayor Paul Fadelli shared that the Federal Government has approved legislation which includes a provision to provide pandemic relief to local governments. The City is expected to receive approximately \$4.8 million. He congratulated the City in being recognized as a climate leader, receiving 2nd place in the County, with Richmond earning first place and Walnut Creek third. He also reported that both Janet Abelson and Tessa Rudnick will be participating on a City Council Ad-Hoc Climate Action Subcommittee to move that effort forward. Additionally, Mayor Fadelli highlighted that the State Auditor's Report is due to be released within the next week or week and a half. The City Council has reviewed the report in closed session. He estimates that the City will be different next year, and that the City Council will be looking at additional spending cuts.

Staff Liaison Will Provost formally welcomed Chris Lynch and Buddy Akacić to the EQC. He announced that there will be a meeting about the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan Update on March 31st. Additionally, he announced that the City is discussing options for a memorial to honor and commemorate Maria Sanders and recognized EQC ideas received thus far.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

EQC Member Dave Weinstein requested that item #7 reflect that locations outside of El Cerrito were also part of the discussion.

Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting on February 9, 2021, as amended.

Moved/Second: Members O'Connor/Tsutsui **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the Minutes of the February 9, 2021 EQC meeting with one amendment

Ayes: Unanimous **Noes:** None **Abstentions:** None

5. EQC MEMBER APPOINTMENT PROCESS

Chair Tsutsui announced that Rose Vekony has completed requirements to join the EQC. He shared her background that includes editing and writing. He also shared her interests that include transportation, affordable housing and transit.

Consider a motion recommending Rose Vekony be appointed to the EQC by the City Council.

Moved/Second: Members Tsutsui/Akacić **Action:** Passed a motion to recommend Rose Vekony for appointment to the EQC **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None **Abstentions:** Member Ellen Spitalnik.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND RACIAL FRAMEWORK

Chair Tsutsui opened discussions about a viable location for a clean-up work party, with a focus on serving disadvantaged communities. A variety of ideas were robustly discussed including partnerships with neighboring groups to conduct a clean-up activity outside of the city, planning activities during the month of April, including a project that addresses critical climate concerns like fire, and/or establishing a skills certification program.

Pavel stated that she would look into options for equity training prior to the next meeting.

The EQC discussed a motion to establish an Ad-Hoc Subcommittee to explore the possibility of providing or leveraging environmental stewardship training programs with an interest in serving underserved communities. The EQC Members proposed to serve on the Ad-Hoc Subcommittee included Members Lynch, Pavel, Spitalnik, and Tarbet.

Moved/Second: Chair and Member Tsutsui/O'Connor **Action:** Passed a motion to establish an Ad Hoc Subcommittee to explore the possibility of providing or leveraging environmental stewardship training programs with an interest in serving underserved communities. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None **Abstentions:** None

7. 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 Team Cleanups / Broom Pulls

Dave Weinstein provided an update on the dates for planned events.

- Cerrito Creek (Feb 20) - Debrief
- Broom Pull Events (Feb 27, March 14, April 3, and April 18)
- Earth Day 2021
 - The Committee discussed options for Earth Day to include online talks, films, and self-guided cleanups
- Green Homes Tour (June 6 and June 15)
- 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)
- 8th Annual Hillside Festival – May 2021
- City Nature Challenge
 - The Committee discussed logistics, dates, and publications

Consider a motion supporting a virtual education event to include a presentation with a discussion to follow.

Moved/Second: Chair and Member Tsutsui/O'Connor **Action:** Passed a motion to support a virtual educational event for Earth Day **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None
Abstentions: Member Buddy Akacić

8. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

- EQC Next Steps
 - The committee discussed ways to incorporate items from the Oakland Plan into the City's Plan that prioritizes a short list of actions, recommendations, and a timeline.
- San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan Update/EIR
 - Staff Liaison Provost mentioned that City Staff and the City's consultant are reviewing prior EQC comments
- MCE Clean Energy & California Public Utilities Commission

Miner highlighted findings from his review of the Oakland Equitable Climate Action Plan.

Consider a motion establishing an Ad Hoc Subcommittee to provide recommendations to the City Council's Climate Action Ad Hoc Subcommittee regarding updating the Climate Action Plan and short-term actions. The proposed committee includes Members Goudey, Lynch, Miner, and Tarbet.

Moved/Second: Members Tsutsui/Spitalnik **Action:** Passed a motion to establish an Ad Hoc Subcommittee to provide recommendations to the City Council's Climate Action Ad Hoc Subcommittee. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None
Abstentions: None

9. PLASTIC REDUCTION EFFORTS AND FOOD WARE ORDINANCE

- Provost provided a brief update on the status of the proposed Expanded Foodware Ordinance.

10. COLLABORATION WITH THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE

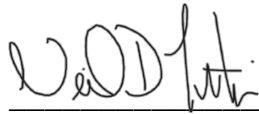
- UFC representative Cathy Bleier reported that they are researching fire prevention.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Tsutsui and Member Akacic made comments regarding announcements.


- EQC Elections, Chair and Vice Chair (April 2021)
- Project Honoring and Commemorating Maria Sanders
 - Spitalnik spoke in favor of naming the Recycling Center after Maria
- Recycling Update and EQC Support in Implementation of Recent Legislation
- 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

12. ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 9:18 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 **March 9, 2021** as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.



Will Provost, Staff Liaison