



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, April 13, 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 7:06 pm.

1. ROLL CALL – Chair Neil Tsutsui; Members Howdy Goudey, Chris Lynch, Mark Miner, Sean O'Connor, Paloma Pavel (8 p.m.), Jeff Sobul, Sheila Tarbet, Rose Vekony, and Dave Weinstein

Absent: Vice-Chair Beth Molnar; EQC Members Buddy Akacić, Rebecca Milliken, and Ellen Spitalnik

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

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

El Cerrito resident, Brenda Dunn, expressed her concerns regarding the manner, products, amounts used, and public alerts, associated with herbicide applications at Cerrito Vista Park. Staff Liaison Will Provost noted that he will follow-up with the City's Integrated Pest Management Coordinator, Stephen Préé, regarding her concerns.

3. COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS

Staff Liaison Will Provost welcomed Rose Vekony formally to the EQC. He announced the resignation of former EQC member Renee Solari, highlighting the length of time she participated on the EQC, joining in 2011, and that she served during a crucial time in the environmental history of the City. He also announced that the El Cerrito City Council recently approved the purchase of two new rear-loading recycling trucks for increased capacity and reliability, which will support the City in serving new development projects citywide.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting on March 9, 2021.

Moved/Second: Members O'Connor/Weinstein **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the Minutes of the March 9, 2021 EQC meeting

Ayes: Unanimous **Noes:** None **Abstentions:** Member Sobul

5. ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND RACIAL FRAMEWORK

Chair Neil Tsutsui opened discussions about a joint work party with the Sierra Club, the Committee heard feedback from Member Pavel on the topic of racial

equity training, and there was a request for the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee to meet and report back to the full EQC with a progress report at the next meeting.

Moved/Second: Members Tsutsui/O'Connor **Action:** Passed a motion to host a workshop and equity training at the June 2021 meeting with Earth House Breakthrough Communities Gaia Program Interns. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None **Abstentions:** Pavel

6. EQC BUDGET AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Committee participated in discussions that included utilizing Nextdoor to solicit participation for upcoming joint events, encouraging the use of the iNaturalist App, promoting the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tours' presentation/discussion with Doug Tallamy, and planned activities that can take place during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Educational Events, Films, and Workshops
 - Green Team Cleanups
 - Dave Weinstein provided an update on the dates for planned events.
 - March 14, April 3, April 18 Madera Broom Pulls
 - April 24, Saturday, Earth Day Clean up of Central Park
 - June 6, Sunday, Baxter Creek
 - Aug. 15, Sunday, Cerrito Creek
 - September, TBD, Coastal Cleanup
 - Oct. 16, Saturday, Northern Gateway Cleanup
 - Dec. 5, Sunday, Baxter Creek
 - Earth Day 2021
 - The Committee discussed options for Earth Day to include promoting the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tours' presentation with Doug Tallamy
 - Green Home Tour (June 6 and June 13) Register at: eastbaygreenhome.com
 - Provost provided a brief update on the event and how to register.
 - 8th Annual Hillside Festival – May 2021
 - Weinstein provided an update on the planned events for the Hillside Festival
 - City Nature Challenge 2021, April 30-May 3, 2021

7. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

- San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan Update/EIR
 - Provost confirmed that the consultant is reviewing EQC comments
- MCE Clean Energy & California Public Utilities Commission
- Climate Action Plan 2.0 Recommendations
 - The Committee discussed how best to provide input to the City Council's Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Climate Action

8. PROJECT HONORING AND COMMEMORATING MARIA SANDERS

The Committee discussed ideas to honor and commemorate Maria Sanders. Staff Liaison Provost will discuss these and other ideas with the Public Works Director and report back to the EQC on potential next steps.

9. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT AND FIRE PREPAREDNESS

Provost shared Member Ellen Spitalnik's idea to utilize goats in El Cerrito as a method for fire prevention. The Committee had a robust discussion that included the pros and cons involved that included hazards to both private properties and livestock. Chair Tsutsui noted there are more variables to consider than expected.

10. PLASTIC REDUCTION EFFORTS AND FOOD WARE ORDINANCE

Staff Liaison Provost reiterated goals that include presenting the proposed Expanded Food Ware Ordinance for City Council consideration later this year.

11. COLLABORATION WITH THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE

UFC representative Robin Mitchell reported on upcoming event collaborations for Earth Day, the goal that the UFC has to update the Vegetation Management Plan, and information on California Oaks.

12. ELECTIONS FOR CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Consider a motion to nominate and elect a Chair and Vice-Chair for an annual term beginning April 2021.

Motion/Second: Members Weinstein/Goudey **Action:** Pass a motion to elect Neil Tsutsui to continue as EQC Chair for an annual term beginning April 2021

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

Motion/Second: Chair and Member Tsutsui/Tarbet **Action:** Pass a motion to elect Beth Molnar to continue as EQC Vice-Chair for an annual term beginning April 2021 **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None **Abstentions:** None

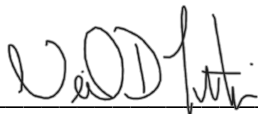
13. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Tsutsui, Staff Liaison Provost, and Member Weinstein made comments regarding future agenda items, including:

- City Herbicide Use
- Briefing from the Fire Department / How can the EQC help with preparedness?
- Recycling Update and EQC Support in Implementation of Recent Legislation
- 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
- 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


14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 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 **April 13, 2021** as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.



Will Provost, Staff Liaison