

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Staff Liaison
Will Provost | (510) 559-7684
wprovost@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

JOIN VIA ZOOM:
<https://zoom.us/j/92530710146?pwd=MnRlVkpVzY0WFh3QXQ2Vjk5LzB3dz09>

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

- 1. ROLL CALL** – Chair Neil Tsutsui; Members Buddy Akacić, Howdy Goudey, Rebecca Milliken, Sean O'Connor, Paloma Pavel, Jeff Sobul, Ellen Spitalnik, Sheila Tarbet, Rose Vekony, and Dave Weinstein
Absent: Vice-Chair Beth Molnar; EQC Members Chris Lynch, and Mark Miner
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 Vanessa Warheit introduced herself and her interest in joining the meeting to listen in.

3. COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS

Mayor Paul Fadelli shared that the City plans to re-open city offices and return to full services possibly by early July. He also mentioned aspects of the State Audit Report and restrictions placed upon the COVID stimulus funds allocated to local governments and how this limitation will impact the City's financial shortfalls. He announced new budget discussions will commence in early June, highlighted grants available for fire prevention, his excitement about the Environmental Social and Racial Framework, and announced the Council's commitment to including equity with all forthcoming decisions.

Staff Liaison Will Provost reported on the work completed at Motorcycle Hill, confirming that Engineering received funding for a retaining wall that helps to fortify the fire road.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Consider a motion to adopt the minutes from the EQC meeting held on April 13, 2021.

Moved/Second: Members O'Connor / Akacić **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the Minutes of the April 13, 2021 EQC meeting **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None **Abstentions:** Milliken

5. ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND RACIAL FRAMEWORK

Chair Neil Tsutsui and Member Paloma Pavel opened the floor for training approaches to be presented by the Breakthrough Communities Team that included the following three members: Matt Krivan, Sydney Merrill, and Zach Spicer, additionally supported by Carl Anthony and Katya Pronichenko. Pavel requested that the EQC members complete a survey to vote on one approach or a combination of approaches for the Team to design the forthcoming training to take place at the June meeting. Post presentation feedback from the EQC included a request that the training include intersections of environmental impacts coupled with social and racial justice.

Consider a motion to pay a \$200 honorarium to the Breakthrough Communities Team.

Moved/Second: Members Spitalnik/O'Connor **Action:** Passed a motion to pay a \$200 honorarium to the Breakthrough Communities Team for a June 8th Environmental, Social, and Racial Justice Training. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None **Abstentions:** Member Pavel

There was no report from the Ad Hoc Committee.

6. EQC BUDGET AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The committee participated in discussions about events and acknowledged Zoom fatigue. Akacić stated his interest in having events in-person and outside. Updates were provided by members Weinstein, Milliken, O'Connor, and Chair Tsutsui. The Committee agreed to extend invitations to the City Council, the Urban Forest Committee, and the Human Relations Commission to attend the June Environmental, Social, and Racial Justice Training. Additionally, the committee considered activities that can take place during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Educational Events, Films, and Workshops
 - 8th Annual Hillside Festival
 - Green Home Tour (June 6 and June 13), Register at: www.eastbaygreenhome.com/
 - Recycling Center 50th Anniversary Celebration in 2022
 - Plaque for Joel Witherell
 - Earth Day/Month 2021 - Debrief
 - City Nature Challenge 2021 – Debrief
 - Green Team 2021 Cleanups / Broom Pulls:
 - March 14, April 3, April 18 Madera Broom Pulls - Debrief
 - April 24, Saturday, Earth Day Clean up of Central Park - Debrief
 - 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

7. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

- San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan Update/EIR
 - Provost shared that the consultant is reviewing EQC comments
- MCE Clean Energy & California Public Utilities Commission
 - Goudey reported on a technical meeting that he attended
- Climate Action Plan 2.0 Recommendations
- Provost shared that the best way for the Committee to communicate with the City Council's Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Climate Action would be to draft a memo or letter

outlining the Committee's recommendations, similar to what was done for the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan.

8. PROJECT HONORING AND COMMEMORATING MARIA SANDERS

Provost shared that internal discussions have been underway taking into consideration staff ideas, the Committee's recommendations, as well as seeking direction from Maria's spouse. One current idea is to coordinate a tree planting in the Hillside Natural Area. Staff may plan to plant a tree once successfully past the summer months, with an event in the fall in collaboration with the UFC. The Committee suggested a California Native Oak tree be planted.

9. PLASTIC REDUCTION EFFORTS AND FOOD WARE ORDINANCE

- o Provost reiterated that the goal is to get the proposed ordinance completed this calendar year
 - o Tsutsui acknowledged the Council's enthusiasm for the ordinance

10. COLLABORATION WITH THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE

- o UFC representative Mitchell reported on the significant dieback of trees in the Hillside Natural Area and noted that the City is working to remove dead trees. Barriers, concerns, and hazards were also discussed.

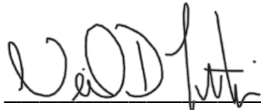
11. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Committee discussed various announcements.

- FAA Proposed Flight Route Changes
- Briefing from the Fire Department / How can the EQC help with preparedness?
- Recycling Update and EQC Support in Implementing Recent Legislation
- Climate Adaptation, Severe Weather Events, and Emergency Preparedness
- Integrated Pest Management Report from City Staff
- 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

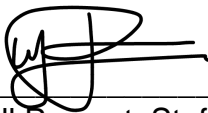
Akacić spoke of his interest in coordinating with EQC members as part of his efforts coordinating East Bay Senior Strolls. Spitalnik and Pavel noted their interest in having the City explore the BayCAN program.

12. 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 **May 11, 2021** as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.



Will Provost, Staff Liaison