



Staff Liaison  
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## MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

#### JOIN VIA ZOOM:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81588761495?pwd=d3p4aDZLdCtZa09PSjhQTUhuK0JVQT09>

**7:00 p.m. CONVENE REGULAR MEETING** Chair Tsutsui called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

- 1. ROLL CALL** – Chair Neil Tsutsui; Vice-Chair Beth Molnar; Members Buddy Akacić, Howdy Goudey, Rebecca Milliken, Mark Miner, Sean O'Connor, Paloma Pavel, Sheila Tarbet, Rose Vekony, and Dave Weinstein

**Absent:** Member Ellen Spitalnik

**Also Present:** Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Motoyama; Will Provost, Staff Liaison; Christina Leard, Staff

- 2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no comments from the public.

- 3. COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**

Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Motoyama gave an update on the mid-year budget adjustment approved by the City Council at the March 1 City Council meeting. She also noted that a developer approached City Council members regarding a potential housing development on the Fairview site, which is adjacent to the Hillside Natural Area, and that the developer may reach out to EQC Member Weinstein. Chair Tsutsui asked if there was a possibility of the EQC getting a budget for activities this year, and Mayor Pro Tem Motoyama responded that the budget is currently as it was approved, except for the few modifications made at the March 1 meeting, and that it is possible for the EQC budget to return next year.

Staff Liaison Will Provost introduced Christina Leard, the new Management Analyst in Public Works, and noted that she came from RecycleMore, the West Contra Costa regional solid waste agency. He also noted that the City Council approved a proclamation for Arbor Week, March 7-14, and there are events planned. Lastly, he announced that the City entered into an informal pilot partnership with Dispatch Goods, who provide reusable to-go foodware to restaurants.

- 4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting on February 8, 2022.

**Move/Second:** Members O'Connor/Milliken **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the Minutes of the February 8, 2022 EQC meeting. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None

- 5. COLLABORATION WITH THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE**

- Arbor Week Workday at the Memorial Grove in the Hillside Natural Area, Sunday March 13 at 10am

Urban Forest Committee Member Robin Mitchell and EQC Member Sean O'Connor gave updates from the most recent Urban Forest Committee meeting, which they both attended.

## 6. EQC MEMBER APPOINTMENT PROCESS

Staff Liaison Will Provost noted a potential new EQC Member, Evelyn Mitchell, submitted her application to serve on the Committee. Members Tsutsui, Pavel, and Milliken agreed to meet and interview the potential new member prior to the next EQC meeting, with a proposed interview time of 6:30 p.m., immediately prior to the EQC meeting on Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.

## 7. ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND RACIAL FRAMEWORK

The Committee discussed potential next steps for the EQC to promote diversity and inclusion. Ad Hoc Subcommittee member Tarbet provided a report to the EQC on actions taken by the subcommittee, including presentation of the Draft EQC Environmental Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Evaluation Tool.

Mayor Pro Tem Motoyama commented that a citywide equity tool is in development to add an Equity item to City Council Agenda reports and suggested the EQC share the Committee's final tool with the City Manager's Office and others.

Committee member Molnar suggested that the JEDI tool add language so that the EQC considers conducting outreach in other languages as appropriate. Committee member Pavel suggested adding a clause to the JEDI tool that it is considered a living document that will continue to be modified. There was discussion among the members on ways to promote the JEDI principles in matters of Committee work.

**Move/Second:** Members Tsutsui /O'Connor **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the JEDI tool for EQC use with amendments proposed by Member Pavel that it is a living document and Member Molnar with regard to translating documents. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None

## 8. EQC BUDGET AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Staff and Committee members provided updates on recent events the EQC has supported and discussed plans for future events in 2022, including:

- Recycling Center 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, August 5, 2022
  - City Council Resolution (Staff to bring forward around June), Budgetary Needs
- Earth Day 2022 – April 23, 2022
- Hillside Festival – May 14-15, 2022
- East Bay Green Home Tour – May 14-15, 2022
- Bike to Work Day – May 20, 2022
  - El Cerrito staff will have an Energizer station at El Cerrito Plaza.
- Green Team 2022 Cleanups / Broom Pulls:
  - Feb. 20, Cerrito Creek & Feb. 26, HNA Broom Pull – Debriefs
  - Mar. 26, Saturday, Hillside Natural Area Broom Pull
  - Apr. 23, Saturday, Earth Day, neighborhood cleanups, locations TBD
    - Apr. 23, Saturday, Hillside Natural Area Broom Pull
  - May 21, Saturday, Hillside Natural Area Broom Pull
  - Jun. 5, Sunday, Baxter Park (with regular Baxter volunteers)
  - Aug. 14 Sunday, Cerrito Creek
  - Oct. 2, Sunday, Northern Gateways
  - Dec. 4, Sunday, Baxter Park (with regular Baxter volunteers)
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July Planning

**Move/Second:** Members Tsutsui /O'Connor **Action:** Passed a motion to form an ad hoc subcommittee of members Milliken and Goudey to coordinate outreach and table/volunteer at the Bike to Work Day event.

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



**9. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

EQC Members heard brief updates on items relating to implementation of the Climate Action Plan, including the following:

- MCE Clean Energy & California Public Utilities Commission Updates
- San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan Update/EIR – EQC Comments

Goudey announced and described new programs from MCE Clean Energy.

**10. EQC THEME FOR 2022 – “GO ELECTRIC!”**

The Committee participated in discussion regarding implementation of the EQC's workplan theme for 2022 to “Go Electric!”.

- Electrification Education
- Community Organized Induction Burner Loaner Program
- MCE Deep Green Enrollment

Members discussed conducting outreach on Electrification efforts at Bike to Work Day.

**11. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Staff and Committee members made announcements and suggestions for future EQC agenda items. It was noted that elections for Chair and Vice-Chair of the EQC will take place in April.

- Elections of EQC Chair and Vice-Chair (April)
- EQC Return to In-person Meetings
- 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)
- Real Property Transfer Tax Rebates for Energy Efficiency – Education


Weinstein expressed interest in discussing trails improvements. Tarbet announced the “Healthy Air for All, Time for Action” event at the UU Church of Berkeley in Kensington on March 27 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Goudey announced that Contra Costa County released an active transportation plan for public comment. Vekony expressed interest in promoting pledge campaigns JUMP and Cleaner Contra Costa. There was public comment from Robin Mitchell who announced the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour taking place in April.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

  
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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 8, 2022** as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.

  
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Will Provost, Staff Liaison