



Staff Liaison
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MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

JOIN VIA ZOOM:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87873452219?pwd=WEIRdIZtNUO4WG43b3hqcWRlajYyZz09>

CONVENE REGULAR MEETING Chair Tsutsui called the meeting to order at 7:04 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, Ellen Spitalnik, Sheila Tarbet, Rose Vekony, and Dave Weinstein
Absent: None
Also Present: Will Provost, Staff Liaison; Christina Leard, Staff
2. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**
Chair Tsutsui asked if member of the public Fred Bialy was interested in joining the EQC, and he responded that he may be interested in the future.
3. **COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**
Staff Liaison Will Provost gave an update that the San Pablo Ave. Specific Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is moving forward. Documents are going to be released including a memo responding to EQC letters about the EIR and Specific Plan Update. Community Development may attend the next meeting to provide a presentation. Staff Liaison Provost also announced Earth Day cleanups would be taking place, and introduced new El Cerrito staff member Christina Leard to the EQC.
4. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting on March 8, 2022.
Move/Second: Members O'Connor/Milliken **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the Minutes of the March 8, 2022 EQC meeting. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None
5. **COLLABORATION WITH THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE**
Urban Forest Committee Chair Robin Mitchell provided updates from the most recent Urban Forest Committee meeting.
6. **COMMUNITY PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY WORKSHOP**
The Committee received a presentation from Steven Price on the planning of a Community Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Workshop in El Cerrito, and the formation of a new El Cerrito Strollers and Rollers community group.
7. **EQC MEMBER APPOINTMENT PROCESS**
Vice Chair Molnar introduced potential new EQC member Evelyn Mitchell, who was interviewed by members Milliken, Tsutsui, and Pavel prior to the EQC meeting. Staff Liaison Provost explained the appointment process and that staff will bring the EQC recommendation to City Council for approval before next EQC meeting.
Move/Second: Members Milliken/O'Connor **Action:** Passed a motion to recommend Evelyn Mitchell for appointment to the EQC. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None

8. ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND RACIAL FRAMEWORK

The Committee discussed potential next steps for the EQC to promote diversity and inclusion. The Committee discussed promoting or leveraging related programs, such as a youth program from MCE Clean Energy, "Wellness Walks" and Senior Stroll events, and programming from the Elders Climate Action group.

9. 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 50th 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
- Green Team 2022 Cleanups / Broom Pulls:
 - Mar. 26, Saturday, Hillside Natural Area Broom Pull – Debrief
 - 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)
- 4th of July Planning
 - *To bring back at May meeting to discuss plans*

10. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

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

- Climate Pledges / Cleaner Contra Costa – *To bring back at May meeting for discussion*
- San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan Update/EIR – EQC Comments
- Status of El Cerrito electric vehicle purchases and rooftop solar installations
- Climate Action Plan update and staffing

11. 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

12. ELECTIONS FOR CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

The EQC made nominations to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair for an annual term beginning April 2022.

Move/Second: Members Tsutsui/Milliken **Action:** Passed a motion to elect member Howdy Goudey as EQC Chair for an annual term beginning April 2022. **Ayes:** Tsutsui, Molnar, Akacić, Goudey, Milliken, Miner, O'Connor, Spitalnik, Tarbet, Weinstein, Vekony. **Noes:** None **Absent:** Pavel

Move/Second: Members Milliken/Tarbet **Action:** Passed a motion to elect member Rose Vekony as EQC Vice-Chair for an annual term beginning April 2022. **Ayes:** Tsutsui, Molnar, Akacić, Goudey, Milliken, Miner, O'Connor, Spitalnik, Tarbet, Weinstein. **Noes:** None **Absent:** Pavel **Abstain:** Vekony

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Staff and Committee members made announcements and suggestions for future EQC agenda items.

- Presentation on El Cerrito Trails and Pathways
- 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
- Promotion of movie: YOUTH v GOV

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:09 PM.



Howdy Goudey, 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 12, 2022** as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.



Will Provost, Staff Liaison