



Staff Liaison
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MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

JOIN VIA ZOOM:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84748637420?pwd=aUVxRktVR1VmbWt6ZUR4YXVwOVIKUT09>

Meeting ID: 847 4863 7420 **Password:** 2154350
or Dial in: 1-408-638-0968

CONVENE REGULAR MEETING Chair Goudey called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

1. **ROLL CALL** – Chair Howdy Goudey; Vice-Chair Rose Vekony; Members Buddy Akacić, Fred Bialy, Simrun Dhoot, Mark Miner, Eevelyn Mitchell, Sean O’Connor, Paloma Pavel, Sheila Tarbet, and Neil Tsutsui **Absent:** Members Dave Weinstein and Ellen Spitalnik **Also Present:** Mayor Lisa Motoyama, Council Liaison; and Christina Leard, Staff Liaison
2. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**
El Cerrito residents Maggie Winslow and Pamela Austin introduced themselves and informed the Committee that they had submitted applications for membership to the EQC.
3. **COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**
Council Liaison Mayor Lisa Motoyama provided a summary of the recent City Council retreat that took place on Saturday, February 4. She noted that a point of discussion was how committee recommendations get to City Council, and that there will be a future Council workshop to discuss it. Other topics mentioned were adjustments to the Council agenda flow, and future updates to the Strategic Plan. Staff Liaison Leard added that the Council also discussed allowing under 18 participation in Advisory Bodies. Ms. Leard also provided other updates from the City, including announcing that the City had received the first of two new recycling trucks for the commercial sector, and that the City had received a Pro Housing Designation.
4. **ENVIRONMENTAL ART**
Members Mitchell and Akacić presented local environmental art murals in the City of El Cerrito.
5. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting January 10, 2023.
Move/Second: Members Akacić/Vekony **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the Minutes of the January 10, 2023 EQC meeting. **Ayes:** Goudey; Vekony; Akacić, Bialy, Dhoot, Mitchell, Tsutsui, and Tarbet **Noes:** None **Abstain:** Miner and O’Connor **Absent:** Pavel.
6. **EQC PARTNERSHIP WITH SWAP IT EVENTS**
EQC Members participated in discussion regarding EQC partnership with Swap It events. Staff Liaison Leard to come back in March with an update on the EQC budget and clarification on facility rental fees. The next event is set for April 23.
Move/Second: Members Bialy /Goudey **Action:** Passed a motion to for the EQC to partner with Swap It events and support it being as low cost as possible. **Ayes:** Unanimous of members present **Noes:** None **Absent:** Paloma
7. **COLLABORATION WITH THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE**
Urban Forest Committee Member Robin Mitchell gave an update from the most recent Urban Forest Committee meeting.

8. EQC MEMBER APPOINTMENT PROCESS

EQC Members participated in discussion and considered possible action items regarding interviewing and recommending for appointment members to the EQC.

Move/Second: Members O'Connor/Akacić **Action:** Passed a motion to reappoint Howdy Goudey to the EQC **Ayes:** Unanimous of members present **Noes:** None **Absent:** Pavel

Move/Second: Members Vekony/Tarbet **Action:** Passed a motion to reappoint Mark Miner to the EQC **Ayes:** Unanimous of members present **Noes:** None **Absent:** Pavel

Members Goudey and Tsutsui appointed to interview potential new members to the EQC prior to the next EQC meeting on March 14.

9. CHANGES TO REMOTE PARTICIPATION IN CITY ADVISORY BODY MEETINGS

Staff Liaison Leard provided an update on changes to remote participation in City Advisory Body Meetings. Effective March 1, 2023 all City Advisory Bodies will return to in-person meetings only held in the City Council Chambers. Member of the public Robin Mitchell noted her approach to the issue of Brown Act limitations to remote participation by Advisory Body members and said she will be contacting the Governor and State Representatives to encourage revisions to the Brown Act to allow teleconferencing more freely.

10. 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 2023, including:

- Green Team 2023 Cleanups / Broom Pulls (*Fred to lead cleanups with assistance from Mark. Howdy to lead broom pulls*):
 - Jan. 21, Saturday, Hillside Natural Area broom pull (debrief)
 - Jan. 28, Saturday, Creekside Park cleanup (debrief)
 - Feb. 12, Sunday, Hillside Natural Area broom pull (debrief)
 - Mar. 5, Sunday, Baxter Creek Park cleanup (with regular Baxter volunteers)
 - Mar. 26, Sunday, Hillside Natural Area broom pull
 - Apr. 8, Saturday, Motorcycle Hill broom pull (*Fred unavailable*)
 - Apr. 15, Saturday, Earth Day cleanup Northern Gateways Park cleanup (*Fred unavailable. Sean & Mark to lead*)
 - Apr. 15, Saturday, Earth Day work party, PG&E site on Moeser ROW (*Howdy to lead*)
 - June 10, Saturday, Northern Gateways Park cleanup (*Fred unavailable, Mark to lead*)
 - Aug. 13, Sunday, Creekside Park cleanup
 - Sept. 16, Saturday, Coastal Cleanup Day, Baxter Creek Park cleanup
 - Oct. 22, Sunday, Northern Gateways Park cleanup (*Fred possibly unavailable*)
 - Dec. 3, Sunday, Baxter Creek Park cleanup (with regular Baxter volunteers)
- Saturday March 11 – Arbor Day tree walk
- Earth Day, April 15, 2023
- Hillside Festival May 6 and 7, 2023

11. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

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

- Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP)
 - Report from Ad Hoc subcommittee on EQC early input
 - Consider a motion to appoint 2 members to the CAAP Stakeholder Advisory Group (*See attached CAAP background information*).

Move/Second: Members Bialy/O'Connor **Action:** Passed a motion to send the EQC CAAP Early Input document to the CAAP consultants. **Ayes:** unanimous of Members present **Noes:** None **Absent:** Pavel

Move/Second: Members Goudey/Akacić **Action:** Passed a motion to appoint members Goudey and Dhoot to the CAAP Stakeholder Advisory Group, with member Miner as an alternate **Ayes:** unanimous of Members present **Noes:** None **Absent:** Pavel

- MCE Clean Energy & California Public Utilities Commission Updates

12. EL CERRITO ENVIRONMENTAL PURCHASING POLICIES

The discussion regarding the El Cerrito Compostable Product and Recycled Organics Purchasing Policy and the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy was postponed to the March meeting.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

- Environmental, Social, And Racial Framework - Link to the [JEDI Tool](#)
- Sustainable Transportation report from City Staff
- 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)
- Open Space Preservation
- Mitigation of heat effects; Federal Inflation Reduction Act

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

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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 February 14, 2023 as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.

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Christina Leard, Staff Liaison