MINUTES



REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 9, 2012, 7:00 p.m. El Cerrito City Hall – Council Chambers 10890 San Pablo Ave.

This Meeting Place Is Wheelchair Accessible

<u>Corwin</u> called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Chair Corwin, Vice Chair Miner, Members Krueger, Benjamin, Dandridge, Spitalnik, Pavel, Goudey and Weinstein

Absent: Egherman, Solari

Also Present: Garth Schultz, Staff Liaison, Janet Abelson, Council Liaison, Maria Sanders, Environmental Analyst.

1. Comments from the public on non-agenda items

No public comments.

2. Approval of the Minutes

<u>Corwin</u> made the motion to adopt the minutes of the Regular Committee meeting from August 14th, 2012 seconded by <u>Weinstein</u>. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Recruitment Update and Interview Subcommittee Meeting

EQC Applicant Anh-vu Doan was not in attendance. <u>Corwin</u> motioned to delay setting an Interview Subcommittee Meeting until applicant is in attendance.

4. Follow-up on Council Resolution on Rat Poisons

Schultz followed up with committee about rodenticide presentation to Council on October 2nd, provided Agenda Bill and Resolution for review. Melanie Mintz/Stephen Prée to draft letter to businesses discouraging the sale of rat and mouse poisons. Raptors Are the Solution (RATS) to provide education materials to businesses about harmful effects of such poisons. City to provide enews/newsletter updates and possible consumer workshops about integrated waste management strategies. Staff encourages continued dialog with RATS, the installation of owl boxes in City parks and ensuring that City operations are in compliance. Miner discussed Contra Costa County Times article about rodenticides including interview with owner of Past Time Hardware who raised concerns that there are no alternatives and the need to provide frustrated customers with immediate solutions. Committee interest in getting the full story on who uses rodenticides and how. Corwin proposed

COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION

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workshop on owl box construction in the vain of the bee talk; <u>Goudey</u> interested in statistics on how much use owl boxes actually get in El Cerrito, feels that information should be circulated regarding behavior that discourages rats – removal of certain plant life, trash control – though many sustainable activities attract rats. <u>Corwin</u> encouraged Schultz to tell Stephen Prée that ECQ was interested in a multi-pronged approach.

5. EQC Film Series: Updates and Action Items

<u>Corwin</u> asked for update and next steps. <u>Pavel</u> has made contact with all 3 filmmakers who have expressed interest in participating. Dr. Dick Jackson, *Designing Healthy Communities*, works at UCLA, but is interested in presenting at screening; working to schedule screening for when he is in the Bay Area. Mary Evelyn Tucker, *Journey of the Universe*, is a professor at Yale, but is in the Bay Area often; working to schedule screening for when she is available. Locations will depend on schedule, but City Hall is available and the Cerrito would be available for Saturday morning showings, as before. <u>Spitalnik</u> moved to create a new Ad Hoc Committee, which would dissolve existing Committee, to be in charge of logistics for the 3 films; <u>Kruger</u> seconded. New Ad Hoc Committee Members: Corwin, Goudey and Paloma, with Spitalnik attending when in town. <u>Schultz</u> encourages Committee to provide Suzanne Iarla (510-215-4318) with dates as soon as possible to ensure location availability.

6. Green Team: Updates and Action Items

<u>Weinstein</u> announced November 10th clean-up at 10am; proposed more than one location if there were multiple volunteers to lead groups. <u>Kruger</u> and <u>Corwin</u> volunteered and meeting points at Carol's parking lot and the Plaza BART station were proposed. <u>Emily Alter</u> to help with event flyer. <u>Corwin</u> voiced interest in collecting Green Team data to meet Clean Water requirements. <u>Weinstein</u> currently provides bag composition data, but <u>Schultz</u> expressed need for a metric for the Clean Water Program. Group discussed various possibilities and decided that weight, being the solid waste industry standard, would be the best approach. <u>Schultz</u> to look into purchasing one or two handheld scales and developing tabulation sheets. <u>Goudey</u> interested in an ongoing program where volunteers are assigned to designated neighborhoods that are cleaned on a regular basis. <u>Weinstein</u> stated that this was the original Green Team intention and that outreach was done, but that it required too much organizational effort; would require a committed staff person. <u>Kruger</u> reported that Baxter Creek clean up happened.

7. Subcommittee Review and Updates

<u>Corwin</u> encourages Subcommittee discussion be revisited given absence of <u>Solari</u> and <u>Egherman</u>. Environmental Education: currently disbanded; interest in speakers at both the EQC and for the public should be expressed and these programs should continue to be supported; interest in a presentation of Albany EQC. Eco Films: now a logistics subcommittee. 2012 Goals and Priorities: tasks completed, remove. Compostable Foodware Ordinance: <u>Miner</u> interested in maintaining through the end of the year to monitor county and state program development. Green Business Program: dissolve, <u>Miner</u> to represent El Cerrito at meetings. Greywater: <u>Solari</u> interested, so discuss next meeting. Cleanwater: <u>Egherman</u> interested, so discuss next meeting.

8. Announcements and future agenda items

<u>Abelson</u> informed on Council activity; discussed Marin Clean Energy presentation on Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) at last Council meeting. <u>Abelson</u> contacted by EBMUD who are looking to develop a CCA; she will discuss further with <u>Maria Sanders</u>. <u>Schultz</u> presented on Green Business Program: County discussing equitable funding and disbursement opportunities (i.e. if solid waste

provides certain % of funds, that % should be spent on solid waste efforts), but given current funding sources don't cover the entire program, Schultz recommends all funding be pursued; Green Business application process is arduous and requires volunteers to help, possibly from the Green Academy at the High School given the 4th of July event; Miner to attend next meeting. Schultz provided update on Plastic Bag Ban: the JPA has completed an Initial study and is proposing a Mitigated Negative Declaration, but Schultz and others support the development of an Environmnetal Impact Report as it is more defensible; the JPA has developed a model ordinance that may be adopted by the Cities who may then use the CEQA documents as prepared; Save the Plastic Bag has already stated that they will sue if a Mitigated Negative Declaration is issued. Goudey proposed community wide education about the actual organizations fighting the Ban; the County is looking to develop an ordinance. Miner presented on the Styrofoam Ban, stating that SB 568 was defeated 45-26 in the Assembly despite having passed the Senate and a number of committees; these Statewide efforts would be put in effect in 2016, 2017 for schools and an exemption for all cities recycling Styrofoam; Miner to continue monitoring through the end of the year. Maria Sanders presented the Municipal Solar Procurement project, which is going to Council next week: would be a 356 kW roof and carport system on a number of City facilities that would increase El Cerrito solar by 40%, would be cash positive with utility energy savings large enough to cover debt payments; this financing is due to: 1. historically low interest rates, 2. rebates which are running out, 3. low pricing from the contractor. Goudey interested in embodied energy costs of panels. Schultz presented Recycling Center updates: mulch and compost now available at a charge (was free for El Cerrito residents in September), now accepting at a charge CFLs and Fluorescent tubes for non-West County residents, sharp container charge for non-West County residents, E-waste event on October 20th and 21st, better regulation of customer behavior.

9. Adjournment

Corwin adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm.

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Environmental Quality Committee regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the El Cerrito Recycling Center Offices at 7501 Schmidt Ln., El Cerrito, Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. to to 5 p.m.