

# MINUTES

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, December 11, 2012, 7:00 p.m.

El Cerrito City Hall - City Council Chambers

10890 San Pablo Avenue

**This Meeting Place Is Wheelchair Accessible**



### Roll Call

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

Absent: Spitalnik and Solari

Also Present: Maria Sanders, Staff Liason, and Janet Abelson, Council Liaison

### 1. Comments from the public on non-agenda items

No comments were made from the public.

### 2. Approval of the Minutes

Krueger made the motion to adopt the minutes of the Regular Committee meeting from November 13, 2012. Seconded by Miner. Motion passed unanimously.

### 3. Subcommittee Report and Recommendation

Interview of EQC applicant Anh-vu Doan did not take place on Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> due to misunderstanding about time. Interview to be rescheduled for Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the El Cerrito City Hall. Miner, Goudey, and Krueger to serve on Interview Subcommittee.

### 4. Chair and Vice Chair Elections

Weinstein nominates Miner for Chair, Corwin seconds. Miner accepts nomination. Natasha moves to close nominations, Pavel seconds. Unanimous election of Miner to Chair position.

Weinstein nominates Goudey for Vice-chair, Pavel and Benjamin second. Goudey accepts nomination. Krueger moves to close nominations, all in favor of closing. Unanimous election of Goudey to Vice-chair position.

### 5. Recycling + Environmental Resource Center: Salvage Permit and Rules of Conduct.

Maria Sanders voices staff's interest in programmatic approach and the rolling out of the program for the new Salvage Permit and Rules of Conduct at the Recycling + Environmental Resource Center. Goudey explains that he has spoken separately with Garth Schultz about the proposed Rules and Permit and, while he trusts staff to operate the facility, he has concerns that the Permit will impede the welcoming feeling of the facility with formal language, deter schools and artists from using materials comfortably, and sees the Permit as merely an increase in bureaucracy given that these salvaging rules are already in place. Sanders states that the intent is to develop consistency in the way that scavengers

### COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION

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are dealt with and that the Permit is a response to patron complaint about scavengers. Miner describes uncomfortable experience dropping off a 2004 Computer at the Center that was immediately snatched up; believes that the e-waste section needs additional education and clarification. Sanders explains that the e-waste section is relatively lax given that the City's revenue is not based on volume. Weinstein states that he thinks the new policy was well-designed and encourages legitimate reuse, but that he does have a few changes to the language:

1. "SUPERVISE your children and leave pets at home" or in your car
2. "DO NOT take more than one file box of items per day from the exchange zone." Is it possible to expand this limit for magazine collection?

Miner believes that the Rules should be presented in a positive way as encouraging more reuse and providing expanded opportunities for reuse; believes that the rules for the Exchange Zone should continue to be addressed and that the EQC should consider hosting a Book Swap event on a Saturday afternoon. Weinstein, Goudey and Benjamin voice interest in this idea and believe that it would promote more of a concept of exchange of books than simply scavenging. Corwin describes her discomfort with the idea that community members feel uncomfortable dropping off their books and hopes that the Permit will address this; would there be a way to provide those with permits exclusive access at certain times to the Exchange Zone? Sanders states that the Exchange Zone is more of a free for all and that active exchange is encouraged, since reuse is the highest level of recycling. There is interest in developing education around the benefits of reuse over recycling.

Corwin wonders what the evaluation process for the implementation of the Rules will be. Goudey wonders if the Rules of Conduct will be incorporated into the Municipal Code and voices concern that such a formalized process may hinder any changes to them later on; concern that no one will apply for the permit. Sanders states that staff have already been in communication with a number of users at the Center who are in full support of the Permit process. Miner suggests that the EQC review the process in 6 months at a publically noticed meeting. Weinstein believes that staff would have asked for EQC input had they felt it necessary and believes staff will adequately review the process as implemented. Miner reiterates that he believes some formal review process should be put in place.

## *Intermission*

### **6. Green Team: Updates and Action Items**

Interest in cleaning up near the freeways and off-ramps, BART stations and entrances, where litter is most prevalent. Team will have to get in touch with CalTrans to get access to fenced areas.

Weinstein interested in setting up a clean-up every other month. Also, interest in a spring Volunteer Event at the Community Center to recognize active City volunteers, to discuss in more detail later.

Dandridge interested in setting up localized Green Teams at the next clean-up by asking volunteers if they may be interested when cleaning up in their neighborhoods. Would develop a community contact who would be in charge of setting up meetings and events in their neighborhood; Dandridge would assist in organization and providing necessary resources. Weinstein moves to consider the develop of local Green Teams; Krueger seconds. All in favor. Corwin to serve as coordinator at January 19<sup>th</sup> clean-up; Miner to serve as coordinator at Plaza. Krueger thinks there should be more structure at the events.

### **7. Eco Film Series: Updates and Action Items**

Pavel reports that Subcommittee is looking into a March 23<sup>rd</sup> event at the Cerrito Theater in tandem with an event hosted by Soroptimist International on March 24<sup>th</sup>. A screening of a condensed version of climate-change documentary "Rising Waters" and footage from Hurricane Sandy and a discussion with filmmaker Andrea Torrice. Pavel thinks the event would go with Climate Action Plan update.

Sanders asks if the EQC would be willing to host a Workshop at the February meeting to update the public on CAP development; hopes for a late-February adoption of the CAP. Benjamin moves to approve the event, Weinstein seconds. All in favor.

Pavel is still clearing dates for the other films.

#### **8. Announcements and Future Agenda Items**

Abelson gives update on City Council swearing in of Jan Bridge; Bill Jones and Ann Chung no longer on Council.

Sanders announces February release of CAP Draft.

Sanders announces January meeting for volunteer recognition.

Sanders provides update on solar installation with 10 additional kilowatts to be install at the Recycling + Environmental Resource Center, panels to be installed on the roof at Fire Station 32; Design Review Board reviewing carport design with a February and March construction schedule.

Discussion of the Reusable Bag Ban in Alameda County with Target charging 10 cents per bag and giving a 5 cent credit for no bag to take effect in January.

#### **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 5 p.m.*