



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 12, 2013, 7:00 p.m.
El Cerrito City Hall – Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Avenue

This Meeting Place Is Wheelchair Accessible

Miner called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

Roll Call:

Chair Miner, Members Benjamin, Doan, Krueger, Pavel, Solari, Weinstein, Wildenberg

Absent: Dandridge, Spitalnik, Vice-Chair Goudey

Also Present: Maria Sanders, Environmental Analyst and Staff Liaison; Janet Abelson, Council Liaison;

- 1. Comments from the public on non-agenda items** –Robert Schaadt introduced himself and indicated that he had filled out his application to become a member of the EQC. Solari, Miner, and Pavel volunteered to sit on the interview panel for Mr. Schaadt.
- 2. Approval of the Minutes** – Doan made the motion to adopt the minutes of the Regular meeting from September 10, 2013. Seconded by Weinstein. Weinstein requested minutes to record more than Committee actions and requested that the October minutes be amended to reflect discussion on damaged caused by city crews on Cerrito Creek during storm drain maintenance. Minutes as amended adopted unanimously.
- 3. The El Cerrito Urban Greening Plan** –Miner, who is also a member of the Urban Greening Plan Task Force, gave a presentation (hard copy contained in EQC Minutes binder) on the Plan's progress, including information presented by the consultant at several community workshops and open houses. Miner asked whether the EQC would want to provide an official recommendation to Council on the Plan. Group discussion indicated that they felt well represented in the planning process since 3 EQC members were participating in the Urban Greening Task Force. Miner also provided some thoughts on additional Bay to Ridge Trail connectors through El Cerrito, as did Weinstein. Member of the public added an idea to beautify the vacant Portola Middle School site with wildflower planting.
- 4. Eco Film Series: Updates and Action Items** - Weinstein provided an update on the upcoming *Rebels with a Cause* event, to be held as a fundraiser for the Madera Property at the Cerrito Theater on Dec. 7 at 10:30 to 12:15 PM. Weinstein made a motion requesting \$300 in funds to pay for the movie license. Seconded by Benjamin; unanimous approval.

COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION

To request a meeting agenda in large print, Braille, or on cassette, or to request a sign language interpreter for the meeting, call Garth Schultz, Staff Liaison at 559-7684 (voice) at least FIVE (5) WORKING DAYS NOTICE PRIOR TO THE MEETING to ensure availability.

Benjamin and a member of the public volunteered to help with sign-up sheets outside the theater.

5. **Green Teams: Updates and Action Items** – Weinstein provided an update on the Northern Gateway clean-up event held in November. He encouraged other Green Team leaders to email potential volunteers a couple days in advanced of an event to remind them of the event and increase turn-out. There will be no Green Team event in December, and Weinstein will bring ideas for the next event to the next EQC meeting.
6. **Earth Hour, City Challenge and Community Choice Aggregation** –Krueger reported on the outcomes of a subcommittee meeting on organizing an Earth Hour event between Dandridge, Miner, Krueger and Sanders. Motion made by Benjamin to support EQC-organized Earth Hour activities including the possibility of a candle light vigil with community members at City Hall; seconded by Krueger; unanimous approval.
7. **EQC Goals, Priorities and Potential Expenditures for FY13/14** –Miner reviewed changes made to the final memo on 2013/14 EQC Responsibilities, Mission, Goals and Focus. Final memo attached. Weinstein made a motion to approve the final memo; seconded by Krueger; unanimous approval. Individual members volunteered to lead the following activities named in the memo: Weinstein - Green Teams; Eco-Films - Goudey and Pavel; CCA – Miner; Educational Talks – Krueger and Solari; Urban Greening Plan – Miner, Goudey, Weinstein; Grey Water – Solari, Miner; Energy Efficiency – Miner; Madera Open Space – Weinstein; Green Building Policy – none; Pollinator Friendly City – Solari; Earth Hour – Miner, Krueger.
8. **Announcements and future agenda items**
Future agenda item to recommend Council support for ban on fracking in California was tabled due to member absence. Abelson announced that the City Council will be considering on Nov 16 policy changes governing the roles of Council liaisons on City Commissions, Boards, and Committees. Pavel displayed photos of an event sponsored by the Center for Safe Energy where Sanders presented information on her trip to Ukraine and Chernobyl.

These upcoming Meetings + Events were also mentioned

- Nov 2 Baxter Creek Work Party
- Nov 9 Green Teams Northern Gateway Clean-Up
- Dec 7 Rebels with a Cause Film Showing at Cerrito Theater
- Jan 14 Interview Subcommittee to interview EQC applicant Robert Schaadt
- Jan 14 Sanders to present on her trip to Ukraine and Chernobyl

9. Adjournment

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 + Environmental Resource Center Administrative Office at 7501 Schmidt Lane, El Cerrito, Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 pm

2013/14 EQC Responsibilities, Mission, Goals and Focus

The Goals and Priorities Ad Hoc (G&P Ad Hoc) subcommittee was established to guide the full El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee (EQC) to establish goals and priorities for FY13/14. Discussion and ideas were generated during the August and September monthly public EQC meetings. Committee members reviewed the 2012 goals and priorities, accomplishments, the El Cerrito climate action plan targets, and then shared what they would like to accomplish in the next fiscal year. The draft was reviewed at the October Meeting of the EQC, Comments from the meeting are incorporated in this final 2013/14 EQC Responsibilities, Mission, Goals and Focus.

The City's Mission helps guide EQC:

The City of El Cerrito serves leads and supports our diverse community by providing exemplary and innovative services, public places and infrastructure, ensuring public safety and creating an economically and environmentally sustainable future.

EQC's duties and responsibilities as stated in the EQC Charter Resolution.

1. To serve in an advisory capacity to the City Council, staff, other boards, commissions, and committees, and the citizens of the City with regard to environmental quality issues within the City of El Cerrito.
2. To recommend programs, policies, and ordinances to the City Council and promote the City's environmental quality efforts.
3. Promote and foster public awareness, education, interest and support for environmental quality efforts, foster volunteer opportunities, and educate El Cerrito citizens regarding environmental quality and issues relating to environmental impacts

Major accomplishments since 2012:

1. Development of popular Green Team and Eco-Film programs
2. Completion and adoption of Climate Action Plan
3. Completion and adoption of Foodware Ordinance and Single Bag Ban
4. Participation in planning efforts to create a Walkable El Cerrito

The EQC's mission is to educate, inspire, and activate ourselves and our community to sustainably thrive. The EQC goals are to:

1. Promote Community & Individual Action & Engagement
2. Champion Environmental Policies, Ordinances & Bills
3. Help businesses and residents be more sustainable and environmentally friendly
4. Support greenhouse gas reduction, recycling & energy efficiency
5. Protect & create open green space and wildlife friendly residential

areas

6. Involve learners of all ages
7. Support sustainable water use and healthy creeks

To that end, the EQC focus activities for FY13/14, in no particular order:

1. Green Teams/Volunteer Events - Continue to propose, plan and implement specific volunteer events and activities.
2. Eco Films - Continue to educate, inspire and activate our community through the regular showing of environmental films and lectures featuring guests and discussion.
3. Support El Cerrito's Climate Action Plan by asking the City Council to fund a CCA feasibility study. We would also write a background paper explaining why it is a good idea and work to get public support for the study.
4. EQC Education - Develop a list of speakers & topics to present at EQC meetings to educate members on pertinent environmental issues.
5. Green Business Program- Support existing certified green businesses to get re-certified.
6. Urban Greening Plan – contribute to planning and attend workshops
7. Grey water – increase public awareness of technology and options
8. Energy Efficiency – support city projects to reduce energy use and CO₂ emissions including: residential and business energy efficiency improvements, transportation efficiency (increased bike/ped trips, efficient vehicles, electric vehicles), evaluate options for improving efficiency of PG&E owned street lights.
9. Support Madera Open Space initiative
10. Green Building – consider opportunities to expand green building (codes, education, etc.)
11. Bee Friendly – endorse EC to be the first Pollinator (bee/butterfly/hummingbird, etc.) Friendly City in the USA habitat quality and patch work continuity (issue of neonicotinoids in residential nursery plants sold to attract pollinators)
12. Support Earth Hour City Challenge and coordinate and promote events in El Cerrito for Earth Hour, March 29, 2014.