



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 13 2010, 7:00 p.m.

El Cerrito City Hall – Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Avenue

This Meeting Place Is Wheelchair Accessible

Chair Eggherman called the meeting to order at 7:19 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Chair Eggherman, Members Miner, Weinstein, and Dandridge, Rome, Krueger, Benjamin, Wong
Absent: Benassini, Spitalnik,
Also Present: Garth Schultz (Environmental Services Analyst and Staff Liaison), Janet Abelson (Council Liaison), Maria Sanders (Environmental Services Analyst)

1. Comments from the public on non-agenda Items:

Rich Bartke, as president of the Historical Society, addressed the Committee regarding creek naming and mapping. He shared that the Historical Society wanted to ask the EQC to become more involved in creek protection and stewardship, with Historical Society participation. He suggested that the Committee appoint a subcommittee to meet with the Historical society to partner in this effort. Krueger asked for more specifics about what creek protection would entail, and what is endangering them. Mr. Bartke said that development, lack of awareness, and run-off are several issues, and that the natural flora and fauna of the creeks needs to be maintained. Benjamin asked whether the Historical Society has any partners in this efforts and Bartke responded that Friends of Five Creeks was the primary partner. Miner asked for details on what the roles and responsibilities of the EQC would be were they to take this effort on, and Bartke suggested that this be discussed by all three parties.

Kathy McKinley, also a member of the Historical Society and a previous member of the Planning Commission, spoke about her interest in creeks. She brought up that proposals for a development project that include covering up a Creek, expressed her concern about it, and her hope that the EQC could be involved in protecting it. Weinstein, Wong, Miner and Rome also commented on this topic and suggested that this be discussed at a future meeting.

Robin Mitchell announced that an informal group is organizing a homestead tour in the fall all is looking for houses with interesting gardens, rain catchment, etc. If people know people with homes that would be good candidates, let her know.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Rome/Miner moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the Regular Committee meeting on May 11, 2010, the Special Green Team Sub-committee meeting on May 18, 2010, the Regular Committee meeting on June 8, 2010, and the Special Green Team Sub-committee meeting on June 29, 2010. Passed unanimously.

3. Membership Recommendations.

Chair Eggherman gave a report on the business of the special ad hoc subcommittee meeting, and gave the overview of the recruitment process. Members of the subcommittee gave brief reasons for recommending

that the Committee pass a motion recommending that the Council appoint the following four new members to the Committee: Emily Corwin, Paloma Pavel, Jennifer Hammer, and Howdy Goudey.

Moved and seconded by Dandridge/Weinstein to adopt the motion. Miner asked whether all the candidates had attended at least three meetings, as per the requirement; all had as of the current meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Staff will forward the recommendation on the Council for consideration at the next regular Council meeting.

4. 4th of July Event Highlights

Chair Eggherman opened up this discussion and asked for any outstanding take on the event, roles, etc. Dandridge thought it was terrific, impressed at the number of people who came by the booth, seemed like an enormous number of people. Sanders reported that 167 climate action surveys collected. Eggherman was summarily impressed and proud that the City put on such a great event.

5. Recycling Center Update

Schultz gave an update on the new Recycling Center design and community involvement processes and answered questions from the Committee.

6. Committee and liaison announcements and future agenda items

Mayor Abelson reported that the Council passed a budget including a general fund dependent on a sales tax measure, fees, grants, etc., and the use of reserve funds. Concessions on salaries from unions in process.

Staff gave updates on the following:

- a. National Night Out
- b. Update on Food Scrap Implementation
- c. Update on internal City climate action work
- d. Update on Animals Ordinance Process
- e. Path Stewardship
- f. Green Team clean-up along Central Avenue, August 21st, with social hour following.

Committee members also shared the following:

Benjamin suggested a staff presentation on the San Pablo Avenue Rain Gardens at a future meeting.

Miner had questions about community gardens on the BART greenway land.

Rome suggested the idea of a Green City Events project.

7. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION

*To request meeting minutes in large print, Braille, or on cassette or CD, please call
Garth Schultz, Staff Liaison at 215-4354 (voice).*

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