MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, November 9, 2010, 7:00 p.m.
El Cerrito City Hall - City Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Avenue
This Meeting Place Is Wheelchair Accessible

Chair Egherman called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Roll Call
Present: Chair Egherman, Members Miner, Benassini, Wong, Dandridge, Corwin, Spitalnik, Pavel, and Hammer
Absent: Weinstein, Benjamin, Rome
Also Present: Garth Schultz (Staff Liaison, Environmental Services Analyst)

1. Comments from the public on non-agenda items
None.

2. Approval of the Minutes
Schultz reported that the minutes were regrettably not ready, due to work flow and prioritization issues. He is planning on bringing an intern to future meetings and tasking that person with drafting the minutes in order to ensure that future minutes are prepared on time. Minutes from the 8/24 subcommittee and 10/12 regular meetings will be ready for review at the December Regular meeting.

3. New Recycling Center Update
Schultz announced that the Council will be considering approving staff’s recommendation on the award of a design-build contract to build the new recycling center at the upcoming Council meeting, and will also be considering financing for the project at that time. Staff and all who have been involved with making the selection, including Chair Egherman are very excited about the project, and believe the community will be as well.

4. Green Team T-Shirts
Krueger shared on the success of the recent Green Team T-shirts that he financed, for use by community volunteers as they participate in volunteer projects. He made a motion to use $500 from the EQC budget to fund the cost of additional T-shirts for Green Team volunteer use, to be charged at cost to volunteers in order to recover funds to purchase more shirts as needed. Moved/seconded Krueger/Pavel. No discussion. Passed unanimously.

5. Subcommittee Updates
Policy and Programs:

Plastic Bag Ban: Schultz/Abelson gave the update that local governments are essentially in a holding pattern on considering bag bans due to pending lawsuits and the passage of prop. 26. Both recommended waiting until there is more information prior to further consideration of this topic.

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 215-4354 (voice) at least FIVE (5) WORKING DAYS NOTICE PRIOR TO THE MEETING to ensure availability.
10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito, CA 94530  Tel: 510.215.4354  E-mail: gschultz@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us
Polystyrene food containers are not subject to the same issues as bags so could still be on the table for policy/ban consideration. There was discussion about how to proceed with a polystyrene ban and/or a food ware ordinance similar to the one recently adopted in Richmond. Schultz reminded the Committee that there are still mini-grant funds from RecycleMore available that could be used for education/outreach/incentives for food service businesses to switch to environmental friendly food ware alternatives, and that extensive outreach, education, and involvement of the food service business community would need to happen in order to create and administer an effective policy.

Events and Outreach:
Schultz announced the BART station clean-up events scheduled for 11/13 and that volunteers were still needed.

Goudey and Pavel reported out on and discussed progress to reinvigorate the environmental film series. The committee discussed this topic in some detail, including potential venues such as the Rialto Cerrito, partners such as the Parks and Recreation Commission, and coordinating topics addressed in the film series with the efforts of the Committee, and the availability of films such as those previously proposed by Pavel prior to being on the Committee. Ad hoc working group of Goudey, Pavel, Spitalnik, and Benjamin to further explore and develop a plan for the series.

6. Committee and liaison announcements and future agenda items
Mayor Abelson reported out on the results of the recent Council election, Measure R, and state propositions.

Schultz reported out on the use of pilot use of bio-diesel in recycling collection fleet, the pending compost collection program at City Hall, and the pending multi-family dwelling recycling education program.

Chair Egherman announced that nominations and statements for Chair and Vice Chair (for both the Committee and subcommittees) in December with elections to follow in January. He also expressed his willingness to continue on as Chair if the Committee desired that outcome, but also his willingness for new leadership on the Committee.

Schultz also announced that the EC Trail Trekkers have a general interest meeting on 11/15 at the Arlington clubhouse, and that Weinstein is also going to attend the Parks and Recreation Commission to report on the efforts of the Green Teams.

Future Agenda Items:
- Dec: Chair/Vice Chair Nominations and Statements
- Recycling Center Community Meeting
- Jan: Chair/Vice Chair Elections
- Year-in-review; 2011 planning
- Member recruitment / interviews

7. Adjournment
Chair Egherman closed the meeting at 8:30 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 - Thursday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. & 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.