MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, February 8, 2011, 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 7:05 PM.

Roll Call
Present: Chair Egherman, Members Corwin, Miner, Weinstein, Krueger, Hammer, Dandridge, Wong, Pavel, Goudey, Spitalnik
Absent: Benjamin
Also Present: Sanders (Staff Liaison, Environmental Services Analyst)

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

2. Approval of the Minutes
   Corwin put forward a motion to approve December 14, 2010 minutes. Seconded by Hammer and met with unanimous approval.

3. Committee Chair/Vice Chair Elections and Subcommittee Chair/Vice Chair Elections
   Hammer moved to accept nominations from December meeting in which Egherman was nominated for Chair and Weinstein was nominated for Vice Chair. Motion seconded by Miner and met with unanimous approval. Subcommittee Chair/Vice Chair Elections were delegated to the Subcommittees.

   Sanders presented GHG reduction target of 15% below 2005 levels by 2020 and 30% below 2005 by 2035 and discussed the reasoning behind the goals and also their feasibility and some of the steps required to meet them. She put forth an action item request to recommend to City Council that this goal be adopted. Krueger moved, Miner/Hammer seconded simultaneously and it was approved unanimously by the committee.

5. Subcommittee Updates
   Policy and Programs:
   Miner presented progress on biodegradeable food containers to replace foam and solid polystyrene. The Subcommittee will work on identifying vendors using the business license list and do outreach to determine interest and provide encouragement to businesses.

   Community Involvement:
   Weinstein briefly discussed the Parks and Recreation meeting he had attended as it pertained to EQC. Pavel and Goudey discussed recent meetings the film working group has held in which movies were screened and plans were made for a film series incorporating elements pertinent to the films. The Cerrito was discussed as a venue and there was discussion around the series, dates, and other venues. The Committee voted to approve a film showing at the Rialto Cerrito on March 12.

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The committee and the public split up into two groups to reflect on goals and achievements of 2010 and goals for 2011. The groups reconvened and only briefly discussed topics of conversation. Topics of conversation included:

- Habitat/open space preservation (Weinstein) – increase EQC’s attention toward creek and wildlife protection within El Cerrito
- Support to council, staff, boards, and committees (Corwin) – reassign liaisons to committees to review agendas, attend if topics of interest
- Distill the EQC principle projects (Spitalnik)
- Climate action strategies implementation (Weinstein) – develop ambitious approaches to implement strategies (e.g. loans/incentives)
- El Cerrito’s reputation as environmentally friendly (Egherman) – Revisit recognition programs to “brand” El Cerrito as a hub of environmental consciousness
- Create user friendly water fact sheets (Goudey) – “how to” fact sheets accessible from the EQC/City, on topics such as greywater and changes to the plumbing code
- Green business promotion (Miner, Dandridge) – Conduct outreach to businesses in El Cerrito to publicize the County’s Green Business Program. Train high school kids to do the Green Business Program checklist audit
- Social media outreach (Wong) – continue to be in contact with the City about using social media as part of EQC outreach
- Sustainable communities strategy SB375 (Pavel) – hear more about the regional SB375 process and how El Cerrito is tapping into that effort
- Produce swap (Mitchell) – continue to support urban farming efforts by sponsoring a “produce swap” in which urban gardeners have a place to trade excess produce with others in the community. The Community Center or Senior Center parking lots would be ideal
- Community choice aggregation (Miner) – get information on how community choice aggregation efforts are going in the bay area

Discussion of these topics was postponed to the next meeting.

7. **Committee and liaison announcements and future agenda items**

Egherman announced on behalf of Mintz a job opening for a Program Manager in Public Works.

Sanders announced an upcoming residential rebate program for lighting retrofits.

8. **Adjournment**

Chair Egherman closed the meeting at 9:20 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.*