



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 8, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

**El Cerrito City Hall - City Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Avenue**

This Meeting Place Is Wheelchair Accessible

Chair Eggherman called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Roll Call

Present: Chair Eggherman, Vice Chair Weinstein, Members Corwin, Miner, Krueger, Hammer, Wong, Pavel, Goudey,

Absent: Dandridge, Spitalnik, Benjamin

Also Present: Garth Shultz, Environmental Analyst and Staff Liaison, Janet Abelson, Council Liaison

1. Comments from the public on non-agenda items

None.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Corwin put forward a motion to approve the Regular Committee meeting minutes on Feb. 8, 2011 & Special Committee meeting minutes on Jan. 25th, 2011. Seconded by Goudey and met with unanimous approval.

3. Membership Interview Subcommittee Report

Chair Eggherman, Corwin, & Goudey met with prospective EQC member Michael Huang in a publicly noticed Special Meeting prior to this meeting. He has experience working with municipalities and moved to El Cerrito six months ago. Corwin made a motion to recommend that the City Council appoint Mr. Huang to the EQC. Seconded by Hammer and met with unanimous approval.

4. West County Single Use Bag Ordinance Feasibility Study

Vince Ferro from Recyclemore gave a presentation on the environmental impact of single use plastic bags and other city ordinances that already ban single use bags in California. Recyclemore would like the City of El Cerrito to support their single use bag feasibility study in preparation for a future ordinance. Presentations have been made in other cities in West County. San Pablo unanimously supports the study, Pinole supports 3-2, and Richmond concurrently is developing their own city wide bag ordinance. Recyclemore would conduct study at no added cost with existing staff and budget. Hammer made a motion to support Recyclemore's feasibility study recommend by the EQC for City Council approval. Seconded by Pavel and met with unanimous approval.

5. Recasting EQC Priorities, 2011 and Beyond

There was group discussion of the ideas that were generated during small group break-outs held at previous Regular Committee on Feb. 8, 2011. Vice-Chair Weinstein suggested looking at open spaces for habitat preservation as a goal for 2011, better organization & outreach for EQC green team clean ups and establish on going relations with schools. Chair Eggherman suggested promoting El Cerrito as a green community by having and encouraging more businesses participate in the green business program. Discussion was made to differentiate tasks on what is a full Committee task and what is a subcommittee task.

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.

6. El Cerrito Eco-Film Series

“Tango 73: A Bus Rider’s Diary” will be shown at the Rialto Cerrito Theatre on Sat. March 12th, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., launching the first film of the eco film series. After film is shown there will be a discussion panel. The Eco Film Series mission is to use film as a vehicle to inform, involve, inspire & ignite. Goudey made a motion for a \$750 budget for the Eco Film Series. Seconded by Wong and met with unanimous approval.

7. Subcommittee Updates, and Member Assignments

Miner updated that the food ware ordinance & communication plan will be set for the end of Sept. A vendor still needs to be engaged for program. More discussion at Subcommittee meeting on March 22nd, 2011.

8. Committee and liaison announcements and future agenda items

Abelson announced there were not enough votes to approve the state budget and the state to take over redevelopment agencies from cities. She has been met with state elected officials. City Council has been preparing by transferring between the three entities of city, redevelopment agency, and municipal services committee.

Schultz announced volunteers will be needed for the upcoming events such as Earth Day, Compost Give Away and Fourth of July celebration. On March, 21st, 2011 the City Council will hold a study session at its regular meeting to propose changes to the Animal Ordinance. The EQC advised the Planning Department to revise the ordinance. EQC membership attendance is highly suggested for this meeting.

9. Adjournment

Chair Eggherman 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.