MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 12, 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 7:08 PM.

Roll Call

Present:	Chair Egherman, Vice Chair Weinstein, Members Goudey, Miner, Hammer, Benjamin, Corwin, Pavel, Dandridge, Abelson, Huang
Absent:	Krueger, Spitalnik
Also Present:	Garth Shultz, Environmental Analyst and Staff Liaison, Janet Abelson, Council Liaison

1. **Short Video: Plastics State of Mind**
   This item occurred following the conditional approval of minutes. A short film by a local film maker about the ubiquitous and enduring nature of plastics was shown as an example of popular outreach on environmental issues.

2. **Comments from the public on non-agenda items**
   None.

3. **Recognition of New Member**
   Wong motioned to recognize new member Huang, seconded by Corwin and approved unanimously.

4. **Approval of the Minutes**
   Weinstein moved for approval of minutes pending two changes that have since been made. "Habitat prevention" has been changed to "habitat preservation" in the March minutes under item number five. His name has also been added as in attendance in the special meeting notes of the same day.

5. **Urban Greening Grant Support**
   Mintz gave a brief presentation on a potential grant which would require a City Council resolution of support to pursue. This grant funding (up to $250k) could be used for planning purposes and would allow the City to develop a parks plan including an open space inventory and assessment of needs. Pavel put forth a motion for EQC to recommend Council approve such a resolution, Hammer seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

6. **Environmental Services Manager Updates**
   Mintz gave presentations on several topics:

   Chinook Book:
   Formerly EcoMetro Guide, a guide/coupon book of local businesses purchased by ~ 20,000 people in the East Bay. The City of El Cerrito Economic Development Department is subsidizing businesses who participate in the book.

Bike to Work Day Thursday, May 12, 2011:
Mintz sought interest in potential EQC promotional presence. Hammer suggested the presence of Trail Trekkers, Weinstein of Green Teams.

Spring Fling Saturday, May 14, 2011:
Celebration of the completion of the San Pablo Avenue streetscape project. Dandridge, Hammer and Goudey all volunteered to participate.

Docent Program:
Mintz brought up a possible docent program, with potential presence at the new recycling center, and to guide creek and nature walks. Some discussion around feasibility ensued with particular attention to the difficulty and expense in instituting such a program on a volunteer basis.

7. Committee Activity and Project Updates

Policies and Programs:
Miner talked about reviewing current City plans on open space and seeking a mission statement from Council on the topic. Policy and Programs has also been working on climate action strategies and outreach to businesses on the green certification process with the objective of accumulating feedback so that the Policy and Program subcommittee may be able to offer assistance through the process or teach Green Teams or other volunteers to assist. The next Policy and Program meeting will occur May 24th.

The Foodware Working Group will be holding a public meeting, tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, September 21, 2011 to talk to business owners about their needs and interest in a potential foodware ordinance.

Community Involvement and Outreach:
Weinstein talked briefly about improving Green Team outreach to enhance attendance to events and scheduled the next clean-up for Saturday, June 11, 2011 at Cerrito Vista Park.

Film Series:
Pavel reported that an estimated 100 people attended the screening of *Tango 73* and discussed upcoming film events with *In Search of Good* Food to screen at the Earth Day festival and *Beijing Bicycle* screening May 24th at the Cerrito.

8. Committee and liaison announcements and future agenda items

Abelson reported that the City Council had developed a mission statement and that the environmental goals previously stated were still intact. She also announced Earth Day work parties and solicited volunteers.

Schultz announced the upcoming May 23 compost giveaway by means of recruiting volunteers. He also announced that the plastic ban feasibility study discussed at the previous EQC meeting would go to Council June 6, 2011.

9. Adjournment

Chair Egherman closed the meeting at 9:08 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.