# **MINUTES**



# REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 10, 2011, 7:00 p.m. El Cerrito City Hall - City Council Chambers 10890 San Pablo Avenue

This Meeting Place Is Wheelchair Accessible

Vice Chair Weinstein called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Roll Call

Present: Vice Chair Weinstein, Members Miner, Kruger, Benjamin, Hammer, Dandridge, Spitalnik, snf

Goudey

Absent: Chair Egherman, Corwin, Pavel and Huang

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

Sanders Environmental Analyst

#### 1. Comments from the public on non-agenda items

<u>Becky Sutton</u> introduced herself to the committee. She is a new El Cerrito resident and is particularly interested in the Plastic Bag Ban Feasibility Study. She has a PHD in Environmental Chemistry and works in the environmental field. Becky came to offer her services to the EQC.

#### 2. Recognition of Departing Member

<u>Frank Wong</u> resigned from the Committee. Frank will be missed as he did a lot of great work for the EQC especially with community outreach using social media. Thanks for all of your great work, Frank.

# 3. Approval of the Minutes

<u>Miner</u> put forward a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Committee meeting on April 12, 2011. Seconded by Hammer. Passed unanimously.

#### 4. Assignment of Board, Commission and Committee Liaisons

Committee members volunteered to serve as liaisons to other El Cerrito Boards, Commissions, and Committees as appropriate. Liaisons will monitor agendas and minutes for reports to the EQC on pertinent details, and may, at the Committee's direction, speak on behalf of the Committee at public meetings on items pertinent to Committee business.

The assignments were as followed: <u>Weinstein</u> Liaison to Human Relations Committee and Parks and Recreation Committee, <u>Corwin</u> Liaison to Design Review Board, <u>Miner</u> Liaison to Economic Development Committee, <u>Benjamin</u> Liaison to Arts & Culture Committee, <u>Kruger</u> Liaison to Crime Prevention Committee, <u>Goudey</u> Liaison to Planning Committee, and <u>Hammer</u> Liaison to Aging Committee.

<u>Goudey</u> suggested announcing to the committees that EQC members will be attending their meetings. Spitalnik suggested that <u>Weinstein</u> e-mail other chairs on these committees with a list of the Liaison's names and contact information as a formal introductory notice.

#### 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.

#### 5. Committee Goal Activity and Project Updates

**Policies and Programs:** Miner informed committee that there are 70 businesses in El Cerrito that have food service, and 40 of those businesses are located in El Cerrito as opposed to national and regional companies, etc. All El Cerrito food service businesses will be invited to a meeting in September to educate them about their packaging choices, provide incentives, and inform them about a future foodware ordinance similar to Richmond's. There will be a conference call with <u>Garth Schultz</u> on Tuesday, 5/17 to discuss greater details. <u>Spitalnik</u> suggested that the meeting should be in the late afternoon not during restaurant's busy times (lunch and dinner) so that they can attend the meeting.

**Community Involvement and Outreach:** <u>Hammer</u> informed Committee about the Spring Fling which will be held on Saturday 5/14 held on San Pablo Avenue with presentations about the improvements on the Avenue, Baxter Creek, Rain Gardens and LED Lighting. <u>Hammer</u> also said they will be contacting High School Science teachers to recruit green team volunteers for events.

<u>Abelson</u> informed Committee about Earth Day. It was successful although there were fewer families present than previous years due to spring break vacation falling on the same week. Fewer people came to the lunch celebration but the work parties were very successful because a lot of work was done, especially with community gardening. Next year's Earth Day will be held on 4/21/12 and will not conflict with spring break vacation.

<u>Schultz</u> informed Committee that the Compost Giveaway was successful; over 30 cubic yards of compost was given away. More than 10 volunteers came to the event, many wearing green team t-shirts.

### 6. Committee and liaison announcements, member announcements, and future agenda items

<u>Abelson</u> reported on the last Council meeting. The Council took steps to have the redevelopment agency become a non-profit municipality agency in preparation of the State taking away redevelopment funds. The State budget is not out until June but the May revise for the budget is due to come out approximately next week.

Schultz reported on the ground breaking re-construction ceremony held at the Recycling Center on Monday, 5/2/11. The ceremony consisted of mostly council members and city staff including Environmental Services Manager Melanie Mintz, the contactor and design build team Pankow and Noll & Tam Architects. An interim facility is currently being operated on the west entrance of current site during this 7 month process of reconstruction. Announcements of upcoming events were made:

Bike to Work Day: Thursday 5/12

Spring Fling: Saturday 5/14

June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>: Unwaste Event at DMV Parking Lot

June 6<sup>th</sup>: Consent item presented to Council about Plastic Bag Ban Feasibility Study

June 11: Cerrito Vista Park Clean Up

<u>Hammer</u> announced that the San Francisco Public Utilities Committee has starter kits for grey water to use laundry water for garden irrigation. There is a State building Code for grey water and many cities offer work shops about it. She will be installing a grey water system into her home later this summer.

Goudey announced the EQC table will be on Madison Street and San Pablo Avenue for Spring Fling 5/14/11

## 7. Adjournment

Vice-Chair Weinstein closed the meeting at 8:27 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.