



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 12, 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 7:04 PM.

Roll Call

Present: Chair Eggherman, Vice Chair Weinstein, Pavel, Spitalnik, Miner, Goudey, Benjamin, Krueger, Huang, Dandridge, Hammer

Absent: Corwin

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

Renee Solari came to learn about the EQC and possibly becoming a committee member.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Krueger moved to approve minutes from the regular committee meeting on June 14, 2011, seconded by Weinstein. Approved unanimously.

3. 4th of July Public Engagements Highlights

Miner reported a lot of reusable food containers (left over from last year) were given away. These containers were used as an incentive for people to provide their e-mail address to receive the environmental monthly news update. Parents liked to show their children the compostable food wares vs. styrofoam food ware that was on display. Benjamin reported she received feedback from a parent who visited the booth about the inexpensive plastic toys given away at the game booths. The parent said he was going to throw away the plastic toy. The suggestion was made to have greener prizes to avoid plastic toys sent to a landfill. Schultz reported none of the participating vendors took advantage of the \$25 biodegradable food ware reimbursement incentive. Over all, the fair had a great turn out in attendance and the EQC and ESD booths had many visitors.

4. EQC Budget Update and Expense Requests

Schultz reported \$5,000 budget was approved for EQC outreach and activity adopted by the city council (same budget as previous years). Hammer moved to use \$150 as raffle prizes for food ware observation submissions and \$750 for the Eco Film Series, seconded by Spitalnik. Passed unanimously.

5. Committee Goal Activity and Project Updates

Policies and Programs: Miner announced there will be a subcommittee meeting in 2 weeks on July 26th for the food ware program. The meeting for businesses will be in September. CCA SB790 letters of support from city council passed the Assembly. Letters of opposition for AB796 by city council are on hold because the author of AB796 pulled the bill. Huang reported about the Green Business Program. He has contacted city businesses but

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they have been unresponsive. He has also has been in contact with the El Cerrito and Richmond Chamber of Commerce as well as Claudia from the County who runs the green business program.

Community Involvement and Outreach:

Film Series: Goudey announced the film for the month of July *Bag It* has been postponed. The film is to be rescheduled and tentatively shown for a date in August. Rebecca who is in the film is interested in being on the panel for discussion after the film is shown. Pavel reported that the film subcommittee is taking time to reorganize and refocus on their strategies. There was discussion about co-sponsorship of films. It was suggested that the subcommittee should screen the films prior to public showing. Egherman suggested when the subcommittee has doubt about a film, to bring it back to the regular committee for a decision.

Green Teams: Weinstein announced Baxter Creek clean up event on Saturday July 30th. Volunteers will have a no host lunch after clean up to make event more social. Working on green team tasks for community involvement and educational outreach other than just clean ups. Schultz suggested future projects for green teams such as the September “hot spot” clean up working with storm water discharge clean ups before rainy season and putting “how to use” instructional stickers on bike racks along San Pablo Ave. Green teams would work with public works crew on these future projects.

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

Abelson reported the City Council is currently on a summer schedule consisting of one meeting per month. The City adopted their budget prior to the State adopting their budget. The State budget affects the city by ending redevelopment agency and properties would have to be sold to other agencies such as school districts, regional parks, and counties. If properties were to be kept by the city, the school district in the city’s jurisdiction would have to be paid x amount of dollars. No numbers are available until August 1st. Ending redevelopment would affect the city’s budget and city staff in redevelopment. Under Prop 22, law suits are certain where cities and counties will sue the State over redevelopment.

Sanders announced a home energy rebate workshop will be held at City Hall on August 16th along with co-sponsoring cities Albany, Richmond and San Pablo. The goal is to have 50-60 people attend the workshop.

Schultz announced that the animal ordinance may be bumped to a later meeting than originally scheduled in September due to redevelopment being on the agenda. On August 25th there will be a public meeting about garbage and recycling rates. August 1st is the deadline to submit an article in the ESD newsletter. Recyclemore is reviewing a plastic bag ban and is awaiting the Supreme Court ruling on the Long Beach case regarding the feasibility study. Multi family dwelling apartment recycling outreach program to increase recycling is underway with funds of a State Grant. The recycling center reconstruction is moving along with earth being moved and tipping walls being built. Next EQC meeting will be Tuesday, August 9th 2011.

7. Adjournment

Egherman closed the meeting at 8:36 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.