



Minutes

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, December 12, 2017, 7:00 p.m.

City Hall – Creekside Room

10890 San Pablo Avenue

This Meeting Place Is Wheelchair Accessible

Call to Order: 7:04 PM

Roll Call: Chair Miner, Members Goudey, Hargrove, Miller, O'Connor, Pavel, Schaadt, Sobul, Solari, Spitalnik, and Weinsten

Absent: Members Milliken and Tsutsui

Also Present: Will Provost, Staff Liaison; Maria Sanders, Operations + Environmental Services Manager; Stephen Prée, Environmental Programs Manager; Gabrielle Ruxin, El Cerrito CivicSpark Fellow

- 1. Council/Staff Liaisons Announcements and Reports** – Provost clarified that Agenda Item 4: Maintenance of Urban Creeks and Riparian Areas would include a presentation from Friends of Five Creeks (F5C), a presentation from City staff, and an opportunity for discussion with the EQC.
- 2. Comments from the public on non-agenda items** – Cordell Hindler encouraged members to see the musical “All is Calm” playing at the Contra Costa Civic Theater. He also recommended that the EQC invite John Gioia to speak at a future meeting. Jim McKissock spoke about damage that contractors are doing at Canyon Trail Park and possible actions to take.
- 3. Approval of the Minutes** – Motion to approve the Tuesday, November 14th minutes with amendment to add Tsutsui in attendance (O'Connor, Weinstein, unanimous).
- 4. Maintenance of Urban Creeks and Riparian Areas**– Committee members heard a presentation from Susan Schwartz, the head of Friends of Five Creeks, on work they have done along Cerrito Creek and its impact in decreasing flooding. Committee members also heard a presentation from Maria Sanders and Stephen Prée on City creek maintenance, including the recently adopted permit required by the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The public and committee members engaged in a discussion of creek maintenance practices, including the following:

- Jim McKissock proposed changing the grade to reintroduce steelhead in Middle Creek and Cerrito Creek.

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 Will Provost, Staff Liaison at 525-7622 (voice) at least FIVE (5) WORKING DAYS NOTICE PRIOR TO THE MEETING to ensure availability.

- Ralph Boniello introduced himself as a F5C board member and explained why volunteers are essential as they don't only focus on routine maintenance, but also restore the habitat. In addition, they have local knowledge which should be brought into the process of creek work.
- Members engaged in discussion of the overall picture and how El Cerrito's waterways will impact the bay. Provost said the city is working on a green infrastructure plan along with all cities in the Bay Area on how to treat and slow down storm water to help reduce flooding. Provost also mentioned the Storm Drain Master Plan, which will digitize the city's storm drain system.
- Jim McKissick proposed having knowledgeable locals do the initial survey of species before work is performed along creeks. Goudey encouraged the city and F5C to work together and to extend the conversation beyond the meeting. O'Connor added that El Cerrito needs to prevent invasive species from growing back after the initial removal.

5. EQC Work Plan 2018

Committee members participated in discussion and considered possible action items regarding updating the Work Plan for 2018, including the following:

- Goudey noted that most actions have a priority ranking of 1
- Susan Schwartz mentioned that she hopes the EQC will address the Green Team work parties and that the City will focus on volunteer work.
- Motion to approve 2018 Work Plan (Weinstein, O'Connor, Unanimous)

6. EQC Member Appointment Process

Committee members heard report from the Ad Hoc Subcommittee formed to interview applicant to the Environmental Quality Committee.

- Members discussed that Allison Kittleson has specific goals in mind that she'd like to help with and would be a good addition to the EQC.
- Motion to recommend to City Council her appointment to the EQC (O'Connor, Sobul, Unanimous)
- Weinstein suggested that all members should receive the CV/resume of applicants in the future.

7. EQC Budget and Calendar of Events

Committee members heard updates, participated in discussion and considered possible action items regarding planning, logistics, and expenditures for the EQC calendar of events, including:

- Film and/or Educational Events
 - Film Showing – “Demain”
 - Provost announced that the licensing will cost \$299 plus shipping costs
 - Pavel proposed the subcommittee meet before the next EQC meeting
 - Motion to approve \$500 for the showing of the film “Demain” (Spitalnik, O'Connor, Unanimous)
- Future workshops:
 - Workshop on Pollinators and Monarch Butterflies
 - Motion to adopt Tuesday, March 27th as the date for the workshop (Goudey, O'Connor, Unanimous)
- Green Team Cleanups
 - Weinstein announced that the Eagles and the Rotary Club will co-sponsor some of the cleanups.

- Goudey proposed February 17th as a tentative date for the broom pull.

8. Climate Action Plan Implementation

Heard updates, participated in discussion and considered possible action items regarding implementation of the Climate Action Plan.

- MCE Deep Green Update
 - 100x100, Since 1/1/2017:
 - 100x100 Campaign= 54 new accounts
 - Other Channels= 212 new accounts
 - Total= 266 new accounts in 2017!
- Miner announced that East Bay Community Energy (EBCE) in Alameda County hired a consultant for a local development plan. EBCE will have a 9 cent feed-in tariff.
 - Goudey noted that the feed-in tariff incentivizes the lowest cost projects, which is why there are other incentives.

9. Parks & Recreation Facilities Master Plan

Heard updates on the El Cerrito Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Planning process and reports from members of the plan's Citizens Advisory Group.

- EQC Letter of Recommendations
- Public Meeting #2- Thursday, January 18, 2018, 6:30-8:30pm.
El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane
- Public Meeting #3 & #4- TBD Spring 2018

10. Announcements and future agenda items

Heard committee member announcements and suggestions for future EQC agenda items.

- Goudey attended the Urban Forest Committee meeting and announced that they are purchasing a plaque for the centennial tree, but their budget does not allow for it.
 - Goudey proposed a potential agenda item considering contributing to the cost of the plaque.
- Goudey also proposed sponsoring a Fix It Clinic in El Cerrito.
- Pavel thanked members for their support of her book, "The Earth, the City and the Hidden Narrative of Race".
- O'Connor announced that he will start working with Home Depot on their recycling practices.

11. Adjournment- 9:13 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 + Environmental Resource Center Administrative Office at 7501 Schmidt Lane, El Cerrito, Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.