



Minutes

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 12, 2018, 7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers

10890 San Pablo Avenue

This Meeting Place Is Wheelchair Accessible

Call to Order: 7:04 PM

Roll Call: Chair Miner, Vice-Chair Milliken, Members Goudey, Molnar, Kittleson, Pavel, Sobul, Solari, Spitalnik, and Weinstein

Absent: Members O'Connor, and Tsutsui

Also Present: Janet Abelson, City Councilmember; Maria Sanders, Operations + Environmental Services Division Manager; Will Provost, Staff Liaison; Gabrielle Ruxin, El Cerrito CivicSpark Fellow

- 1. Council/Staff Liaisons Announcements and Reports** – Miner welcomed Beth Molnar to the EQC. Provost announced that the California Energy Commission set solar requirements for new construction for all single family homes. Sanders announced that the international recycling market is undergoing a great amount of change, as China has begun to refuse materials. The recycling center will be undergoing some changes in terms of the materials accepted. In addition, the state has been rolling out legislation for mandatory recycling and organics composting at the residential, commercial, and multifamily level. Sanders also mentioned that City staff recently did a walk with Friends of Five Creeks along Cerrito Creek and they were happy with the invasive removal that had recently occurred.
- 2. Comments from the public on non-agenda items** – Cordell Hindler invited EQC members to the show “Ragtime” at the Contra Costa Civic Theatre. He also recommended that the EQC invite John Gioia to speak at a meeting and that the EQC fill vacancies on the committee. Gisele Verrier announced that this was her third meeting and she would like to set up an interview to be considered for the EQC.
- 3. Approval of the Minutes** – Motion to approve the Tuesday, May 8th minutes as amended (Milliken, Sobul, unanimous).
- 4. 10th anniversary of the EQC**– Miner noted that the EQC was Councilmember Janet Abelson’s idea. Weinstein gave a brief overview of the EQC’s history, including “the chicken ordinance” and plastic bag ban recommendations provided to City council. Weinstein reviewed how the EQC has helped publicize how the community and businesses can assist in the implementation of the Climate Action Plan. Weinstein noted that the EQC has also helped spur the creation of other groups including the El Cerrito Trail Trekkers and the Community Garden Network. Miner added that the five year Climate Action Plan review should be approaching and may be an

upcoming focus of the EQC. Goudey added that this is the first time the EQC is approaching the full capacity of 15 members.

5. Tree Ordinance Update- Provost announced that the Urban Forest Committee (UFC) is working on a tree ordinance for public trees, which is a prerequisite for becoming a Tree City USA. Sanders added that the next tree ordinance discussion will take place in August as part of the regular UFC meeting and they are shooting for the ordinance to go to council in January. Committee members discussed how the ordinance will affect hazardous vegetation along power lines, vegetation in the Hillside Natural Area, and edible landscapes.

6. Potential Property Transfer Tax Rebates-

Committee members discussed recommending that the City Council support policies and/or programs to offer partial rebates to property owners for energy conservation improvements or installation of EV charging station if a Real Property Transfer Tax is implemented in El Cerrito, consistent with El Cerrito Strategic Plan Goal F to implement the Climate Action Plan.

- Provost announced that it will be coming back to Council on the 18th and staff is looking into possible rebates.
- Motion to support partial rebates on a potential Real Property Transfer Tax for energy conservation improvements, seismic upgrades, and improvements that reduce greenhouse gases. (Milliken, Goudey, unanimous)

7. Climate Action Plan Implementation-

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

- Living Lightly Campaign- MCE Deep Green
 - Milliken noted that there are less than 15 sign ups so far
 - Committee members discussed ideas for Living Lightly outreach
- CCA & CPUC Updates
 - Goudey reviewed the CPUC report “The Green Book”, which is a study about the shift to Community Choice Aggregations. The report focused on cost, GHG emissions, and reliability. The reliability issue is being placed on CCAs, but the issue is independent of CCAs as more renewable energy is coming onto the grid.
 - Goudey reported that the meeting of the Community Power Coalition talked about upcoming EV programs, including funds for multifamily and commercial (10+) charging stations, funding for smaller projects with fewer charging stations, and an income qualified electric vehicle rebate.
 - Miner announced that MCE supported the proposal for a multi-state grid.
 - Provost noted that El Cerrito is excited about the new MCE EV program, as they will require fewer chargers to be installed.

8. 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:

- Educational Events, Films, and Workshops:
 - SunShares (Fall 2018)
 - Provost noted that he is working on getting a letter from the City

- Milliken noted that MCE will be an outreach partner this year and the EQC can possibly do some joint programming with MCE
 - East Bay Electrification Expo (Feb 2019)
 - Milliken has been asking residents with this technology to document testimonials
 - Electrification Homes Tour or Workshop
 - Milliken mentioned that the Ecology Center is looking to plan a tour in conjunction with the Expo
 - June 9-Fixit Clinic- Debrief
 - Goudey reported that it was a successful event with 12+ coaches and 35+ items, many of which were fixed.
- Green Team Cleanups:
 - May 26- Northern Entryways-Debrief
 - Weinstein noted that it was co-sponsored by the Rotary Club and was successful. He has not yet secured a co-sponsor for the next cleanup.
 - July 8- Northern Gateway, 10am-12:30pm
 - September 15- Cleanup TBD, Coastal Cleanup Week
 - November 18- Northern Gateways- Baxter Creek
- Other Events
 - 4th of July (7/4)
 - Milliken noted that it was not feasible to have an arts activity through Molnar's non-profit this year
 - Milliken shared the idea of having a spinning wheel at the booth to attract visitors
 - Weinstein noted that he and Sobul came up with an EQC slogan for a sign and potential banner
 - Bike to Work Day (5/10)- Debrief
 - Provost announced that over 400 commuters on wheels came by
 - National Drive Electric Week Event in Berkeley
 - Milliken asked for suggestions on how to attract larger crowds
 - Goudey suggested a demonstration on using EVs as emergency power backup
 - Molnar suggested adding an art activity
 - Volunteer Appreciation Event- TBD
 - Committee members engaged in a discussion of what the event should look like
 - Sobul added that it could go hand in hand with the EQC's anniversary celebration
 - Miner suggested inviting past EQC members to this celebration

9. EQC Member Appointment Process-

Committee members participated in discussion and considered possible action items regarding interviewing and recommending for appointment new members to the EQC.

- Sobul reported back on the interviews with Alison Moreno and Sheila Tarbet
 - He noted that Alison has great organizational skills that can benefit the group and an interest in raptors. He also noted that Sheila's involvement with Elders for Climate Action has a lot of crossover with the EQC.

- Motion to recommend to Council Alison Moreno and Sheila Tarbet to the EQC (Sobul, Spitalnik, unanimous).
- Motion to create ad-hoc subcommittee to interview Gisele (Spitalnik, Sobul, unanimous). At 6:30 before the next EQC meeting (7/10/18), Miner and Solari will interview Gisele Verrier.

10. Announcements and future agenda items-

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

- Goudey noted that the six month trial period of LimeBike is coming to an end and he would be interested in having a discussion about the pilot.

Consideration of Upcoming Agenda Items

1. Next Steps for Policies in Work Plan
2. Urban Greening Plan Implementation
3. City Purchased Vehicles
4. Climate Adaptation, Severe Weather Events, and Emergency Preparedness
5. Partner with LimeBike on event/education
6. Presentation and Discussion on Green Infrastructure
7. Climate Action Plan Implementation Update

11. Adjournment- 9:06 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.