



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 13, 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, O'Connor, Pavel, Sobul, Solari, Tabet, Verrier, and Weinstein

Absent: Members Molnar, Moreno, Spitalnik, Tsutsui

Also Present: Rochelle Pardue-Okimoto, City Council Liaison; Will Provost, Staff Liaison; Kaiya Levine, City Climate Corps Fellow

1. **Council/Staff Liaisons Announcements and Reports** – Pardue-Okimoto informed committee members about the fire hazard abatement work and fire season preparations that the City has undertaken. She noted there is increasing concern from citizens regarding fire risk with the Hillside Natural Area, and with Measure V passing there should be available funds to help firefighters further manage the area. Provost announced that the City received several awards in 2018 including three Beacon Spotlight Awards from the Institute for Local Government, Honorable Mention for Recycling Facility of the Year from the National Waste and Recycling Association, and recognition as a LEED Certified City—which only 75 cities in the country have received.
2. **Comments from the Public on Non-Agenda Items** – None.
3. **Approval of the Minutes** –Sobul questioned adding greater detail around the minutes as they relate to the discussion on plastic waste, though the Committee determined that the same items will come up later in the meeting . Motion to approve the Tuesday, October 9th minutes (O'Connor, Sobul, unanimous).
4. **EQC Work Plan 2019** — Committee members participated in discussion and considered possible action items for updating the 2019 Work Plan.
 - Sobul volunteered to edit Work Plan.
 - Committee members identified and discussed activities on the Work Plan which they would like to lead and support
 - Pavel:
 - Community outreach and education through film events

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.

- Disaster preparedness support and education
- Weinstein:
 - Increase number of Green Team events—currently eight dates have been proposed:
 1. Jan. 19, Saturday, Central Park and Cerrito Creek
 2. March 10, Sunday, Del Norte BART to Baxter Creek
 3. April 21, Sunday, Earth Day, Cerrito Creek and maybe Baxter too
 4. June 1, Saturday, Northern Entries and San Pablo Avenue
 5. Aug. 17, Saturday, Central Park and Cerrito Creek or?? Ohlone Greenway
 6. September, Coastal Cleanup Day
 7. October date tbd, tree planting with Urban Forest Committee
 8. Nov. 2, Saturday. Baxter Creek
 - Take action to implement policy to eliminate single-use plastics
- O'Connor:
 - Volunteer for Green Team work parties
 - Support on efforts to eliminate single-use plastics
 - Support environmentally related city programs including creek care and repair, and expansion of stewardship of Hillside Natural Area
- Miner:
 - Review of Climate Action Plan and determine if goals are sufficient enough
 - Fire Hazard Abatement education
 - Enhance communication to better engage the community in environmental efforts
- Milliken:
 - Sunshares and Drive Electric Week support
 - Expand education and enrollment in MCE Deep Green
- Goudey:
 - Review and update of Climate Action Plan and Environmental Purchasing Policy
 - Participating in education and outreach of electrification of buildings and transportation
 - Continue work on Fix-it-Clinics
- Sobul:
 - Policy development and advice
 - Public education and outreach on MCE Deep Green and SunShares
 - Volunteer for Green Team work parties
- Verrier:
 - Educate community on plastic pollution prevention and develop programs and policies to reduce plastic
 - Involve community in film education, lectures, and workshop events
 - Expand community engagement to increase the number of volunteers and attendants at events/meetings
- Tarbet:
 - Community education through film events and workshops
 - Climate Action Plan review and evaluation

- Solari:
 - Public education on plastic pollution prevention and MCE “Living Lightly”
 - Support environmental programs including review and evaluation of CAP as well as review how the city cares for and repairs its creeks
5. **Plastic Waste and Plastic Pollution** – Verrier announced the revised list of potential action items created by the Ad Hoc subcommittee which includes prohibiting the use of single-use plastics, an educational film event, a panel on plastic reduction strategies, participation in plastic-free July, and helping to promote AB 1884. The Committee went on to discuss implementing an ordinance to take more effective action on plastic reduction. A motion for the EQC to pursue an expanded food ware ordinance with a focus on plastic straws. (Weinstein, O’Conner, unanimous)
 6. **Environmental Quality Volunteer Awards** – The EQC discussed formalizing the award process and naming the award the “Ron Eggherman Environmental Quality Volunteer Awards” as a way to recognize Eggherman’s volunteer efforts. The Committee decided to postpone naming the award until it is discussed with Eggherman’s family.
 7. **EQC Budget and Calendar Events** – Committee members heard updates and participated in discussion on upcoming events.
 - Fixit Clinic
 - Event went smoothly and about 50 items were brought in total, 23 of which were fixed on the spot. Goudey suggested that the clinic might have to expand into a bigger space.
 - SunShares
 - Program has been extended until November 30th
 - Attendance at workshop was good and El Cerrito had a comparable number of sign ups to larger cities.
 - Green Team Event
 - November 18th at the Northern Gateways-Baxter Creek
 - Genesys is co-sponsoring
 8. **Climate Action Plan Implementation** – The committee discussed the CPUC decision on the exit fee, which will have an impact on the PCIA and leave less money available for community programs and infrastructure improvements.
 9. **Announcements and Future Agenda Items** – Pavel requested that the “Trees in Trouble” film be shown and discussed. Goudey also added that the Urban Forest Committee is working on a tree and shrub protection ordinance and this film could help educate the community.

10. Adjournment – 9:02 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.