MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Avenue

This Meeting Place is Wheelchair Accessible

7:00 p.m. CONVENE REGULAR MEETING Chair Milliken called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL – Present: Chair Rebecca Milliken; Vice-Chair Neil Tsutsui; Members Howdy Goudey, Daniel Hamilton, Elizabeth (Beth) Molnar, Alison Moreno, Sean O’Connor; Paloma Pavel (8:15 p.m.), Jeff Sobol, Renee Solari, and Gisele Verrier
   Absent: Members Mark Miner, Ellen Spitalnik, Sheila Tarbet, and Dave Weinstein
   Also Present: Will Provost, Staff Liaison; Kaiya Levine, Climate Corps Fellow

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC - Cordell Hindler, Richmond, highlighted Richmond’s EVgo electric vehicle charging stations and made a request for a LimeBike representative to speak at a future EQC meeting. He also requested a presentation on the Brown Act and promoted an upcoming performance at the Contra Costa Civic Theatre. Seung Choo, El Cerrito, brought to the attention of the EQC that the Midtown Activity Center is using single-use plastic foodware as part of its lunch program. Tom Gehling, El Cerrito, announced that the Madera Property in the Hillside Natural Area had fire prevention work completed that may have harmed the plants in the area. Barbara Chan spoke in support of efforts to reduce plastic at the Midtown Activities Center and throughout the community.

3. COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS- Staff Liaison Will Provost announced that there is a new format for the EQC agenda and minutes to create consistency and transparency across City of El Cerrito boards and committees. He also noted that the City has placed a 1-year moratorium on the use of Glyphosate by the City and its contractors.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
   Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the Committee meeting on May 14, 2019.

   Moved/Second: Members O’Conner/Hamilton Action: Passed a motion to adopt the minutes of the May 14, 2019 EQC meeting Ayes: Unanimous Noes: None
5. **PRESENTATION FROM MOSQUITO & VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT**
The Environmental Quality Committee and members of the public received a presentation on control measures the Mosquito and Vector Control District implements to manage vectors and protect public health in the County. The District is looking for a Trustee from El Cerrito and the application timeline has been extended.

6. **CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION REPORT**
*Kaiva Levine*, the City's Climate Corps Fellow, provided a presentation on how El Cerrito has implemented the Climate Action Plan and potential next steps. Levine showed the City's successful decrease in greenhouse gas emissions and how the City is ahead of the 2020 goal of 15% below 2005 emission levels. Committee members and members of the public discussed next steps for the Implementation Report and updating the Climate Action Plan.

7. **EQC BUDGET AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS**
Hear updates, participate in discussion, and consider possible action items regarding planning, logistics, and expenditures for the EQC calendar of events, including:

- Educational Events, Films, and Workshops
  - 4th of July
    - *Verrier* shared initial ideas from the Ad-hoc Subcommittee on Plastics for the 4th of July event. Members discussed potential options for outreach at the event.
    - *Moved/Second*: Members *Verrier/Molnar Action*: Passed a motion to purchase supplies for the 4th of July using EQC funds, not to exceed $400. *Ayes*: Unanimous *Noes*: None
  - National Drive Electric Week Event
    - Berkeley Event (Saturday, Sept 14, 2019)
    - Richmond Event (weekday, Sept 2019, TBD)
  - SunShares 2019 Participation (August – November)
    - *Provost* stated that the City is signed up to participate.
- Green Team Cleanups:
  - June 1, Saturday, Northern Entries and San Pablo Avenue - Debrief
  - Aug. 17, Saturday, Central Park and Cerrito Creek or Ohlone Greenway
  - September 21, Saturday, Coastal Cleanup Event
  - October date TBD, tree planting with Urban Forest Committee
  - Nov. 2, Saturday, Baxter Creek

8. **ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS ART AND ESSAY CONTEST**
*Pavel* stated her interest in helping with the upcoming Environmental Awareness Art and Essay Contest. Committee members discussed potential prizes for the winners. *Moved/Second*: Members *Miliken/O’Conner Action*: Passed a motion to contribute $250 in prize money for the contest, to be utilized for an environmental education, experiential, or otherwise sustainable prize.
9. EQC “YEAR OF PLASTIC POLLUTION PREVENTION” IMPLEMENTATION
Hear updates, participate in discussion, and consider possible action items regarding implementation of the EQC’s “Year of Plastic Pollution Prevention”. Committee members and members of the public discussed the need to reduce single-use plastics and single-use items.

10. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION
Hear updates, participate in discussion and consider possible action items regarding implementation of the Climate Action Plan.
   - MCE Deep Green - Living Lightly Campaign / “20K by 2020”
   - CCA & CPUC Updates
Denice Dennis proposed that the City of El Cerrito approve a Climate Emergency Declaration. Hamilton mentioned the idea of forming an Ad Hoc Subcommittee to study financing tools and options to implement the Climate Action Plan.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
Hear committee member announcements and suggestions for future EQC agenda items. Potentially engage in discussion and make decisions regarding logistics of EQC participation in the following.

Consideration of Upcoming Agenda Items
   - Urban Greening Plan Implementation
   - City Purchased Vehicles
   - Climate Adaptation, Severe Weather Events, and Emergency Preparedness
   - Green Infrastructure Plan Public Meeting
   - Brown Act Presentation from City Clerk
   - Wildfire Preparedness and Potential Efforts around Smoke/Air Pollution
   - Collapse of Insect Population
   - Meatless “Green Mondays”
   - Environmental Quality Volunteer Awards – Formalizing and Renaming
   - Educate Community on Recycling Market Changes
   - Lending Libraries for Tools, Toys, etc.

12. ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Rebecca Milliken, Chair

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Environmental Quality Committee meeting of June 11, 2019 as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.

Will Provost, Staff Liaison