



Staff Liaison
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MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Thursday, October 10, 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 7:02 p.m.

1. **ROLL CALL – Present:** Chair Rebecca Milliken; Vice-Chair Neil Tsutsui; Members Mark Miner, Alison Moreno, Sean O’Connor, Jeff Sobul, Renee Solari, Ellen Spitalnik, Sheila Tarbet, Gisele Verrier, and Dave Weinstein
Absent: Members Howdy Goudey, Daniel Hamilton, Elizabeth (Beth) Molnar, and Paloma Pavel
Also Present: Will Provost, Staff Liaison
2. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC** – None
3. **COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**
Provost noted the City Council’s formation of an Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Climate Action that followed the City Council’s decision to declare a Climate Emergency. The Ad Hoc Subcommittee will be meeting to research and to ultimately provide a recommendation to the broader City Council for how to move forward on updating the Climate Action Plan. Provost also provided an update that the City Council approved of a Green Infrastructure Plan at their September 17 regular meeting.
4. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting on Sept. 10, 2019.
Moved/Second: Members O’Conner/Sobul **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the minutes of the **September 10, 2019** EQC meeting **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None
5. **EQC Workplan 2020**
EQC Members reviewed and commented on the 2019 EQC Work Plan and Calendar of Events, and participated in a discussion regarding updating the Work Plan for 2020. Milliken outlined the process for updating the work plan. Sobul volunteered to draft the updated work plan to include EQC comments. A discussion was had to decide if the Committee should prioritize focusing on climate action in 2020 or if it should continue to focus on reducing plastic pollution.

6. EQC BUDGET AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

- Educational Events, Films, and Workshops
 - National Drive Electric Week Event – Members and Staff discussed their participation in the recent events in Berkeley and Richmond.
 - SunShares 2019 Participation (August – November)
 - El Cerrito Workshop – Provost noted nearly 60 people attended the El Cerrito Workshop.
 - Green Team Cleanups:
 - September 21, Saturday, Coastal Cleanup Event – Sobul stated there were fewer volunteers than expected, but that it was a great event.
 - November 2, Saturday, Baxter Creek
 - EV 101 Workshop – January 29 at 6:30pm
 - The workshop has been scheduled and registration is open: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/electric-cars-101-everything-you-need-to-hit-the-road-tickets-75355996815>
 - BayRen Energy Efficiency Workshop (March)
 - Earth Day 2020 (April 18)
 - Members discussed doing a special celebration for the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day.
 - 7th Annual Hillside Festival – May 1 – 3
 - **Moved/Second:** Members Weinstein/O’Conner **Action:** Co-sponsor the 7th Annual Hillside Festival to take place the first weekend of May, and provide funding of \$1,500 **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None
 - Film Event 2020
 - “The Story of Plastic” was suggested as a potential film option.

7. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Committee members briefly discussed items regarding implementation of the Climate Action Plan, including:

- Update to the San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan
- MCE Deep Green Initiative - “20K by 2020”
- CCA & CPUC Updates
- Implementation and Financing Options

8. COLLABORATION WITH THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE

Committee members discussed how to increase collaboration with the City’s Urban Forest Committee. Sobul volunteered to try and attend the next Urban Forest Committee meeting.

9. EQC “YEAR OF PLASTIC POLLUTION PREVENTION” IMPLEMENTATION

The EQC heard updates and participated in a discussion regarding implementation of the EQC’s “Year of Plastic Pollution Prevention”.

- Update on Development of Expanded Foodware Ordinance. Provost provided an update on the Administrative Draft of the Foodware Ordinance and the expected timeline for sharing a Public Draft, doing business outreach, and holding public meetings.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Committee members made announcements and discussed suggestions for future EQC agenda items, including:

- Urban Greening Plan Implementation
- City Purchased Vehicles
- Climate Adaptation, Severe Weather Events, and Emergency Preparedness
- 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
- Lending Libraries for Tools, Toys, etc.
- Pest Management and Local Wildlife (e.g. raptors)
- Coyote Education
- RPTT Rebates for Energy Efficiency – Education
- PG&E Emergency Power Shutoff
- EQC Skills/Resource List
- Set 2020 Regular Meeting Schedule (December)

Weinstein invited members to attend an upcoming El Cerrito Trail Trekkers hike focusing on Climate Change and the El Cerrito Hillside Natural Area. Tarbet invited members to attend an environmental symposium hosted by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley Social Justice Council in November. Miner noted BART’s exploration of building a transit-oriented development project at the El Cerrito Plaza BART station, and questioned whether the EQC should discuss the project.

11. **ADJOURNMENT** The meeting adjourned at 8:44 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 **October 10, 2019** as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.

Will Provost, Staff Liaison