



PUBLIC WORKS

Staff Liaison

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MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

JOIN VIA ZOOM:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84727143643?pwd=b3E4Y2Y3Tk5iZU1mamIXRTI2RDVRdz09>

7:00 p.m. CONVENE REGULAR MEETING Chair Tsutsui called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m., starting the meeting with a land acknowledgement.

1. **ROLL CALL** – Chair Neil Tsutsui; Members Buddy Akacić, Howdy Goudey, Rebecca Milliken, Mark Miner, Sean O'Connor, Ellen Spitalnik, Sheila Tarbet, and Rose Vekony
Absent: Vice-Chair Beth Molnar; Members Paloma Pavel and Dave Weinstein
Also Present: Will Provost, Staff Liaison
2. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**
Indy Rishi Singh provided comments on his experience with the City and as a member of the City's Human Relations Commission and sought to engage support from the EQC.
3. **COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**
Staff Liaison Provost highlighted new rules approved by the City Council pertaining to Boards and Committees like the EQC, including term limits, required trainings, and clarifying the process for new membership appointments. He also highlighted the recent approval of the first reading of the City's amended foodware ordinance on November 2, 2021.
4. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting on October 12, 2021.
Move/Second: Members O'Connor/Tarbet **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the Minutes of the October 12, 2021 EQC meeting. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None
5. **COLLABORATION WITH THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE**
Urban Forest Committee member Robin Mitchell highlighted updates from the recent UFC meeting, including that there is tree work being completed this month in the hillside natural area and that the City is seeing more coast live oaks in decline. She noted the UFC is actively looking for grants for the City and may have found one to pursue.
6. **EQC WORKPLAN 2022**
Chair Tsutsui outlined the process for providing input to update the EQC's Workplan for 2022. The Committee reviewed the draft document and provided verbal comments on updates to be made prior to the next meeting. Vekony volunteered to make the edits as discussed before the "final draft" workplan is distributed at the next meeting.
7. **ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND RACIAL FRAMEWORK**
The Ad-Hoc Subcommittee will be meeting soon and will plan to provide an update at a future meeting.

8. EQC BUDGET AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Committee heard updates and participated in discussion regarding planning, logistics, and expenditures for the EQC calendar of events, including:

- Educational Events, Films, and Workshops
 - Green Team 2021 Cleanups / Broom Pulls:
 - Oct. 16, Saturday, Northern Gateway Cleanup
 - O’Conner provided a recap of the successful cleanup
 - Dec. 5, Sunday, Baxter Creek
 - SunShares 2021 – Signups through 11/30 (<http://www.bayareasunshares.org/>)
 - Recycling Center 50th Anniversary Celebration in 2022
 - Hillside Festival – May 14-15, 2022
 - Earth Day 2022
 - Virtual (Zoom) Fixit clinic (hosted by Berkeley Lab), on Sat. Nov. 20, 10am-12pm
 - Consider co-sponsoring

Move/Second: Members Goudey/Milliken **Action:** Passed a motion to Co-sponsor a Fix-it Clinic with Berkeley Lab. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None

9. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

EQC Members spoke about topics and recent activities relating to implementation of the City’s Climate Action Plan. Chair Tsutsui discussed recent conversations he’s had with Councilmembers about potential next steps. Vekony highlighted recent discussions being had around the El Cerrito Plaza BART transit-oriented development project and noted that more transit options will be needed due to decreased parking availability. Miner stated his interest in having the full committee watch a recent PG&E webinar and bringing that information to the greater community.

- BART Corridor Access Plan
- Community Organized Induction Burner Loaner Program
- Fire Prevention and Climate Action
- MCE Clean Energy & California Public Utilities Commission Updates
 - Recent PG&E Webinars
- San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan Update/EIR – EQC Comments
- Climate Action Plan Update Recommendations for City Council Ad-Hoc Subcommittee
 - EQC Ad-Hoc Subcommittee Membership / Report
 - After successfully completing the goal of providing recommendations to the City Council, it was decided that the Ad-Hoc subcommittee will disband.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Staff and committee members made announcements and suggestions for future EQC agenda items.

- EQC Meeting Schedule / Return to In-person Meetings
- Tree Planting / Project Commemorating Maria Sanders
- Climate Adaptation, Severe Weather Events, and Emergency Preparedness
- Integrated Pest Management Report from City Staff
- EQC Collaboration with Young People in El Cerrito
- Tool/Toy Lending Library
- Urban Greening Plan Implementation
- Community Member Suggestions (e.g. Meatless Green Mondays, Leaf Blowers)
- Real Property Transfer Tax Rebates for Energy Efficiency – Education

11. ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 9:11 PM.



Neil Tsutsui, Chair

This is to clarify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Environmental Quality Committee meeting of **November 9, 2021** as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.



Will Provost, Staff Liaison