



Staff Liaison
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MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

JOIN VIA ZOOM:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89262087577?pwd=c09pS1BteXJlY28vOUlVY3I2SlduZz09>

7:00 p.m. **CONVENE REGULAR MEETING** Chair Tsutsui called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

1. **ROLL CALL** – Chair Neil Tsutsui; Vice-Chair Beth Molnar; Members Buddy Akacić, Howdy Goudey, Rebecca Milliken, Mark Miner, Sean O'Connor, Ellen Spitalnik, Rose Vekony, and Dave Weinstein
Absent: Members Paloma Pavel and Sheila Tarbet
Also Present: Paul Fadelli, Council Liaison; Will Provost, Staff Liaison
2. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**
No oral communications from the public were received at the meeting.
3. **COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**
Council Liaison Mayor Paul Fadelli made comments reflecting on the accomplishments the City has made in the last year, that the City's finances are looking better, that the City has made strides relating to fire prevention, equity, and adopting the Expanded Foodware Ordinance. He also noted future goals for the City Council, including updating the Climate Action Plan. Staff Liaison Provost highlighted the City Council's recent adoption of the Ordinance implementing the mandatory organics recycling programs under Senate Bill 1383 and that the Public Works department is hiring a Management Analyst III.
4. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting on November 9, 2021.
Move/Second: Members O'Connor/Weinstein **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the Minutes of the November 9, 2021 EQC meeting. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None
Abstain: Molnar
5. **APPROVAL OF THE 2022 MEETING CALENDAR FOR THE EQC**
Consider a motion to approve the regular meeting schedule for 2022.
Moved/Second: Members Milliken/O'Connor **Action:** Passed a motion to approve the regular meeting schedule for 2022. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None
6. **COLLABORATION WITH THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE**
Urban Forest Committee member Robin Mitchell highlighted updates from the recent UFC meeting, including that a contractor is completing work in the hillside natural area and that routine tree pruning will be starting soon. She noted the UFC is actively looking for grants for the City and may have found one from the Coastal Conservancy. She also mentioned that the UFC would like to be involved in the development of the updated Climate Action Plan when that process begins.

7. EQC WORKPLAN 2022

EQC Members participated in discussion and considered possible action items regarding updating the Work Plan for 2022.

Moved/Second: Members O'Connor/Goudey **Action:** Passed a motion to approve the Environmental Quality Committee's workplan for 2022. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None

8. ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND RACIAL FRAMEWORK

Committee members discussed the best next steps for the Ad Hoc Subcommittee and/or the Committee as a whole to develop an action plan for the Committee related to equity. Goudey proposed reviewing the EQC workplan with an equity lens. Akacić proposed that the EQC hear a presentation from El Cerrito youth.

Moved/Second: Members Spitalnik/Molnar **Action:** Passed a motion to appoint Akacić to the Ad Hoc Subcommittee working on equity issues and including Members Pavel, Spitalnik, and Tarbet. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None

9. EQC BUDGET AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Staff and Committee members provided updates on recent events the EQC has supported and discussed plans for future events in 2022, including:

- Educational Events, Films, and Workshops
 - Virtual (Zoom) Fixit clinic (hosted by Berkeley Lab), on Sat. Nov. 20 - Debrief
 - Green Team 2021 Cleanups / Broom Pulls:
 - Dec. 5, Sunday, Baxter Creek – Debrief
 - Broom Pull – January 15, 2022
 - 2022 Events
 - SunShares 2021 – Debrief
 - Recycling Center 50th Anniversary Celebration in 2022
 - Weinstein stated that the El Cerrito Historical Society is beginning to plan and think through what this event should look like
 - Hillside Festival – May 14-15, 2022
 - East Bay Green Home Tour – May 14-15, 2022
 - Earth Day 2022 – April 23, 2022

Moved/Second: Members Tsutsui/O'Connor **Action:** Passed a motion to approve Green Team work parties in 2022, including a broom pull event on January 15, with additional dates to be determined by Weinstein **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None

Moved/Second: Members Tsutsui/Weinstein **Action:** Passed a motion to form an Ad Hoc Subcommittee to plan a 50th Anniversary Celebration for the Recycling Center, including members Weinstein, Milliken, and Molnar **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None

Moved/Second: Members Tsutsui/Spitalnik **Action:** Passed a motion to co-promote the 2022 East Bay Green Home Tour **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None

10. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

EQC Members heard updates on items relating to implementation of the Climate Action Plan, including the following:

- BART Corridor Access Plan
- Community Organized Induction Burner Loaner Program
- Fire Prevention and Climate Action
- MCE Clean Energy & California Public Utilities Commission Updates
- San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan Update/EIR – EQC Comments

Goudey provided an update on a recent California Public Utilities Commission proposal to change the net energy metering program that would be disadvantageous for solar customers.

Move/Second: Members Weinstein/O'Connor **Action:** Passed a motion to recommend the El Cerrito City Council oppose the proposed California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) decision to change the net energy metering program (NEM 3.0) which could add costs for solar customers. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None **Abstain:** Milliken

11. ENERGY RESILIENCY IN HOMES PG&E ON-DEMAND WEBINAR

Miner introduced and the EQC watched the first segment of an on-demand webinar from PG&E on Energy Resiliency in Homes.

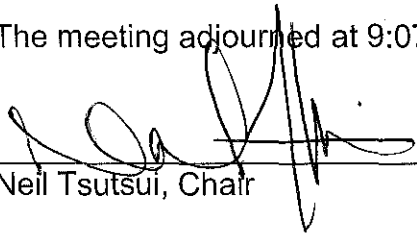
12. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

- EQC Return to In-person Meetings
- 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

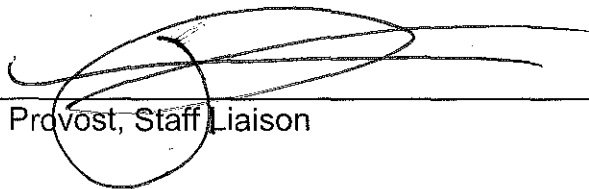
13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 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 **December 14, 2021** as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.



Will Provost, Staff Liaison