



Staff Liaison
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MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

JOIN VIA ZOOM:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89556067875?pwd=MTVEYS9oaHhUNXBOV0d4Qkk2RWYvUT09>

7:00 p.m. **CONVENE REGULAR MEETING** Chair Tsutsui called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

- ROLL CALL** – Chair Neil Tsutsui; Vice-Chair Beth Molnar; Members Buddy Akacić, Howdy Goudey, Rebecca Milliken, Mark Miner, Sean O'Connor, Paloma Pavel, Ellen Spitalnik, Sheila Tarbet, Rose Vekony, and Dave Weinstein
Also Present: Will Provost, Staff Liaison
- ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**
El Cerrito resident and the City's current Poet Laureate, Evelyn Mitchell, introduced herself and shared her interest in the work of the Committee.
- COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**
Staff Liaison Provost highlighted for the EQC that the Committee has a new Council Liaison, Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Motoyama. He also noted that the City Council adopted a resolution on December 21, 2021, in support of the existing net energy metering programs that incentivize residential solar in the state, and in alignment with a motion and recommendation made by the EQC on December 14, 2021. Provost also announced that City buildings and lobbies will be open by appointment only through the month of January, to limit the spread of COVID-19.
- APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting on December 14, 2021.
Move/Second: Members Akacić/Goudey **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the Minutes of the December 14, 2021 EQC meeting. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None **Abstain:** Pavel and Tarbet
- COLLABORATION WITH THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE**
Urban Forest Committee member Robin Mitchell highlighted updates from the recent UFC meeting, including that the City is currently completing routine tree pruning work around the City and that the UFC is assisting the City in applying for a grant to update the Hillside Natural Area Vegetation Management Plan. She also let the group know that Arbor Week is coming up in March.
- ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND RACIAL FRAMEWORK**
The Committee discussed next steps for the EQC to promote diversity and inclusion. Members exchanged ideas and discussed reviewing the recently approved EQC Workplan from an equity lens. The Ad Hoc Subcommittee formed previously agreed to research the Contra Costa County Environmental Justice Assessment Tool, shared by Goudey, to see if that may be a good model to emulate for the Committee.

7. 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
 - Presentation from El Cerrito Youth activists
 - Green Team 2021 Cleanups / Broom Pulls:
 - Jan 15, 2022 Broom Pull
 - 2022 Events – Weinstein shared that he has developed a calendar of events for all of 2022
 - Recycling Center 50th Anniversary Celebration in 2022
 - EQC Members discussed a variety of ideas to celebrate the Recycling Center's 50th Anniversary. Ideas included having the Poet Laureate speak, showing a film at the Recycling Center or at the Cerrito Theater, burying a time capsule, setting up a lending library for induction burners, and/or doing a portion of the event that was forward looking. A tentative date of August 5 was suggested.
- Earth Day 2022 – April 23, 2022
- Hillside Festival – May 14-15, 2022
- East Bay Green Home Tour – May 14-15, 2022

Move/Second: Members Weinstein/O'Connor **Action:** Passed a motion to support the planning of the 50th Anniversary Event at the Recycling Center and honoring Joel Witherell
Ayes: Unanimous **Noes:** None **Abstain:** None

Akacić mentioned the upcoming Martin Luther King Jr. Annual Celebration in El Cerrito, taking place on January 17, 2022.

8. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

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

- BART Corridor Access Plan
- MCE Clean Energy & California Public Utilities Commission Updates
 - CPUC Net Energy Metering Proposal(s) and City Council Resolution
- San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan Update/EIR – EQC Comments
- EQC Recommendations to City Council Ad Hoc Subcommittee

9. EQC THEME FOR 2022 – “GO ELECTRIC!”

The Committee participated in discussion regarding implementation of the EQC's workplan theme for 2022 to “Go Electric!”. Goudey and Milliken offered to do research and share resources on recent policies in other communities prohibiting natural gas in new construction.

- Electrification Education
- Community Organized Induction Burner Loaner Program
- Researching Prohibiting Natural Gas in New Construction
- MCE Deep Green Enrollment

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

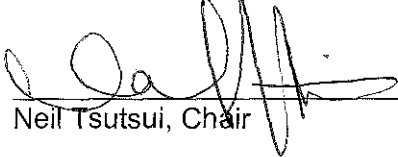
- EQC Return to In-person Meetings
- Climate Adaptation, Severe Weather Events, and Emergency Preparedness
- Integrated Pest Management Report from City Staff
- EQC Collaboration with Young People in El Cerrito
- Tool/Toy Lending Library

- Urban Greening Plan Implementation
- Community Member Suggestions (e.g. Meatless Green Mondays, Leaf Blowers)
- Real Property Transfer Tax Rebates for Energy Efficiency – Education

Goudey expressed interest in reviewing statistics from the City's Real Property Transfer Tax Rebate Program.

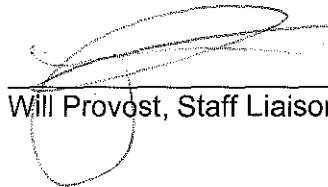
11. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 PM.

 2/9/22

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 **January 11, 2022** as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.

 2/10/22

Will Provost, Staff Liaison