



Staff Liaison
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MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

JOIN VIA ZOOM:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89530730300?pwd=MW9JUDR6Z2NmYlJ2TVFVdXRmM0U4QT09>

7:00 p.m. CONVENE REGULAR MEETING Chair Tsutsui called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m., starting the meeting with a land acknowledgment recognizing the Huichin people who once lived on the land that is now El Cerrito.

1. **ROLL CALL** – Chair Neil Tsutsui; Vice-Chair Beth Molnar; Members Buddy Akacić, Howdy Goudey, Rebecca Milliken, Mark Miner, Sean O'Connor, Ellen Spitalnik (8:30), Sheila Tarbet, and Rose Vekony
Absent: Members Paloma Pavel and Dave Weinstein
Also Present: Will Provost, Staff Liaison
2. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**
El Cerrito resident Robin Mitchell announced that the El Cerrito Progressives are coordinating a “Sweets for Shumi” campaign with proceeds going to the Sogorea Te Land Trust. El Cerrito resident Indy Rishi Singh noted his interest in the work of the EQC and his potential interest in becoming a member. El Cerrito resident and the City’s current Poet Laureate, Evelyn Mitchell, reiterated her interest in the work of the EQC and that she would like to write a poem for the Recycling Center’s 50th Anniversary. Fred Bialy also stated his interest in potentially serving on the Committee.
3. **COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**
Staff Liaison Will Provost highlighted that the City applied for a \$30,000 grant to fund activities under SB 1383 (the mandatory composting legislation) and that the City has made an offer to a potential new Management Analyst for the Operations and Environmental Services Division and is hopeful that they will be able to start in March.
4. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting on January 11, 2022.
Move/Second: Members Millken/Tsutsui **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the Minutes of the January 11, 2022 EQC meeting. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None **Abstain:** O'Connor
5. **CLIMATE PRESENTATION FROM EL CERRITO YOUTH**
EQC Member Akacić introduced a presentation from Climate Strike El Cerrito, youth activists in the city of El Cerrito who are coordinating action on climate change locally including weekly events outside of El Cerrito City Hall. Mae Rabinovici and Eleanor Pilling Chappellear provided a presentation followed by comments and questions from the EQC.
6. **COLLABORATION WITH THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE**
Urban Forest Committee member Robin Mitchell highlighted for the EQC that Arbor Day is coming up in March.

7. **ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND RACIAL FRAMEWORK**

The Committee discussed potential next steps for the EQC to promote diversity and inclusion. Akacic provided information based on recent research he's completed. Tarbet noted that she created a draft Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion tool for the EQC modeled off of other documents the group has reviewed and can share that for discussion at the next meeting.

8. **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
 - Green Team 2022 Cleanups / Broom Pulls:
 - Jan. 15, Broom Pull - Debrief
 - Feb. 20, Sunday, Cerrito Creek
 - Apr. 23, Saturday, Earth Day, neighborhood cleanups, locations TBD
 - Jun. 5, Baxter Park (with regular Baxter volunteers)
 - Aug. 14 Sunday, Cerrito Creek
 - Oct. 1, Saturday, Northern Gateways
 - Dec. 4, Sunday, Baxter Park (with regular Baxter volunteers)
 - Recycling Center 50th Anniversary Celebration in 2022
 - Draft City Council Resolution
 - Budgetary Needs
 - Earth Day 2022 – April 23, 2022
 - Hillside Festival – May 14-15, 2022
 - East Bay Green Home Tour – May 14-15, 2022

Move/Second: Members Milliken/Molnar **Action:** Passed a motion to provide the draft resolution to City Staff, recognizing the Recycling Center's 50th Anniversary and Joel Witherell, for Staff to develop and bring forward for City Council consideration **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None

9. **CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

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

- MCE Clean Energy & California Public Utilities Commission Updates
- San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan Update/EIR – EQC Comments

Milliken reported that the CPUC's proposed decision to change the Net Energy Metering rules has been delayed. Goudey mentioned the MCE Sync program which helps electric vehicle owners charge at home when energy is less expensive and there's less demand on the grid. It was also noted the new Bay Area Air Quality Management District emissions standards being considered may have the effect of requiring many new appliances to be electric rather than gas.

10. **EQC THEME FOR 2022 – “GO ELECTRIC!”**

The Committee participated in discussion regarding implementation of the EQC's workplan theme for 2022 to “Go Electric!”.

- Electrification Education
- Community Organized Induction Burner Loaner Program
- MCE Deep Green Enrollment

Milliken discussed the developing Induction Burner Loaner Program and relayed resources for interested Committee members and the community to help them go electric, she noted that two of the most helpful websites are www.bayren.org and www.switchison.org.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

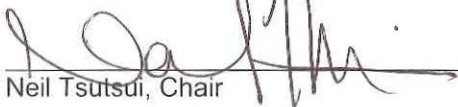
Staff and committee members made announcements and suggestions for future EQC agenda items. It was noted that elections for Chair and Vice-Chair of the EQC will take place in April.

- 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)
- Real Property Transfer Tax Rebates for Energy Efficiency – Education

Cordell Hindler invited Committee Members to see a showing of "As You Like it" at the Masquers Playhouse in Richmond.

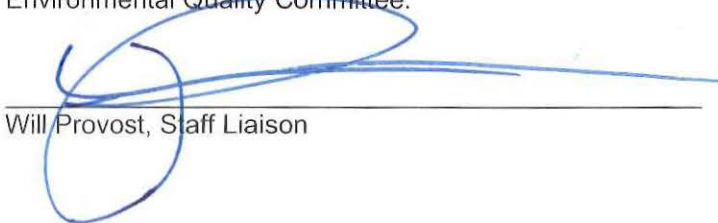
12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 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 **February 8, 2022** as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.



Will Provost, Staff Liaison