



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 11, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

El Cerrito City Hall - City Council Chambers

10890 San Pablo Avenue

This Meeting Place Is Wheelchair Accessible

Chair Eggherman called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Roll Call

Present: Chair Eggherman, Vice Chair Weinstein, Benjamin, Dandridge, Huang, Miner, Goudey, Corwin, Pavel, Spitalnik

Absent: Krueger

Also Present: Garth Schultz, Environmental Analyst and Staff Liaison, Janet Abelson, Council Liaison

1. Comments from the public on non-agenda items

None.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Goudey moved to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held on September 13, 2011, seconded by Dandridge. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Membership Interview Subcommittee Report

Corwin offered a brief report on the interview subcommittee meeting and suitability of the candidate Renee Solari. Corwin moved to recommend appointing Solari to the EQC, Benjamin seconded and the motion was unanimously approved by the Committee.

4. Staff Update Regarding EQC Role in Current Development Applications

Mintz presented a clarification of the EQC's role in private development applications, stating that the intention of the EQC does not comment on such projects but to examine higher level ordinances and policies that would affect such projects. However, committee members are encouraged to involve themselves in the public process regarding such projects, so long as it is disclosed that they are an EQC member and that it is made clear that they represent only themselves and not the committee at large.

5. EQC Environmental Film Series, Update and Event Approval

This item was treated in two parts. The first was a report on imminent and potential films, the second consisted of a staff report and group discussion on the film screening process.

Report on potential films

Bag It is to be screened on Saturday, October 29th. Some discussion regarding a budget for promotional and giveaway materials for that event occurred, specifically regarding the sources of such funding and constraints on the use of funds depending on the funding source. \$100 was proposed as a budget for the event and Eggherman volunteered to donate that sum on behalf of Marvin Gardens as well as some canvas tote bags to be used as door prizes.

COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION

To request a meeting agenda in large print, Braille, or on cassette, or to request a sign language interpreter for the meeting, call Garth Schultz, Staff Liaison at 559-7684 (voice) at least FIVE (5) WORKING DAYS NOTICE PRIOR TO THE MEETING to ensure availability.

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Pavel spoke about the film *New Metropolis*. Dates being sought for screening for this film include January 21, 2012 or February 4, 2012. Pavel moved to approve the showing of this film, seconded by Benjamin and approved by the council with a unanimous aye vote.

Staff update on process of planning/hosting future films

Up to now, each film has been approved on a case by case basis and a streamlined system is being sought for a future film series or event. Details on the process will be ironed out by staff and further discussed with the committee. Spitalnik moved to approve a listing of guest speakers at films, vetted by the committee in advance of the series. This proposal was approved with a unanimous aye. Abelson voiced concern about applying rules of use of the Cerrito Theater community days equitably.

6. Discuss Proposal to Reduce Polystyrene Foam Containers

Miner gave a brief recap on the September meeting with business owners. While the meeting was not well attended by the business community, a major concern in transitioning to compostable to-go containers expressed at the event was cost. He then went on to propose a more imminent policy to disallow styrofoam food containers at City events and events hosted on City property.

7. Committee Goal activity and project updates

Community Involvement and Outreach

Weinstein gave an update on a planned Green Teams event relating to chorus frog habitat which will feature Jim McKissock as a guest.

Policies and Programs

Miner spoke briefly about incorporating green business certification advocacy into the styrofoam container conversation to use as an incentive.

In an effort to be more efficient and require less staff time, Schultz proposed to not staff subcommittee meetings. This would still be in adherence to the Brown Act, as well as allow a more informal, group approach to specific tasks, rather than the more formalized subcommittee bodies that currently exist and require a City staff member to be present. Some discussion ensued regarding the relative merits of adopting this type of system and the specific criteria that would have to be met to continue to conform to the Brown Act. Some members of the committee seemed concerned with this prospect. Benjamin will work to compile a list of all subcommittee, ad hoc and working groups within the EQC.

8. Committee and liaison announcements, member announcements, and future agenda items

Schultz announced that the revised animal ordinance would be addressed by council on November 7, 2011, and other upcoming events.

9. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:42.

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Environmental Quality Committee regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the El Cerrito Recycling Center Offices at 7501 Schmidt Ln., El Cerrito, Monday - Thursday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. & 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.