



Staff Liaison
Christina Leard | (510) 215-4338
cleard@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE Environmental Quality Committee

Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

JOIN VIA ZOOM:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82683160159?pwd=bVpRRURkSTJ2WUZTOWxCdXIUdERjZz09>

CONVENE REGULAR MEETING Chair Goudey called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

1. **ROLL CALL** – Chair Howdy Goudey; Vice-Chair Rose Vekony; Members Buddy Akacić, Mark Miner, Beth Molnar, Sean O'Connor, Ellen Spitalnik, Sheila Tarbet, Neil Tsutsui, and Dave Weinstein

Absent: Members Paloma Pavel and Eevelyn Mitchell, **Also Present:** Christina Leard, Staff Liaison and Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Motoyama, Council Liaison

2. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no communications from the public.

3. **ENVIRONMENTAL ART**

El Cerrito community art was shared by member Miner, and member Molnar presented a video on Ocean Sole, a non-profit that upcycles washed up flip-flops found along the beaches and waterways in Kenya into art.

4. **COUNCIL/STAFF LIAISONS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**

Council Liaison Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Motoyama gave updates on recent action taken by the City Council. Staff Liaison Christina Leard announced that EQC Member Rebecca Milliken resigned as of September 1 but hopes to return to the EQC in the future. She also announced that the Citywide Garage Sale will be taking place Saturday October 8 from 9am to 3pm. Staff Liaison Leard also noted that the City is updating two pieces of outreach: 1) Foodware Ordinance Fact Sheet, and 2) All-Services Recycling Guide including new services offered. Stephen Preé, El Cerrito Environmental Programs Manager, gave an update on the Hillside Natural Area fire fuel reduction work planned for the coming weeks.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Consider a motion adopting the minutes of the EQC meeting on August 9, 2022.

Move/Second: Members O'Connor/Miner **Action:** Passed a motion to adopt the Minutes of the August 9, 2022 EQC meeting. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None

6. **COLLABORATION WITH THE URBAN FOREST COMMITTEE**

Urban Forest Committee Member Robin Mitchell gave an update from the most recent Urban Forest Committee meeting.

7. **EQC MEMBER APPOINTMENT PROCESS**

Member Tsutsui introduced potential new EQC member Simrun Dhoot, who was interviewed by himself and member Vekony prior to the EQC meeting. Chair Goudey explained the appointment process and that staff will bring the EQC recommendation to City Council for approval before next EQC meeting.

Move/Second: Members Tsutsui/O'Connor **Action:** Passed a motion to recommend Simrun Dhoot for appointment to the EQC. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None

Chair Goudey noted another potential new EQC Member, Fred Bialy, submitted his application to serve on the Committee. Members Miner and Tarbet agreed to meet and interview the potential new member prior to the next EQC meeting.

8. GOALS OF THE EQC

EQC members participated in discussion and considered possible action items regarding the goals of the EQC.

- Memo from member Weinstein to the EQC

Move/Second: Members Goudey/Tsutsui **Action:** Passed a motion to create an ad-hoc subcommittee of Members Miner, Goudey, Weinstein, and Akacić to draft recommendations for improved communication between the EQC and Staff/City Council for consideration at the next EQC meeting. **Ayes:** Unanimous **Noes:** None

9. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Staff and Committee members participated in discussion and provided input following Operations + Environmental Services Division Manager Will Provost's presentation on a [Request for Proposals \(RFP\)](#) process being undertaken by the City to update the Climate Action Plan.

10. 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:

- Green Team 2022 Cleanups / Broom Pulls:
 - Aug. 14 Sunday, Cerrito Creek - Debrief
 - Oct. 2, Sunday, Northern Gateways
 - Dec. 4, Sunday, Baxter Park (with regular Baxter volunteers)
- Coastal Cleanup Day, Baxter Creek Park, September 17
- Berkeley Ride Electric event, October 15
 - EQC interest in being a Community Partner?
 - <https://tinyurl.com/RideElectric2022>

Move/Second: Members Goudey/Weinstein **Action:** Passed a motion for the EQC to be a Community Partner in coordination with the Berkeley Ride Electric Event on October 15.

Ayes: Unanimous **Noes:** None

11. 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
 - ⊖ 100% renewable (deep green) power as the default electrical power source

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

- Environmental, Social, And Racial Framework
 - Link to the [JEDI Tool](#)
- Presentation on El Cerrito Trails and Pathways
- 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)
- Drought outreach
- Open Space Preservation

- Mitigation of heat effects; Federal Inflation Reduction Act
- EQC Annual Work Plan

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 PM.



Howdy Goudey, 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 September 13, 2022 as approved by the Environmental Quality Committee.



Christina Leard, Staff Liaison