



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 10, 2012, 7:00 p.m.

El Cerrito City Hall - City Council Chambers

10890 San Pablo Avenue

This Meeting Place Is Wheelchair Accessible

Chair Corwin called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Roll Call

Chair Corwin, Vice Chair Miner, Members Benjamin, Dandridge, Eggherman, Goudey, Huang, Krueger, Pavel, Solari, Spitalnik and Weinstein

Also Present: Maria Sanders, Environmental Analyst and Janet Abelson, Council Liaison

1. Comments from the public on non-agenda items

David Lingren spoke later during the meeting after the EQC Film Series update.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Eggherman made the motion to adopt the minutes of the regular Committee meeting held on December 13, 2011 seconded by Miner. Weinstein noted to make a change in the minutes under # 10 Announcements on future agenda items from "Weinstein announced intention to pursue an EQC / City Council position of support for preservation of trails in El Cerrito" to "Weinstein suggested intention to pursue an EQC / City Council position of support for the preservation of nature trails in El Cerrito". Passed unanimously.

3. EQC Film Series update

Pavel reported on "The New Metropolis" Saturday, February 4th from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. The Eco-Film series is sponsored by the City and EQC used as a medium to inspire, educate and activate folks. There has been positive response from elected officials including Loni Hancock, Mark DeSaunier, Nancy Skinner and Janet Abelson. Recruitment was asked of EQC members on attending and participating in event and tasks of taking tickets at the door, being greeters and dialogue group leaders. Corwin thanked Pavel for all her effort. Sanders asked Pavel to provide a report for public viewing and to send an e-mail to Sanders or Schultz to send to the rest of the members regarding tasks and to confirm costs with Schultz. Eggherman reminded members not to pay with their own money but for all bills to be paid by City staff. Pavel asked for approval of the current program proposal for the Feb. 4th event. The entire group was in agreement of the program and budget items.

Weinstein asked to hear from David Lingren with a public comment. Mr. Lingren is a Trail Trekkers member. Mr. Lingren thanked the committee for "Bag It". He recommended the film "Green Fire" to be shown as part of the Eco-film series. He handed a DVD copy to Pavel to review with the film group. Goudey has seen the film before and enjoyed it and suggested it for a possible Earth Day screening. The question for discussion was asked to Mr. Lingren on venue location. Discussion was paused for a guest presentation.

4. Presentation from Grey Water Action

Solari introduced Laura Allen from Grey Water Action, Ecology Center in Berkeley. Ms. Allen presented about grey water systems and how they save water and energy. In 2009 grey water systems could be legally installed with out a permit in 1-2 family dwellings. San Francisco has the most supportive program with \$95

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toward materials, a free 2 hour training, free consultation and manual. In Long Beach, there are lotteries for grey water systems and they are installed by the city. Kruger asked what soaps to avoid. Ms. Allen said to avoid detergents with salt and boron. Question from the public, what can go wrong with a grey water system? You could damage your washing machine if system's pipes are too small. Maintenance should be done once a year. Kruger suggested using buckets from the shower to water plants. Egherman suggested using buckets of shower water to flush toilets avoiding moving buckets from one location to another. Corwin thanked Ms. Allen for her presentation with a round of applause.

EQC Film Series update (continued)

Create a special sub committee in March and April held in Council Chambers to test audience turn out. These meetings would have an agenda and would be public meetings. Spitalnik had a question regarding the Brown Act and the film showings. Goudey answered that the purpose of these meetings are to be done more modestly and have a casual film showing combined with discussion on the film and of other events. Spitalnik was concerned and asked, why it is venue specific having the meeting in the Council Chambers for this special meeting. Goudey answered saying it is easier to facilitate a City venue for timing purposes and clearance was given by the City Clerk to use the Council Chambers. Egherman supports the idea as a trial due to issues at other venues and to test a different format. Miner suggested using the term special meeting rather than sub-committee. Goudey made the motion to hold 2 special sub committee meeting on Saturday March 17th 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. showing “Economics of Happiness” at the City Council Chambers and on Friday April 13th, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 pm with film to be determined and film to coordinate with Earth Day also, seconded by Egherman. Weinstein asked to discuss the time, why 10:00 a.m. on a Saturday if it's in the city council chambers? Benjamin commented that lots of discussion was being made that could be made in small group session and to finish the motion and assign small groups for discussion. Egherman suggested 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. It was put to a vote as the motion was originally made and motion passed unanimously. Abelson had a question regarding the legal interpretation of the sub-committee, for the City Attorney. Sanders said she would pass that concern to her superiors. Abelson asked whether it would be an public meeting? If not, how does one get invited to the meeting? Corwin answered to set up a sub committee and create an adhoc group. Spitalnik made the motion that the Pavel, Dandridge, Goudey and Corwin would be the sub committee on March 17th and April 13th events seconded by Kruger. Motion passed unanimously.

5. 2012 Goals and Priorities Facilitation

A 3 tier process with 3 small groups to have an initial conversation in a group setting to see what to focus on in the coming year. Sanders suggested shortening the agenda or to extend the meeting time until 9:15 pm. Corwin agreed along with committee to extend the meeting time. Weinstein asked if he could do his presentation about the Green Teams (#6 on the agenda). It was agreed by the Committee.

6. Consideration of upcoming Green Team Events, and Updates

Weinstein reported on upcoming broom pull event on 1/21/2012. Due to the lack of rain, he is concerned for the future health of the chorus frogs who habitat. Benjamin made the motion to have more events to rehabilitate Baxter Creek in February with dates to be determined, seconded by Dandridge. Motion passed unanimously. Kruger suggested more EQC involvement in Green Team events as in film series events.

2012 Goals and Priorities Facilitation (continued)

Three groups lead by Miner, Corwin and Egherman broke into small group discussion. After small group discussion the three groups reported back to the committee.

Corwin reported that Huang recommended green business outreach. Spitalnik is interested in education and the film series. Goudey is interested in the film series and grey water being more easily available in the city. Corwin would like to work on the Environmental Pledge Campaign for elections started by Al Miller and would like the polystyrene food ware ban in 2012. Abelson commented on the Environmental Pledge Campaign asking if it would be achievable for elections and a pilot test for what is possible.

Miner reported Weinstein would like a Hillside festival that would involve Trail Trekkers and Friends of Five Creeks. Other goals include energy and future grants. Work with the city on its Climate Action Plan and open spaces. More compost give aways because these events made residents happy.

Pavel reported their group liked to see things are getting done. Goals include organizing and prioritizing. Other goals expressed were energy and solar work, energy audits and assessments, broom pulling, foodware, film series with the mission to inspire, educate and activate, and the animal ordinance. Would also like more meetings with presentations within EQC meetings to bring out the community and have the seats full. Also, insulation workshops, thinking about metrics and more connection between EQC and elected officials working on environmental goals that include policies and bills that impact the community. Solari would like to work on infrastructure, supporting staff within different departments and to adopt small fonts and no toners for printing.

7. Announcements and future agenda items

Abelson reported the last week in December the State Supreme Court ruled on redevelopment against cities and counties. The City has to sell off their properties and stop redevelopment, possibly including the Cerrito Theater and working on affordable housing. Benjamin asked about a charter city. Abelson answered El Cerrito is a general law city. It is being studied by the Council looking at the possibility of being a charter city. There would be no impact on redevelopment if El Cerrito became a charter city.

Corwin would like to put on the agenda a motion in support of Trail Trekkers. Kruger suggested that Sanders update the EQC on climate change on federal and state levels. Pavel would like to invite elected officials to the next meeting. Egherman suggested finding out topics of interests by the politicians. Weinstein would like to show a picture presentation at the next meeting. Sanders will speak to Schultz about postponing Feb 14th meeting due to falling on Valentine's Day.

8. Adjournment

Corwin adjourned meeting at 9:23 PM.

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.