



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

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

El Cerrito City Hall – Council Chambers
10890 San Pablo Avenue

This Meeting Place Is Wheelchair Accessible

Vice Chair Miner called the meeting to order at 7:10PM.

Roll Call

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

Absent: Corwin and Spitalnik.

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

1. Comments from the public on non-agenda items

No public comments.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Eggherman made the motion to adopt the minutes of the regular Committee meeting held on March 13, 2012 seconded by Weinstein. Passed unanimously.

3. Presentation from Dermot Hikisch, B Lab

Committee heard to a presentation by Dermot Hikisch regarding Certified B Corporations, which are a new type of corporation which uses the power of business to solve social and environmental problems. Criteria include governance, pollution, treatment of employees. See website for more information: <http://www.bcorporation.net/about>. Miner asked what a City like El Cerrito could do to support B Corporations in the El Cerrito context. Hikisch said that the City should consider contracting with Certified B Corporations. Miner asked how environmental ratings compare to Bay Area Green Business ratings. Hikisch explained that the B Lab hasn't done a comparison, but he believed that businesses would have an easier time achieving B Corporation certification if already Green Business Certified.

Abelson asked what El Cerrito can do as a residential community with some retail (no industry) in relation to B Corporations. Hikisch explained that offering economic incentives and advertising opportunities might encourage B Corporations in El Cerrito.

4. Educational topics for future meetings

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.

Solari led discussion and voting on what our educational priorities should be. Egherman suggested fluoride in water is a specific topic and Goudey suggested broadening this topic to general water quality. Solari concluded that she will organize speakers for the ECQ meetings.

5. Eco Film Series Update

The Committee heard updates regarding upcoming public subcommittee meetings and film showings on 3/17/12 (10 a.m.) and 4/13/12 (7 p.m.). Goudey explained that the *Economics of Happiness* film showing was successful and that there was a good community discussion. The showing was a good example of how the City Hall Chambers was successful and not as big of a headache as using the Cerrito Theater. Goudey further explained that the next film showing (*Mad City Chickens*) will be Friday April 13th at 7pm. Goudey also noted that a community member suggested *Green Fire* for the film series. Miner proposed a motion to host *Green Fire* movie in the month of May. Motion was seconded by Benjamin. Passed unanimously.

6. Green Team Updates

The next Green Team event is set for Tuesday, April 17, 7 p.m. in the Hillside Conference Room. Weinstein gave an update on the current work of the Friends of the Five Creeks. April 28th & 29th- effort to identify oak trees that have Sudden Oak Death disease Krueger explained progress of Baxter Creek project and that the monthly workday means that the area is much improved.

Weinstein noted that the subcommittee is comprised of Krueger, Dandridge, Weinstein, and Benjamin. Susan Schwartz, of the Friends of 5 Creeks, explained native plant vs invasive plants in hillside area. Egherman clarified that the EQC's support of this motion does not imply commitment of staff time. Schwartz noted that the next event is 28th/29th survey for Sudden Oak Death. Weinstein proposed motion to adopt support of survey. Egherman seconded motion. Passed unanimously.

7. Earth Day Tabling

The EQC discussed elements and logistics for an EQC table at the annual Earth Day Celebration at the Community Center. Abelson reported that El Cerrito's Earth Day Celebration is a fantastic example of cooperation and many volunteers have signed up. Interested residents can still sign up and questions or suggestions should be directed to earthday@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us. Members discussed whether or not to have an EQC table at Earth Day. Krueger noted that the EQC should have a table at the Earth Day Celebration in order to outreach to the community. Schultz mentioned that staff does not have a capacity to help with tabling and that subcommittees need to have materials to Garth by next Wednesday 4/18

8. Announcements and future agenda items

Abelson made several City Council updates: City Council and School Board met to discuss collaboration. Measure K will raise funds to support local schools. Relay for Life will be coming to El Cerrito in the Fall. Schultz announced that the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will take place Sunday 4/22 4-6pm. Egherman suggested a paint exchange area at the new Center to encourage reuse. Weinstein announced the El Cerrito Recycling and Environmental Historical Event 6/21 at the Center. Finally, Solari suggested a discount or refund of business license for certified green businesses and the Committee discussed the topic.

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 Lane, El Cerrito, Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.