

# MINUTES

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 12, 2012, 7:00 p.m.

El Cerrito City Hall - City Council Chambers  
10890 San Pablo Avenue

**This Meeting Place Is Wheelchair Accessible**



Corwin called the meeting to order at 7:50 PM.

### Roll Call

Chair Corwin, Vice Chair Miner, Members Benjamin, Goudey, Krueger, Pavel, and Weinstein

Also Present: Garth Schultz, Staff Liaison

### 1. Comments from the public on non-agenda items- 7:10

Visitor Peter Mui from the “Fix it Clinic” gave a brief presentation to the Committee on the Fix it Clinic Model and the upcoming Fix it Clinic on Sunday 6/17/2012 11:30am-2:30pm outside of Elevation 66 on San Pablo Avenue in El Cerrito. Mui mentioned that his group hopes to change public perceptions of their broken objects (particularly electronics) both for educational and environmental reasons. According to Mui, 70% of the broken objects that residents bring to the free clinic go home fixed- and out of landfill. Mui and the Fix it Clinic group are interested in finding more Fix it Coach Volunteers to help with future clinics for the public.

### 2. El Cerrito High School Guest Speaker

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Greg Golsan

Instructor Automotive Technology

El Cerrito High School

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Automotive Technology and Alternative Energy California Partnership Academy

Greg Golson of the Automotive Technology and Alternative Energy California Partnership Academy at El Cerrito High School gave a presentation on the Academy’s background and work educating students at ECHS on topics of both automotive technologies and alternative energy. Golson explained that the California Partnership Academy program was set up by the State of California to prepare students with vocational and academic training in small learning communities within the public school system. Golson explained that in West Contra Costa County Leadership Academy topics range from law to environmental to construction. 50% of the participants must be “at-risk” students; those with low grades, from low income families, and with a general disinterest in school. The goal of the Academies is to prepare students for graduation and careers. Currently, Golson is looking for partnerships with local businesses and NGOs for fieldtrips and other engagement activities in the green economy. Committee members discussed the program with Golson and the potential for connecting the Academy with local resources and for ECHS to start a club for students to get more

### 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.*

involved with area businesses. Peter Mui (Fix it Clinic) suggested focusing on automotive electronics as a topic for the Academy.

### 3. 4<sup>th</sup> of July Tabling Plan- 7:30

The Committee discussed plans for tabling at the City's annual 4th of July Celebration at Cerrito Vista Park. Schultz explained that he had signed the EQC up for a booth at the event but needs the EQC to staff the booth from 9am-6pm to move forward. Krueger and Benjamin volunteered to coordinate EQC table and compile materials for the event. Corwin volunteered to organize EQC members to staff the table. Miner suggested topic Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) for the EQC table. Schultz suggested discussing CCA at the July EQC Climate Action workshop. Consider a motion to host the Community Garden Network at the EQC booth and table during the event. Benjamin / Krueger – Unanimous.

### 4. Approval of the Minutes- 7:50

Schultz reported that there was a significant error discovered in the May EQC Minutes and that staff would like to bring these minutes for consideration in July. Goudey made the motion to adopt the minutes of the Special Eco-Film Subcommittee Meeting on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012 seconded by Krueger. Motion passed unanimously.

### 5. Eco Film Series Update- 8:00

The Committee heard updates regarding Green Fire showing on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Goudey reported that the film shown in City Hall was not as well-attended as the Subcommittee had hoped- attendance was in the low-20s. Goudey noted however that there was an interesting discussion after with Steve Dunskey, co-filmmaker for the US Forest Service. Goudey suggested that the Committee consider showing *Butterflies and Bulldozers* at an upcoming EQC Film showing. Goudey also announced the next film showing: Your Environmental Road Trip (YERT) on Saturday June 30<sup>th</sup> 3-5pm in City Hall. The Committee also considered co-hosting the August 23<sup>rd</sup> film showing on the history of the El Cerrito Recycling and Environmental Resource Center at 8pm at the Center. Goudey moved to co-sponsor the Recycling and Environmental Resource Center history film. Miner seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Committee discussed outreach for film events in an effort to identify why the series has seen low attendance rates. Goudey explained that outreach for all events entail publications in the *El Cerrito Patch*, the City Calendar, Ecology Center Calendar, a press release, and a flyer dispersed around town. Goudey suggested that the Committee and the ESD explore ways to diversify community outreach. Pavel suggested *Building Healthy Communities* for a future fall film screening. Benjamin suggested that the Eco Film Series Subcommittee hold meetings before film showings to reduce impact on ESD staff. Schultz further clarified that the EQC needs to decide on a permanent structure for the Film Series Subcommittee. Benjamin moved to form an ad-hoc film subcommittee to plan film selections for rest of 2012 calendar year and to present their proposal at the August EQC meeting. Goudey, Benjamin, and Corwin volunteered for the Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Weinstein and passed unanimously. Goudey briefly discussed *Flow* for a future film showing through the Eco Film Series.

### 6. Green Team Update

Weinstein provided an update on recent Green Team clean-ups in El Cerrito. Member Weinstein also suggested moving regular Green Team meeting scheduled for July 17<sup>th</sup> to August 1<sup>st</sup>. Goudey further suggested that the meeting be held at Canyon Trail Park so that guest speaker could discuss his work at the park. Weinstein asked EQC to consider proposal and decide at July meeting. Weinstein asked

the Committee to volunteer with the July 14<sup>th</sup> Green Team event. Members Benjamin, Krueger, Corwin, and Miner volunteered to help with clean-up and publicity. The Committee discussed the need to collaborate with Friends of Five Creeks and Baxter Creek Clean-ups to ensure all groups are informed and to reduce overlap. Weinstein motioned a Green Team clean-up at various El Cerrito locations on July 14<sup>th</sup>. The motion was seconded by Benjamin and passed unanimously. Benjamin discussed the native bees talk with Gordon Frankie scheduled for Monday August 20<sup>th</sup> in the City Hall Chambers at 7pm. The Committee discussed finding room in the budget to pay the speaker honorarium. Corwin asked the ad hoc Subcommittee discuss the topic at their next meeting.

## **7. Educational Speaker Program Updates**

Benjamin requested to bring this item at a later date.

## **8. Food Ware Ordinance Update and Food Service Business Canvassing**

Schultz provided a background on the proposed Food Ware Ordinance and explained that the ESD and EQC won a grant in Fall 2011 to reimburse local businesses for purchases of compostable food ware up to \$110. Unfortunately, the ESD only received 4 applications and has re-released the call to attract more applications in order to use funds by July 1<sup>st</sup> fiscal year deadline. Schultz asked the EQC to canvas businesses to encourage applications. Krueger asked about the status of the draft Food Ware Ordinance submitted to the ESD Manager, Melanie Mintz. Schultz explained that the application is under review with the ESD and that the EQC discuss the Ordinance at the August meeting. The Committee discussed outreach to businesses and members Miner, Krueger, Benjamin, Goudey, and Corwin all volunteered to help canvas businesses.

## **9. Announcements and future agenda items**

Future Agenda Items

- Climate Action Plan Workshop (July meeting in Full)- aimed to make EQC members ambassadors of CAP. Brief items for consideration are OK too.
- Foodware Ordinance Public Workshop (August)- 30-45 minutes of meeting.

Weinstein discussed potential future agenda item- wildlife preservation- certain type of rat poison/pesticide is often ingested by wildlife- particularly birds and they die.

Staff Announcements

Schultz outlined current ESD projects including applying for the Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award (GEELA), continuing efforts to finalize Recycling Center programs, working on 4<sup>th</sup> of July preparations, and mailings for the Mandatory Commercial Recycling Ordinance (AB 341).

## **10. Adjournment**

Corwin adjourned the meeting at 9:10 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 - Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.*