



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 13, 2009, 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 7:07 PM.

Roll Call

Present: Chair Eggherman, Vice-Chair Samkian, Members Benassini, Benjamin, Brown-Lechner, Dandridge, Krueger, Miner, Spitalnik, Weinstein, Wong, Rome

Absent: None

Also Present: Janet Abelson (Council Liaison), Maria Sanders (Environmental Services Analyst), Garth Schultz (Environmental Services Analyst and Staff Liaison).

1. Comments from the Public on non-Agenda Items

None.

2. Approval of Minutes

Moved and seconded (Samkian/Krueger) to adopt the Minutes from the Regular and Special Committee meetings of September 8, 2009 and September 15, 2009. Passed unanimously.

3. Sub-Committee Reports

The Committee heard updates from existing subcommittees:

- *El Cerrito's Environmentally Friendly To-Go Container Initiative:* Ms. Brown-Lechner reported that the West Contra Costa Integrated Waste Management Authority approved the Mini-grant funding request for the project, covering the reusable containers and helping businesses switch to environmentally friendly packaging. The sub-committee hopes to send out its initial survey and information with an introduction to the program and a resource list to El Cerrito restaurants soon. The sub-committee also announced that members Samkian and Brown-Lechner are both pregnant and will soon be out for a couple of meetings each on maternity leave. Ms. Benjamin has joined the sub-committee and should be able to help support the project in their absence.
- *Green Business and Residential Recognition program:* Ms. Rome reported that the residential survey is now online at www.greenelcerrito.org and that print copies will be available at various events and activities soon.
- *Environmental Movie Series:* Ms. Samkian reported that the sub-committee had a date planned for the next movie showing, but partner League of Women Voters (LWV) suggested a different date

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 215-4354 (voice) at least FIVE (5) WORKING DAYS NOTICE PRIOR TO THE MEETING to ensure availability.

and time. The Committee briefly discussed the two time options and passed a motion to go with the LWV time of 11 AM on a Saturday in order to accommodate LWV members.

- *Community Green Teams*: Mr. Schultz provided an update regarding logistics and progress regarding the tree planting event on October 17. Mr. Weinstein discussed having a list of potential Green Team projects at the lunch and information portion of the event in order to generate specific interest in Green Team activities.
- *Outreach Strategy and Planning (Fall Outreach Event)*: Ms. Benassini handed out a sheet detailing set up and organizational details for the “Environmental Showcase” event at City Hall on October 17. The Committee discussed some of the details of the event including participant sign-in and tracking, volunteers, free pumpkins for kids, background music, free fruit trees from Linda Schneider for giveaway, and event outreach.
- *Municipal Code Revision – Animals Section*: Mr. Krueger reported that there has been a delay in preparing the final report of considerations regarding this topic, and that the sub-committee will bring it to the next regular meeting to seek Committee approval.
- *Climate Action Planning and Outreach and Advisory Sub-committee*: Ms. Spitalnik reported that the last meeting of this sub-committee focused on the details regarding educational outreach at the October 17 event.

4. Committee and Liaison Announcements and Future Agenda Items

Councilmember Abelson reported out that the Council recently passed its Unreinforced Masonry Ordinance and gave a brief overview of the details of the Ordinance. She also reported that the City has made progress regarding the Target property.

Mr. Schultz announced that there have been many updates to the Environmental Services Division webpage at www.ecenvironment.org. He also announced the Environmental Workshop Series, progress on food-waste processing options, the mobile hazardous materials collection event on September 26, the development of the Division’s monthly environmental email update service, and that Environmental Services Division Manager Melanie Mintz has returned to work from maternity leave.

Ms. Sanders reported that the City has received notice that it has been awarded the EPA Climate Action Showcase Community Grant, “Small Cities Climate Action Partnership”. She also reported that the City will soon receive \$123,000 in block grant funds for municipal energy efficiency retrofits through ARRA and that an El Cerrito Journal article on climate action will be coming soon.

5. Adjournment

Chair Eggherman adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

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. and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.