



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION

MINUTES

February 5, 2003

Burgess Recreation Center, Room 112
800 Alma Street, Menlo Park

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Theo Keet at 7:25 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Theo Keet, Frank Carney, Mark McBirney, Kevin McCarthy, Laura Tekslar

Commissioners Absent: Deirdre Digrande, Mary Kenney

Staff present: Dianne Dryer, Environmental Programs Coordinator

Public present: Harry Harrison, Margaret Frueth

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Harry Harrison commented that the Environmental Commission should review projects such as Santa Cruz Avenue, Burgess Theater, the Child Care Center, etc.

Margaret Frueth showed pictures of City crews repairing sidewalks damaged by tree roots and noted that the City continues to plant more street trees.

B. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dianne Dryer announced that the Commission would be asked to review and make recommendations regarding the tree removal and replacement plan for a proposed 59 unit residential development at 110 and 175 Linfield Drive at their March 5th meeting. Frank Carney, who had met with staff about the project, described its location and general characteristics. Dianne encouraged Commissioners to attend the Community Meeting to introduce the proposed project on February 27 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Reports and information about the trees on the site will be available in advance of the Commission meeting. Walt Fujii will be evaluating all of the heritage trees.

Dianne Dryer announced that the applicant chosen for the City Arborist position declined the offer. The City will have to advertise the position again and go through another selection process. In the meantime, Walt Fujii will remain on contract.

Dianne Dryer briefly reviewed the satellite seminar she attended called "Engaging the Community" which showed how cities can effectively involve residents in policy development and service programs. She also announced the KGO/TV Community Meeting on February 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Library, and the

presentation by the San Francisquito Watershed Council at the City Council meeting on February 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Kevin McCarthy reported that the idea for a computer recycling event in Menlo Park would be postponed due to plans for a similar event in October in our area (organized by the South Bayside Waste Management Authority).

C. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Approval of Minutes of January 8, 2003: M/S: CarneyKeet. Approved.

2. Arbor Day

Laura Teksler will organize the event for April 25, with assistance from Mark McBirney and Dianne Dryer. Possible locations were discussed. Dianne will check on the suitability of them. Laura will investigate participation by school children.

3. Budget Planning Process

Dianne Dryer gave a brief overview of the City budget shortfall and efforts by staff to compile cost saving measures, as well as revenue generating ideas. She encouraged Commissioners to attend the budget presentation at the City Council meeting on February 11. One cost saving idea is to upgrade the heating/air conditioning systems of certain City buildings to achieve more energy efficiency, which would have a payback in less than 3 years and a subsequent savings of thousands of dollars thereafter. Theo Keet passed out pages from the current budget for Urban Forest, Stormwater Management and Resource Conservation Programs. The group discussed the funding sources for each of these programs and the unlikelihood of any severe cutbacks.

D. INFORMATION ITEMS

None.

E. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.