



# ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION

## Meeting Minutes

**February 6, 2008**

Administration Building  
701 Alma Street, Menlo Park

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

**Commissioners Present:** Jeanne Durnford (Chair), Dan Kocher, Mitch Slomiak, John Nash, Jeff Jahnke, Doug Scott, Jim Schott

**Commissioners Absent:** None

**Staff present:** Dianne Dryer, Environmental Programs Coordinator  
Juan Alvarez, City Arborist

**Public present:** Kristin Duriseti, Richard Rollins, Kurt Hafer, Mr. Montauge, Dave Muffly, Catherine Martineau and Susan Rosenberg (both from Canopy), Carol McClelland

**A. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Ms. Duriseti, Mr. Rollins, Mr. Hafer and Mr. Montauge all spoke in objection to remodeling plans for Oak Knoll School that would require removal of several heritage oak trees, citing loss of significant trees and open space, increase in stormwater runoff from the new parking lot, and lack of school district communication with neighbors about their plans. They asked the Commission to do something to help prevent the loss of some of the heritage trees. Dianne Dryer responded that City heritage tree regulations do not apply on public school property, so there is little if anything that the City can do.

## **B. BUSINESS ITEMS**

**1. Approval of January 9, 2008 Meeting Minutes:** Unanimously approved.

**2. Presentation and Discussion with Canopy:**

Catherine Martineau and Susan Rosenberg gave a presentation about the work of their non-profit urban forest organization. Canopy has worked primarily with the Cities of Palo Alto and East Palo Alto to educate, engage, and inspire residents to support and get involved with urban forest maintenance and growth, emphasizing the importance of ongoing reforestation. They have been very successful in recruiting volunteers for their projects. Canopy has a website ([www.canopy.org](http://www.canopy.org)) with information on tree species suitable for our area, care of trees, events and awards. They give workshops on tree planting and maintenance, follow legislation, and research and apply for grants. Commission discussion with the representatives centered around potential partnerships with Canopy to organize street tree plantings and tree care education for neighborhoods, at

Bayfront Park, or along the 101 Freeway wall. It was motioned (DS/JJ) and unanimously approved that staff obtain from Canopy cost estimates and a project proposal for inclusion in Commission recommendations for Project Priorities for Council.

**3. Arbor Day Planning:**

Commissioners agreed with Dianne Dryer's recommendation that the Arbor Day ceremony be held during California's Arbor week (March 7 through 14) instead of on National Arbor Day in late April because young trees need to get plenty of spring rain to become established. Jeff Jahnke and Jeanne Durnford volunteered to coordinate plans for Arbor Day.

**4. Green Ribbon Citizens Committee Recommendations on Policies**

Carol McClelland of the GRCC spoke about the Committee's recommendation that the City adopt a higher landfill diversion goal than the State's required 50%. Ideas for achieving the goal include increasing recycling participation at commercial and multi-family residential properties through mandatory recycling collection, incentives, and public recognition. Information on waste reduction, reuse and recycling should be increased to all sectors. Dianne Dryer reported that plans are being discussed at the South Bayside Waste Management Authority for a "minimum service level" policy for recycling that would result in all commercial and multi-family residential complexes receiving containers, instructions and collection. Under the plan, customers could opt-out, so it would not be mandatory.

**C. REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Doug Scott reported that the street trees in front of his home recently received terrible pruning by West Coast Arborists. They were scheduled to come on a certain day, but didn't show up until four days later without notice, when he wasn't available to monitor the job. He suggested that the WCA crews need better supervision and enforcement of tree trimming standards, and that the City should institute a resident feedback mechanism.

Dianne Dryer reported that Assistant Public Works Director Ruben Nino had verbally asked three arborist firms to submit proposals and costs for doing the street tree reforestation survey. Commissioners asked that they be able to review and comment on the proposals at their next regular meeting.