



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

May 7, 2008

Burgess Recreation Center
700 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, Doug Scott, Jim Schott

Commissioners Absent: Jeff Jahnke

Staff present: Dianne Dryer, Environmental Programs Coordinator

Public present: Carol Taggert

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Carol Taggert spoke about the need to preserve trees at Oak Knoll School.

B. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. **Approval of April 2, 2008 Meeting Minutes:** Unanimously approved.
2. **Outline for Draft Climate Action Plan:** Dianne Dryer presented the informational memo from staff about plans for developing a Draft Climate Action Plan this summer, which will be reviewed by Council, Commissions, residents, and a variety of stakeholders in the fall. The draft will be revised based on input from the community and presented for Council approval in January 2009. Commissioners comments on the Outline included: executive summary should be short and state why it's important for cities to take action that can cumulatively have a significant effect on reducing greenhouse gas emissions; introduction section should be re-named "Background", shortened (perhaps some topics could be moved to appendices); and under #6, discuss a long term goal of 80% emission reduction by 2050.
3. **Street Tree Reforestation Project Update:** Dianne Dryer reported that she had not received an update from Ruben Nino regarding progress and plans. Commissioners stated that they would like an update monthly, including information such as progress on the survey work and what data will be obtained, plans for that data, estimates of the number of trees to be removed and replaced, possibility of a map showing numbered surveyed trees and locations of Priority One trees, plans for selecting and obtaining replacement species, outreach plan, schedule for removals and plantings, specific tree planting instructions for tree crew, and how to track survival of new trees. Commissioners voted unanimously to authorize the Chair to issue a memo to

the City Manager requesting that this kind of information be shared with the Commission in a timely manner, preferably through monthly updates. They also agreed that the goals of the Reforestation Program be revisited by the Commission at a future meeting, with more discussion on how to finance and achieve the goals.

C. REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Kocher announced that Trees for Menlo is trying to raise funds for finishing the El Camino tree planting project. Doug Scott said that there is discussion about tree planting in the El Camino Real Downtown Vision planning sessions. Mitch Slomiak asked if the Commission's three budget recommendations to Council had been accepted. Dianne Dryer replied that the FY 2008-09 proposed budget includes reforestation funding, Green @ Home funding, and funding for the completion of the Climate Action Plan (through grants). Mitch Slomiak also announced that the Green Ribbon Committee is beginning to research and organize actions that various sub-sectors of the community can do to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Their efforts are both educational and aimed at getting the public engaged in making changes. Jeanne Durnford reported on a recent tour of the Shoreway Recycling and Disposal Center.