



# ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION

## Meeting Minutes

**June 4, 2008**

Burgess Recreation Center  
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m.

**Commissioners Present:** Jeanne Durnford (Chair), Dan Kocher, Mitch Slomiak, John Nash, Jim Schott (arrived at 7:30 p.m.)

**Commissioners Absent:** Jeff Jahnke, Doug Scott

**Staff present:** Dianne Dryer, Environmental Programs Coordinator

**Public present:** none

**A. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** none

### **B. BUSINESS ITEMS**

1. **Approval of May 7, 2008 Meeting Minutes:** Unanimously approved.
2. **Commission Meeting Schedule:** Commissioners decided to cancel the July 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting and the September 3 meeting due to holidays. The September meeting will be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> instead.
3. **Street Tree Reforestation Project Update:** Dianne Dryer reported that certified arborists Walter Levison and Dave Muffly will soon be under contract with the City to conduct the survey. Dianne is working with them to choose areas to survey, develop criteria for tree evaluation, use of the database related to an older surveys, and clarifying the definitions of Priority 1, 2 and 3 trees as stated in the Street Tree Management Plan. Commissioner Nash offered to help with the setting up of the database. Commissioner Schott suggested that life expectancy of the tree be considered whenever possible. Commissioners agreed that vacant, suitable spots for new trees be recorded by the contract arborists, the City Arborist, and the tree crews.
4. **Green Ribbon Committee Plans:** Commissioner Slomiak explained the GRCC's plans for Phase 2 of their local work on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. They have "Action Teams" doing outreach and assistance to:
  - Businesses, Chamber of Commerce
  - Residents, neighborhood associations
  - Communities of faith
  - Schools, individual and district levels
  - Builders and City staff in Planning/Building Division

GRCC Work Groups are researching local solutions related to reducing emissions through reduction of single person vehicle trips, energy efficiency best practices for businesses, recommendations regarding land use policies, participation in El Camino Real Vision Planning, and education/information for the public. Commissioner Slomiak said the GRCC leadership strives to stay politically neutral. They would like more people to get actively involved. Their meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday mornings are open to the public. They have a website: [www.menlogreen.typepad.com](http://www.menlogreen.typepad.com)

- 5. Update on Draft Climate Action Plan:** Dianne Dryer reported that she and the consultant, ICLEI, will be working with a staff team comprised of Kent Steffens (Public Works Director), Chip Taylor (Transportation Manager), Lisa Ekers (Engineering Services Manager), Ron LaFrance (Building Official), and Councilmember Robinson. Several meetings have been scheduled to coordinate the gathering of information and selection of emission reduction strategies for the draft CAP. Work will continue on it through September.

## **C. REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dianne Dryer reminded the Commissioners that the Environmental Quality Awards program will start taking nominations in August. She encouraged Commissioners to be looking for projects, businesses, individuals, and heritage trees that are outstanding and set good examples.

Dianne also announced that the Sunset Celebration event is June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Staff has been working with Sunset on a big effort to make sure as much material as possible is recycled. She asked Commissioners who attend to give feedback on what they see.

The new Community Engagement Manager, Cherise Brandell, would like to meet with one or two EQ Commissioners soon. Jeanne Durnford and Mitch Slomiak volunteered.