



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

July 30, 2008

Burgess Recreation Center
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:40 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

Public present: none

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS: none

B. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. **Approval of June 4, 2008 Meeting Minutes:** Unanimously approved.
2. **Commission Meeting Schedule:** Commissioners decided cancel the August 6th meeting and to reschedule the September 3rd meeting to September 10th, due to the Labor Day holiday.
3. **Street Tree Reforestation Project:** Dianne Dryer reported that certified arborists Walter Levison and Dave Muffly have begun surveying 3000 street trees in areas throughout the city. She explained the criteria for ranking the trees and showed a map of the areas being surveyed. The arborists are using a handheld computer device that enters data into the existing street tree database, which has been expanded to include information about the condition of the trees. So far, they have found quite a few trees that are in poor health and structure. The complete survey will take about 3 months. Commissioner Scott has observed some young trees planted in the Reforestation Pilot during the fall of 2007 that are in bad shape or have been removed (probably due to lack of water). He suggested that the City take photos of the remaining young trees to illustrate their growth in a few years. Dianne suggested that anyone who would like to volunteer to take photos or to distribute Water Reminder notices to addresses that have young street trees is welcome to contact her.
4. **Climate Action Plan Update:** Dianne Dryer reported that the staff team and ICLEI, the consultant, have been doing research and selection of strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions generated by City facilities and by the

community. The draft Plan is tentatively scheduled to be presented to the Council at the end of October.

5. Planning for Environmental Quality Awards: Commissioner Nash volunteered to coordinate this year's program with Dianne. She encouraged Commissioners to be looking for projects, businesses, individuals, and heritage trees that are outstanding and set good examples for others in the community. Nominations will be due to Dianne by September 8th. Forms will be emailed to the Commissioners and put on the City website. Dianne will also issue a news release.

C. REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dianne reported that the Sunset Celebration Weekend recycling and composting went very well with the new containers. The first Downtown Block Party also went well, although there are still a lot of people that don't recognize that the compost container is acceptable for all food scraps and paper, even though the signs clearly stated so. Dianne will be coordinating recycling and staffing an environmental info table for all three of the summer Block Parties. Interest was high at the June event.