



## ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION

### Meeting Minutes

**April 1, 2009**

Burgess Recreation Center  
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.

**Commissioners Present:** Mitch Slomiak (Chair), Jeanne Durnford, Doug Scott, Kristin Kuntz-Dureseti, Dan Kocher

**Commissioners Absent:** Megan Gutelius

**Staff Present:** Dianne Dryer, Environmental Programs Coordinator  
Lisa Ekers, Engineering Services Manager

**Public present:** Marion Joseph

**A. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Ms. Joseph spoke against the City using toxic chemicals on public landscaping. She also passed out an article on artificial turf.

### **B. BUSINESS ITEMS**

1. **Minutes for Meeting on March 4, 2009** - Approved unanimously.
2. **Selection of Vice Chairperson** – Kristin Kuntz-Dureseti was approved unanimously.
3. **Arbor Day event** – The tree planting ceremony adjacent to Hillview Middle School is scheduled for April 17 at noon. Students will participate.
4. **Status of Priority Projects Recommended by the Commission** – Dianne Dryer reported that funding for Reforestation pruning, the Green @ Home program and contract assistance with the Climate Action Plan is in the proposed budget for FY 2009-10. The final vote by the City Council will be in mid-June. Commissioners commented that the street tree pruning should be of high quality and well-supervised. Staff will meet with Commissioners interested in knowing more about the City's plans for the pruning.
5. **Climate Action Plan** – Dianne reported that many constructive comments were received on the preliminary draft report. They will be presented to the City Council on April 21<sup>st</sup>.
6. **Shoreway Recycling Center and New Collection Services** – Dianne reported that research and data-gathering is being done to formulate a bond financing plan for the re-building of the Center in San Carlos owned by the SBWMA. She is

currently working on the details for the new franchise agreement for recycling, organics/plants, and trash collection services with Norcal Waste services.

- 7. Reforestation Update** – Dianne reminded Commissioners that their comments on the final draft Reforestation Project (by the consulting arborists) are due by the May 6th Commission meeting. The Commission will be asked to vote to accept the report at that time. She reported that removal and replacement of 60 street trees in the pilot reforestation program will be completed by mid April. For this fiscal year, over 2000 street trees have been trimmed and 160 trees planted. Lisa Ekers explained the funding spent, rolling over, and proposed for next year. Commissioners commented that the total cost per tree for this year's project was too high. Suggestions for reducing future costs included a policy that property owners could opt out of the Reforestation program (rather than opting in), that the notification procedures be evaluated and made more efficient and clear, that volunteers and/or neighborhood groups be trained and engaged (e.g. Canopy program), and that property owners be asked to contribute money to the tree planting effort.
- 8. Green@Home Update** – The program is a little behind in number of houses audited, but current funding is expected to be carried over to next fiscal year in order to complete 250 homes. A feature article on the program will be printed in the Almanac in mid April. Commissioner Scott asked for a report on metrics and results of the program.
- 9. El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan Update** – None.
- 10. Commission Report to City Council** - None.

### **C. Announcements and Reports**

**Solar Loan Financing Programs** – Kristin noted that the Berkeley model is a good one. Dianne said that ABAG may be organizing a regional approach.

**“Protecting Urban Canopies”** – Doug looked at the study and reported that many cities are struggling like Menlo Park is.

**City Use of Pesticides** – staff was asked to bring back a status report.

**Compact Fluorescent Bulb Dropoff** – April 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Library.

**Comments invited** by Lisa on the Draft EIR for the Burgess Gym and the Council letter on the Municipal Regional Permit letter regarding stormwater pollution prevention.

**Drive Less Challenge**, a community wide event organized by the GRCC, will start April 22<sup>nd</sup>.