



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2009

Burgess Recreation Center
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park

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

Commissioners Present: Mitch Slomiak (Chair), Jeanne Durnford, Doug Scott, Kristin Kuntz-Dureseti, Dan Kocher, Butch Byers, Megan Gutelius

Commissioners Absent: none

Staff Present: Dianne Dryer, Environmental Programs Coordinator

Public present: Council Member Andy Cohen

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

B. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. **Minutes for Meeting on April 1, 2009:** Approved unanimously.
2. **New Commissioner:** Butch Byers was introduced.
3. **Climate Action Plan Update:** Dianne Dryer reported that comments from the public were presented to Council for discussion on April 21st. Due to the lack of resources at this time, Staff's recommendation was to continue research and revisions in FY 2009-10, if funds are budgeted. The 2009 CAP will be considered for adoption by Council on May 19th. Future updates will continue to be necessary in coming years. Commissioners discussed how they could assist with information gathering and decided to form an ad hoc subcommittee to coordinate with staff on specific efforts. Butch Byers offered to collect some information and provide an analysis of the possibilities for capturing more methane gas from the Marsh Road Landfill (he has professional expertise in this area).
4. **El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan Update:** – Doug Scott reported that the recent public workshop was very productive, noting that any improvements to the area will necessitate trade-offs. Full information is on the City website.
5. **Street Tree Reforestation:** Doug Scott and Dan Kocher reported on their meeting with staff regarding the budget and proposal for corrective pruning of over 700 "Priority One" trees in the next few years. Stressing the importance of proper pruning to extend the life of the trees, they recommended that a quality assurance evaluation be done after 18 months to verify that the pruning was effective. Commissioners were asked to review the 2008 Reforestation Project Report and

provide comments by their next regular meeting on June 3rd. Also discussed was the possibility of using volunteers to plant trees (e.g. Canopy model).

6. **Green@Home Update** – Jeanne Durnford said that Acterra is putting together a matrix analyzing the expected emissions reduction results from the program. Dianne Dryer reported that current funding is expected to be carried over to next fiscal year in order to complete 250 homes by June 2010. She recently referred a Stanford intern to help with the program for the summer. A front page feature article on Green @ Home was printed in the Almanac on Earth Day.
7. **Commission Report to City Council** - Commissioners approved the offer by Chairman Slomiak to prepare and present a report to City Council on the formation of the CAP ad hoc committee and Butch Byers' proposed research on landfill emissions.

C. Reports and Announcements

Arbor Day – Kristin Kuntz-Dureseti reported on the successful event coordinated with Hillview School students.

Brown Act Training – Five commissioners attended and discussed key points.

Drive Less Challenge - a community wide event organized by the GRCC resulted in an estimated 5000 miles of vehicle trips reduced over a week period in April.

Upcoming City Events – Council study session on the proposed budget May 12; Bike to Work Day May 14; Council consideration of approval of 2009 CAP May 19; Council consideration of approval of issuance of bonds by the SBWMA to finance the Shoreway Recycling Facility improvements July 14; Council consideration of approval of increase to street tree assessment July 14.