



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

November 4, 2009

Burgess Recreation Center
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

Commissioners Present: Mitch Slomiak (Chairperson), Lawrence Byers, Kristin Kuntz-Duriseti, Jeanne Durnford, Megan Gutelius, Daniel Kocher and Douglas Scott.

Staff Present: Regina Wheeler, City of Menlo Park, Environmental Specialist and Matt Oscamou, Senior Civil Engineer

Public Present: Chuck Kinney

A. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

B. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Approval of October Minutes

There was a correction from Carbon Dioxide to Carbon Dioxide equivalents in the Bayfront Park report. Minutes were then approved as corrected.

2. El Camino Real Tree Planting: Trees for Menlo

Chuck Kinney, Chairman of Trees for Menlo, Inc., and Matt Oscamou talked about the plan to remove 20 Crape Myrtle trees and replace them with London Plane trees from just past Middle to Ravenswood. They explained that these trees are thirty years old, and are not the right trees for the median because they cannot spread out because of passing trucks that keep hitting them. London Plane trees are more resistant to fumes and would be tall enough to be above truck damage.

Doug moved to endorse removing all mature Crape Myrtles from Middle to Ravenswood (per the originally approved plan in 1998) and replace them with London Planes on El Camino Real scheduled for spring of 2010 in accordance with the approved Master Plan by Caltrans. Further, the EQC expressed appreciation for the donation and work by Trees for Menlo utilizing funds provided by Home Depot. It was seconded and unanimously passed.

3. Climate Action Plan

Mitch reported that he has been in contact with Lisa Ekers about the involvement of CSG Consultants. They will review the CAP, research GHG cost/benefit methodology and recommend methodology for strategy analysis. Goals may not be part of the work. The EQC CAP subcommittee can look at other communities and how they set their goals and provide this information back. Butch was unanimously elected to take Megan's spot on the CAP subcommittee.

Landfill site- Virginia and Butch met and Menlo Park has a Title V air permit. Butch has done a site walk through. Butch needs some guidelines for requesting City Staff time. Mitch suggested that Butch write up a few paragraphs and submit them to Regina and Mitch for review.

4. Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance

Individual Commissioners were surprised that Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance passed by the State Legislature in 2006 will take effect January 1, 2010, and will apply to all landscape projects 2,500 square feet or more. Menlo Park can write their own Ordinance (not less restrictive than the State's), go with the State guidelines or join the regional Ordinance being proposed by the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (also not less restrictive than State's). Several Commissioners thought it would be best to stay with the State guidelines and see how the community responds. Regina passed out a summary of the Ordinance and a copy of Assembly Bill No. 1881. The Staff report should be out Dec. 2 and will be sent to the EQC if available.

5. Street Tree Management Policies and Heritage Tree Ordinance

Dan passed out copies of the Summary of the Heritage Tree Ordinance. He explained that of 197 permit applications for heritage tree removals only 9 were denied. Regina apologized for the lack of Staff support during the last tree removal appeal. Discussion ensued about the role of the EQC to save trees and the Staff to enforce the Ordinance. There seems to be a disconnect between how the EQC and the Staff interpret the Ordinance. What authority does the EQC have? We would like to have guidance from City Attorney Bill McClure about our legal responsibility and the City's responsibility.

6. El Camino Downtown Project

No report this month.

7. EQC Report to Council

No report this month.

C. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Environmental Quality Awards

The awards will be presented on Nov. 10, 2009.

2. Waste Management

No report this month.

3. Green@Home Program

Commissioners suggested that Acterra have Spanish flyers and trained auditors that can speak Spanish to help generate more audits in the Latino population. Could PG&E direct people over to Green@Home?

4. Major Development Projects

No additional news.

5. Other Announcements

None