



# ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 3, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.  
Burgess Recreation Center  
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park

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

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

**Absent:** Megan Gutelius

**Staff Present:** Lisa Ekers, Engineering Services Manager and Regina Wheeler, Environmental Programs Specialist

**Public Present:** None

**A. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

## **B. BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **1. Approval of January 6 Minutes**

There were several corrections suggested by the Commissioners. Regina will rewrite and bring to the March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting for approval.

### **2. Five-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)**

Capital projects are \$25,000 or over. General Fund projects are not in this document.

There were several suggestions captured by Commissioner Durnford and sent to Assistant City Manager Starla Jerome-Robinson per the following memo:

The Environmental Quality Commission would like the City Council and Menlo Park Staff to consider the following recommendations:

- Study the capture of methane gas emitted at the Marsh Road Landfill and improve the efficiency of the methane capture system. Methane emissions from the Marsh Road Landfill were responsible for 8.5% of the Menlo Park community's greenhouse gas emissions in 2005 (Source: ICLEI, 2005).
- Fund a follow up study of the trees inventoried last year to see how the improved trimming/pruning affected the trees. Also note that Menlo Park is falling backwards with the number of trees being removed or dying exceeding the number of trees planted.
- Menlo Park should look for ways to evaluate and fund replacement for all street lights to LED.
- Revisit list of recommended replacement trees. Make sure the new list contains drought tolerant species.

- Plant trees in properties that are being refurbished.
- Fund the Canopy project in years 2011-2012.
- Have volunteers continue planting trees at a higher volume years 3, 4 and 5 using the Canopy program.

### **3. Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance**

Regina and Lisa explained the MAWA (Water Budget) guidelines. This does not apply to single family homes. There will be a staff report going out that explains this to the City Council and the public.

We concur on the Model Home Ordinance.

Commissioner Byers moved to accept the EQC Report to City Council sent out with the Agenda. It was seconded and passed. Commission Chair Kuntz-Duriseti will go to the meeting on Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> and present it.

### **4. Climate Action Plan**

The CAP Subcommittee is vetting its research on the goal-setting targets from 13 communities (national leaders in climate action and local cities) and the process used to propose and adopt goals in 6 local communities.

## **C. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **1. Arbor Day Coordination**

City Arborist Juan Alvarez and Commissioner Kuntz-Duriseti have set the second week in March for the ceremony.

### **2. Gateway Development Update**

Commissioner Slomiak met with the developer and several of the consultants working on the mitigation of CO2 that will otherwise result from this project. The developer may be able to mitigate as much as 80% from the buildings and is working with a transportation management consultant to explore transportation demand management strategies to reduce CO2 from the increase in car trips that will result from the operation of this development.

Minutes submitted by: Commissioner Durnford