ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.
Burgess Recreation Center
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park

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

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

Absent: Jeanne Durnford

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

Public Present: Former Mayor Steve Schmidt, Brielle Johnck and Patty Mayall

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

B. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Approval of March 3, 2010 Minutes
Commissioner **??** moved to approve the minutes, subject to the inclusion of the EQC Resolution regarding Trees for Menlo; Commissioner Slomiak seconded; unanimously approved.

2. Approval of April 7, 2010 Minutes
Commissioner Kuntz-Duriseti moved to approve the minutes, subject to correction of a typographical error on page two (change "transit" to "transient"); Commissioner Slomiak seconded; unanimously approved.

3. City Policy regarding pesticide use
Steve Schmidt presented a slide show documenting differences in herbicide application between Menlo Park, Palo Alto and Portola Valley, particularly along Sand Hill. Mr. Schmidt requests that the city evaluate "no spray" policies in other parts of Menlo Park (e.g., Willow Road) and local communities and phase out all use of herbicides to control weeds due to concerns about the environmental consequences, health effects and aesthetics. Issues to consider include: traffic safety, fire safety, maintenance considerations and cost, toxicity of "categories" of herbicides and pesticides.

ACTION: Commissioner Kuntz-Duriseti to meet with city staff to discuss IPM Plan. Item to be prioritized for future EQC agenda to evaluate potential for change prior to application of pesticide in 2011.

4. ECR/Downtown visioning
Update from Commissioner Slomiak: The draft EIR has not yet been released. LEED standards for new construction are included in the plan.

5. Menlo Gateway update
Commissioner Slomiak pointed out that changes in the Term Sheet include:

- reducing projected carbon emissions from 3-5% to 1%,
- offsetting remaining carbon emissions, not including transportation, by participation in Climate Smart or similar program,
- committing to LEED silver and gold standards (strengthening previous "voluntary" effort),
- allowing the City Council to use the 1%TOT at its discretion.

The term sheet upholds the previous declaration to reduce car trips by 17%, subject to per car trip penalties in excess of car trip threshold. Sensors will count all car trips. The baseline trip assessment counts all car trips as a "new" trip, i.e., the baseline does not remove car trips that are transferred to the new site.

ACTION: Commissioners drafted a Report to Council.

6. Climate Action Plan (update from ad-hoc sub-committee)
Continued to EQC meeting on June 2, 2010, since the sub-committee was unable to schedule a meeting with city staff.

C. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Environmental Program Staffing
Kathleen Gallagher, CSG, has been hired as Interim Environmental Programs Manager. The City is hiring an intern.

2. Drive Less Challenge
250 participants logged 25-30,000 "green" miles, with 88 Menlo Park participants logging approximately 10,000 miles, which translates into 15,000lbs of CO_2. Focus for this year was developing the web tool; the goal for next year is to increase outreach.

3. Landscape Ordinance Update
The Landscape Ordinance was passed and will start July 1, 2010.

4. Green@Home Program Update
The Green@Home Program has been extended through the end of the fiscal year.

5. California First
Commissioner Gutelius reported that the working group is focusing on designing a marketing plan to advertise the program to finance environmental retrofits and home improvements.

6. Water Conservation Master Plan
Lisa Ekers reports that the city is developing a Request for Proposals (RFP).

Minutes submitted by Commissioner Kuntz-Duriseti with assistance from Ms. Wheeler.