



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION MEETING ACTION MINUTES

Wednesday, September 7th, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.

Recreation Center- Cypress Conference Room

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

Commissioners Present: Kristin Kuntz-Duriseti (Chair), Kathy Schrenk (Vice Chair) (arrived at 6:37 pm), Adina Levin (arrived at 6:58 pm), Christina Smolke, Mitch Slomiak, Daniel Kocher, Douglas Scott.

Commissioners Absent:

Staff Present: Rebecca Fotu, Environmental Programs Manager
Brian Henry, City Arborist
Charles Taylor, Interim Public Works Director

Public Present: Two members of the public

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

B. BUSINESS ITEMS:

B.1. Approve July Action Minutes

Action: July minutes as presented. (m/s: Scott/Slomiak- unanimously approved by commissioners present)

B.2. Discussion on Increasing the Urban Canopy: Discussion with the City Arborist on current practices, operations, and Heritage Tree Ordinance implementation, and identification of possible next steps for the EQC on issues that may arise from the discussion.

Action: Recommended City Arborist create a form or update existing heritage tree removal application to ensure that a replacement tree plan is submitted with the permit application. Recommended that the City Arborist update the replacement tree list with environmentally appropriate, noninvasive, water saving trees. Recommended that the City Arborist provide quarterly reports, subject to city arborist recommendation, to the EQC regarding city street tree removals and plantings. City Arborist agreed to the requests of the Commission.

Formed a subcommittee with Commissioner Smolke, Commissioner Scott, and Commissioner Kocher to explore Heritage Tree application and appeal process with planning staff. Staff will schedule a meeting with subcommittee within the next couple of months.

(m/s: Slomiak/Scott-unanimously approved by commissioners present)

B.3 Discussion on Plastic Pollution and Source Reduction: Review Polystyrene Ordinance Template from San Mateo County and state legislation related to polystyrene and other plastics, and discuss next steps and/or possible recommendations to council.

Action: Continue discussion to next month to determine if it is necessary to prioritize a polystyrene ban, subject to staff advice on the issue. The EQC requested staff to conduct a survey of other cities' outreach efforts and staff time to implement a ban. Staff agreed to conduct a survey.

(unanimously approved)

B.4. Discussion on Setting a Communitywide Greenhouse Gas Reduction Target: Discussion on benefits and implications of adopting a community greenhouse gas reduction target at 10%, 17%, or 27% below 2005 greenhouse gas emissions. Possible recommendation to council on adopting a specific target.

Action: Continue discussion to next month. EQC requests that staff postpone City Council study session in order to hold a public workshop with enough lead time for the EQC to incorporate feedback from the meeting for a recommendation to City Council. Appoint Commissioner Levin to the Climate Action Plan ad-hoc subcommittee.

(m/s: Kuntz-Duriseti/ Slomiak -unanimously approved)

B.5. Environmental Quality Awards: Identify a commissioner or subcommittee to coordinate the award process.

Action: None.

Note: Commissioner Schrenk and Commissioner Kuntz-Duriseti volunteered to work on the Environmental Quality Awards

B.6. Discussion on Downtown Specific Plan: Consider a recommendation to Council.

Action: None.

MEETING ADJOURNED APPROXIMATELY 8:50 PM. Meeting minutes prepared by Rebecca Fotu, Environmental Programs Manager and Staff Liaison to the EQC.