



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 22, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.
City Administration Building
701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park

The meeting was called to order by Chair DeCardy at 6:34 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Allen Bedwell, Chris DeCardy (Chair), Kristin Kuntz-Duriseti (left meeting after 8:45 pm), Scott Marshall (Vice Chair), Deborah Martin (arrived at 7 pm), Mitchel Slomiak, Christina Smolke (left meeting after 8:45 pm)

Absent: None

A. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Steve Schmidt, Willows neighborhood resident, requested the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) to review the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (JPA) project to provide 100 year flood protection to areas of Menlo Park. He stated that the project would have a negative impact on the riparian corridor, heritage tree removals, and the Pope-Chaucer pedestrian/bike bridge.

Brielle Johnck, Willows neighborhood resident, requested the EQC review the San Francisquito Creek JPA project to provide 100 year flood protection to areas of Menlo Park. She also stated that the project would have a negative impact on the riparian corridor, heritage trees, and the Pope-Chaucer pedestrian/bike bridge.

The Commission acknowledged the concerns and was briefed by staff about the project, and will review the project at some point in the future.

B. REGULAR BUSINESS

B1. Approve December 18, 2013 Minutes (*Attachment*)

ACTION: Motion and Second (Bedwell/Kuntz-Duriseti) to approve the December 18, 2013 minutes passes 6-0-1 (Abstain: Deb Martin)

B2. Consider Electing a New Vice Chair

ACTION: Motion and Second (Bedwell/Slomiak) to select Scott Marshall as Vice Chair of the EQC, effective immediately, passes unanimously.

B3. Discussion and Update on Environmental Quality Awards

Commissioner Martin asked commissioners to reach out to their networks for possible nominations, and requested to extend the deadline for applications to February 18.

ACTION: By consensus, the commission extended the award deadline to February 18, 2014.

(Chair moved item B5 before Item B4)

B5. Discuss and Potentially Provide Comments to the City Council on the Scope of Work for Proposed General Plan Update (*Attachment*)

Justin Murphy from the Planning Department gave a presentation to the commission.

Public Comment:

Ann Draper requested that the commission include sustainable growth practices and address sea level rise in the General Plan update.

David Johnson of Tarlton Properties Inc. expressed concern to include streamlining the city's hazardous waste permitting process in the update because of the intensive resources and analysis it would require, and could potentially extend time to complete the update.

ACTION: Motion and Second (DeCardy/Slomiak) to deputize Chair, Vice Chair, and Commissioner Slomiak to work with the city's Environmental Program Manager to form a recommendation within two weeks. The recommendation would be based on the commission's discussion/comments regarding sustainability issues, and would include water conservation and management, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and hazardous materials processing. In addition, the recommendation would focus on the M-2 area, but would request that these issues be considered for citywide implementation passes 5-0-2 (Absent: Christina Smolke and Kristen Kuntz-Duriseti). *See Attachment A for final recommendation.*

B4. Consider a Recommendation to the City Council Regarding the Draft 2014-2019 Capital Improvement Plan (Memo from City Manager) (Draft 2014-2019 Capital Improvement Plan)

ACTION: Motion and Second (Slomiak/Bedwell) to recommend approval of the environmental projects described and proposed in the Draft 2014-2019 Capital Improvement Plan, and request moving "Installation of Electric Plug In Recharging Stations Cost Benefit Analysis and Plan" to next fiscal year (2014-15), and increase staff resources to move this project forward passes 5-0-2 (Absent: Christina Smolke and Kristen Kuntz-Duriseti).

B6. Discuss Quarterly Report to City Council

ACTION: Motion and Second (Slomiak/Marshall) to approve providing an update to the City Council by the Chair on the following topics: heritage tree removals related to development, Capital Improvement Plan in regards to Climate Action Plan implementation and the need for staff resources and investment, public concern over the San Francisquito Creek project for flood protection, and importance of including sustainability in the General Plan update.

B7. Discuss Arbor Day Planning Event for March or April

ACTION: By consensus, the commission will hold the event in March.

B8. Discuss Environmental Quality Commission Two Year Work Plan Update and Subcommittee Changes (Work Plan and Subcommittee Attachment)

ACTION: Item tabled by Chair to a future meeting.

C. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following updates were received by commission:

C1. Staff Update on Environmental Policies to be Considered by City Council

C2. Commission Subcommittee Reports and Announcements

C3. Discuss Future Agenda Items

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Rebecca Fotu, Environmental Program Manager

Minutes accepted at the meeting of February 26, 2014.