



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 23, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.
City Administration Building
701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park

The meeting was called to order by Chair DeCardy at 6:37pm

ROLL CALL:

Present: Allan Bedwell, Chris DeCardy (Chair), Kristin Kuntz-Duriseti, Scott Marshall (Vice Chair), Deborah Martin (arrived at 6:46pm), Mitchel Slomiak

Absent: Christina Smolke

A. PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Schmidt expressed his concerns over the City's use of herbicides and pesticides and urged the City to update its Integrated Pest Management policy to eliminate their uses. Mr. Schmidt also recommended that the City prepare and make available, an herbicide and pesticide use schedule disclosing when, where, how, and at what frequency the City conducts its spraying. He also proposed having volunteer weeding days where residents can work together on pulling weeds in order to eliminate the City's need to use herbicides and pesticides.

Elizabeth Houck also expressed her concerns over the City's herbicide and pesticide use and stated that her recent public records request disclosed that the City is spraying a large amount of herbicides and pesticides throughout the City every year. In addition, Ms. Houck reaffirmed that she does not support the Potential Irrigation Well project and urged that staff no longer pursue further work on it.

B. REGULAR BUSINESS

B1. Approve March 26, 2014 Minutes (*Attachment*)

ACTION: Motion and Second (Kuntz-Duriseti/Marshall) to approve the March 26, 2014 minutes with an amendment to part three of their recommendation to item B3, to state "(e.g. drilling a private well or increasing water use/irrigation)", and to make a correction to the name of Commissioner Kuntz-Duriseti for the vote on item B4 to state "Kuntz-Duriseti", passes (5-0-2), (Absent: Smolke, Abstain: Martin)

B2. Discuss Climate Action Plan Update and Provide Potential Recommendation to City Council

Rebecca Fotu, Environmental Programs Manager presented the Commission with an update on the City's Climate Action Plan.

ACTION: Motion and Second (Martin/Bedwell) to approve of the following recommendation to City Council as stated below passes (6-0-1), (Absent: Smolke).

We of the EQC are supportive of Staff's update to the Climate Action Plan. We note that given staff's current resource constraints it will not be possible to attain the 27% by 2020 greenhouse gas reduction target as we do not believe there is sufficient staff time to either source sufficient numbers of new initiatives nor fully implement the existing projects that have been identified.

Therefore, the EQC strongly recommends that Council provide sufficient budget to hire additional climate action dedicated staff in 2014-2015 as recommended in this Climate Action Plan Update.

It is a fact that this hiring is an investment in community benefits that will reduce the cost of living and working in Menlo Park for every resident and business."

B3. Discuss Environmental Quality Commission New Two-Year Work Plan for 2014-2016 (*Previous Work Plan Attachment*)

The Commission will continue its work plan discussion at its next meeting in May.

ACTION: No formal action was taken on this item.

B4. Discuss Environmental Quality Awards Presentation and Event on April 29, 2014

Commissioner Deb Martin provided an update on the progress of the Environmental Quality Awards and the Commission provided their feedback on the draft awards ceremony presentation.

ACTION: No formal action was taken on this item.

B5. Discuss Environmental Quality Commission Quarterly Report to City Council on May 13, 2014

ACTION: By Consensus the Commission approved of the following items to be reported on:

- Hiring of additional staff to support Climate Action Plan initiatives
- EQC's recommendation on the Potential Irrigation Well Project
- Environmental Quality Commission Work Plan

- Heritage Tree Ordinance Process

B6. Discuss Changing the Reporting Frequency of the Biannual Arborist Report

ACTION: By consensus, the Commission approved to change the frequency of the Arborist Report from biannual to annual.

B7. Debrief on Arbor Day Tree Planting Event

Commissioners Scott Marshall and Allan Bedwell stated that the Arbor Day tree planting event was a success with the planting of two Elm trees in front of the Belle Haven Child Development Center.

ACTION: No formal action was taken on this item.

C. COMMISSION REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following updates were received by the Commission:

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

C2. Commission Subcommittee Reports and Announcements

C3. Discuss Future Agenda Items

D. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Vanessa Marcadejas, Environmental Programs Specialist.

Minutes accepted at the meeting of May 28, 2014.