



SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Date: 4/27/2023
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Teleconference and
City Hall Downtown Conference Room, 1st Floor
701 Laurel St., Menlo Park. CA 94025

A. Call To Order

Chair Kabat called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present: Elkins, Evans (arrived at 6:09 p.m.), Hedley (Vice Chair), Kabat (Chair), McKenna, Schmidt (arrived at 6:09 p.m.)
Absent: Lin
Staff: Sustainability Manager Rebecca Lucky, Management Analyst II Ori Paz

C. Regular Business

C1. Recognize outgoing Commissioners

The Commission thanked outgoing Commissioners for their service to the community and introduced incoming Commissioners Eduardo Pelegri-Llopart and Brian Kissel.

- Bernard Clouse thanked the Commission for their research on issues concerning the community.

C2. Approve the February 15, 2023 Environmental Quality Commission regular meeting minutes (Attachment)

ACTION: Motion and second (Elkins/ Schmidt), to approve the February 15, 2023 Environmental Quality Commission regular meeting minutes, passed 6-0 (Lin absent).

C3. Provide recommendation to City Council regarding proposed rules for gas powered gardening equipment (Zero Emission Landscaping Equipment Ordinance) (Attachment)

Sustainability Manager Lucky gave the presentation.

- Bernard Clouse spoke in support of police enforcement of spare the air rules.
- Eduardo Pelegri-Llopart spoke on concerns related to the impact on plants from leaf blowers.
- Brian Kissel requested clarification on support needed from the City for gardeners to transition to electric equipment.

The Commission discussed implementation of new rules around zero emission landscape equipment (ZELE).

ACTION: Motion and second (McKenna/ Hedley), to recommend that the City Council:

- Approve the ZELE Ordinance rules proposed by staff,
 - Consider a local incentive,
 - Explore community relationships for implementation, provided that:
 - The above does not limit the City's ability to make progress on climate action plan items, most specifically the potential for an existing building electrification reach code, approved 6-0 (Lin absent).
- C4. Receive informational report on Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) decision to regulate gas water heater and furnace emissions (Attachment)

Chair Kabat made the presentation.

- Eduardo Pelegri-Llopart spoke on concerns related to the difficulties of radiant heating and tankless water heater replacements.

The Commission discussed the new BAAQMD regulations.

D. Reports and Announcements

- E1. Reports and announcements from staff and Commissioners

Commissioner Schmidt provided an update on the Arbor Day event at Karl E. Clark park, and requested the group consider workforce development of qualified professionals for electrification in addition to the reach code initiative.

Commissioner Evans provided an update on a Menlo Park local training program for an electrification-trained workforce.

Chair Kabat provided an update on an online training class for SunWork to install solar and heatpump water heaters.

Sustainability Manager Lucky provided updates regarding the building electrification permit fee waiver and options to expedite electrification permits, existing building electrification reach codes, and roles and responsibilities of the Environmental Quality Commission.

Management Analyst II Paz provided an update on climate action plan (CAP) No. 5 efforts to eliminate fossil fuel from city operations, and reported on the Love Our Earth festival.

E. Adjournment

Chair Kabat adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Ori Paz, Management Analyst II

Minutes approved at the May 17, 2023 Environmental Quality Commission meeting.