



REVISED A G E N D A

CITY OF SEASIDE
ENVIRONMENTAL
COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING

440 Harcourt Avenue (Council Chamber)
Monday, March 27, 2023
5:30 PM

NOTICE: *The City Council and the City's Boards, Commissions and Committees, will hold its public meetings in person, with a virtual option for public participation based on availability. The City of Seaside utilizes Zoom tele-conferencing technology for virtual public participation; however, we make no representation or warranty of any kind, regarding the adequacy, reliability, or availability of the use of this platform in this manner. Participation by members of public through this means is at their own risk.*

VIRTUAL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION INSTRUCTIONS

- 1.** To view this meeting: Please click on the following link to the City of Seaside YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/CityofSeasideCalifornia>
- 2.** To participate in this meeting: Using the Zoom application on your smart phone, laptop, tablet or desktop and click on this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87169429120>
WEBINAR ID: 871 6942 9120
- 3.** To participate by phone: Please call (669) 900-9128
Enter the meeting ID 871 6942 9120 when prompted. There is no participate code – press the pound sign # after the recording prompts you.
- 4.** To make public comment, the following options are available:

Before the Meeting via Email: Written comments can be emailed to brocha@ci.seaside.ca.us Include the following subject line: "Public Comment Item #____" (insert the agenda item number relevant to your comment). Written comments must be received at least two (2) hours prior to the meeting time on the day of the meeting.

During the Meeting via Oral Comments: When the Chair calls for public comment, attendees can queue to speak with the "Raise Hand" feature. On the Zoom application, click the "Raise Hand" button. On the phone, press *9.

IN PERSON PARTICIPATION INSTRUCTIONS

Members of the public participating in person and wishing to address the City Council may approach the podium when the Chair calls for public comment.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

3. REVIEW OF AGENDA

If there are any items that arose after the 72-hour posting deadline, this is the point in the meeting where a vote may be taken to add the item to the agenda. (A 2/3-majority vote is required).

4. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR COMMISSIONS

Members of the public wishing to address the Commission on matters within the jurisdiction of the City of Seaside, but not on this agenda, may do so during the Public Comment period for up to three (3) minutes. Comments on specific agenda items are heard under that item. For the public record, please state your name.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 14, 2023

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. DISCUSS UPCOMING AND APPROVED STATE BILLS RELATED TO THE SCOPE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

B. REVIEW AND VOTE ON THE DRAFT LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION TO BE PROVIDED TO THE CITY COUNCIL REGARDING SUPPORTING AND BUILDING AWARENESS OF THE SOLAR ON MULTIFAMILY AFFORDABLE HOUSING (SOMAH) PROGRAM WITHIN THE CITY OF SEASIDE.

C. REVIEW THE DRAFT ANNUAL WORK PLAN AND VOTE TO APPROVE

7. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

8. REPORTS FROM STAFF

9. ADJOURNMENT

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting:
April 11, 2023
5:30 PM

The City of Seaside is committed to providing accessible facilities and accommodating people with disabilities in all of its services programs and activities. If special considerations are needed by any person to fully participate in this meeting, contact the City Clerk at (831) 899-6707 no fewer than two business days prior to the meeting to allow reasonable arrangements. Agendas and videos of past meetings are available on demand are posted at: <http://www.ci.seaside.ca.us/129/City-Council-Committee-Agendas>

Agenda-related writings or documents provided during public meetings are available for public inspection during the meeting or from the Office of the City Clerk. This agenda is posted in compliance with California Government Code Section 54954.2(a) or Section 54956.

The Seaside Environmental commission would like to recommend that the Seaside City Council help to support and build awareness about the Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing (SOMAH) program within the city.

SOMAH is the largest solar on affordable housing incentive program in the country. It provides financial incentives, with guaranteed funding, for installing photovoltaic (PV) energy systems on multifamily affordable housing. SOMAH is a 10-year, billion-dollar program to install 300 MW across the state.

SOMAH could provide a number of benefits to the Seaside community. This program can help our residents to reach their greening initiatives and decarbonization goals. All SOMAH projects require paid job trainees, creating job growth and economic development in your city. The program also includes minimal to no-cost solar installation for affordable housing with free technical assistance for property owners. The program provides direct financial benefit to tenants, decreasing energy bills. The program requires that 51% of financial benefits go to tenants and it prohibits rent increases to offset the cost of the system. Additionally, this program curbs fossil fuel use, reduces a property's carbon footprint and helps clean the air. Helps reach climate action plan goals.

SOMAH has already received nearly 400 applications to install over 69 megawatts of solar since launching. This means that statewide, over 30,000 tenants will start seeing savings on their energy bills; nearly 750 paid job training opportunities and 55,000 training hours will be generated. The program, only in Year 2, and will continue to build and grow impact across the next 8 years. The City of Seaside can help to build awareness about the program.

The Seaside Environmental Commission would like to recommend that our City Council help and support in building awareness and participation in the program. The Environmental Commission has identified two eligible properties in Seaside on the SOMAH website; Seaview Village Apartments on Waring Street and Del Monte Manor on Yosemite Street. Other properties may be eligible that are not within designated DACs (disadvantaged communities) if 80% of the tenants have 60% or lower AMI (area median income). An initial step for the City Council to learn about ways to increase Seaside residents' access to low/no cost clean energy could include inviting a SOMAH team member to present at a City Council meeting. The Environmental Commission has made contact with the SOMAH Program Administrator and would be happy to facilitate an introduction for the City Council to learn more.

Environmental Commission Annual Work Plan

Looking Ahead: FY 2022-2023

Reviewing Accomplishments: FY 2020-2021

Lacey Raak: Chair

Kristin Molle: Vice Chair

Mariana Del Valle

Laura Murphy

Michelle Overmeyer

Timothy Randazzo: Student

Vacant

Vacant

Mission Statement

The Environmental Commission investigates and advocates sound environmental policy and action in the areas of air quality, water quality, energy and waste management, flora and fauna protection and community planning.

General Duties

The Environmental Commission shall conduct public hearings and prepare recommendations to the City Council on matters regarding the environment to include without limitation unless otherwise noted:

- Draft, review and comment on City ordinances, policies and programs and state mandates related to: air and energy; flora, fauna and biome protection; environmental justice; and community planning topics expressly beyond the realm of the Planning Commission (The Planning Commission typically approves/denies resolutions to the City Council re. proposed ordinances. Also, they are a discretionary body that can issue Use Permits, variances, and a few other "exceptions" to Title 17: Zoning.)
- Serve in advisory capacity to the City Council, commissions, committees, and boards on related issues.
- Identify strategic environmental goals for the City and estimate resources needed to accomplish these goals, including investigating funding for programs that will benefit the community.
- Develop policies and plans for increasing environmental awareness and stewardship, in cooperation with other public and private agencies including school districts.

Responsibilities

The Environmental Commission shall:

- Meet not less than four times a year, with subcommittee work occurring during off-meeting months; and
- Monitor the City's progress and comply with principles established in Resolution 17-47; and
- Prepare an annual recommended work plan to the City Council no later than three months in advance of each fiscal year; and
- Work collaboratively with community partners to promote continued progress towards achieving Seaside's environmental goals and responsibilities; and
- Increase staffing or volunteer capacity to support the work of the Environmental Commission.

Fiscal Year Work Plan

1. Support Effective Implementation of the Priority Impact Plastic Pollution Prevention Policy (PIP4)

- a. Continue to support businesses during transition
- b. Align with other regional and State efforts, including SB1383, Blue Zones Project and other partners
- c. Enhance litter collection efforts as part of PIP4 and general community improvement.

2. Support an Active Transportation Network

- a. Recommend to City Council to support or oppose related State legislation specific to active transportation
- b. Continue to advocate for the City to adopt the Draft General Plan including recommendations to implement bus and bike lanes, road diets and an active transportation plan
- c. Support efforts for the City's Climate Action or Sustainability Plan
- d. Support developing dynamic pricing plan for parking in the Broadway corridor as a pilot program
- e. Encourage the development of a first mile/last mile transportation plan that includes adoption of docked and dockless e-bike and micro mobility solutions at key activity nodes

3. Planning and Infrastructure

- a. Collaborate with city staff in development of a comprehensive Climate Action Plan
- b. Provide comments during the review periods for Environmental Impact Reports for City projects and relevant projects for neighboring jurisdictions and as needed following staff presentations.
- c. Review and comments on relevant water conservation, utilization and infrastructure, including water pollution prevention projects and proposals

4. Habitat (Flora, fauna and biome protection)

- a. Pollinator Protection
 - i. Increase education and awareness of pollinator habitats in various Seaside parks cared for by members of the Environmental Commission, Friends of Seaside Parks Association, and Sustainable Seaside.
 - ii. Continue to meet the obligations of Seaside's designation as a BEE CITY USA Affiliate and prepare for filing a renewal application.

b. Trees

- i. Clarify roles and responsibilities of the EC and the Parks and Rec Commission, working with them to support trees within our community.
- ii. Review and update existing tree policies to better support community and habitat health.
- iii. Research historic tree cover and explore potential justice and equity considerations.

5. Directly Connect the Work of the Environmental Commission to People

- a. Engage thoughtfully with People of Color that demographically represent our community.
- b. Collaborate with other committees and commission to align efforts and improve communication and collaboration

6. Integrate Sustainability into Existing Events

Subcommittees: (TBD)

Administrative Considerations:

- Request ability to continue meeting remotely
- Request a meeting with all community/commissions to share work plans and identify areas of mutual interest or collaboration
- Have EC members attend meetings of other commissions/committees
- Anticipate and prepare for grant opportunities with staff

Background and Progress:

In 2018, the City Council approved the creation of the Environmental Committee. Once the committee was fully formed, their duties and responsibilities approved, the city proposed an ordinance to codify the committee, including the creation, composition, term and duties into the Municipal Code in perpetuity. The draft ordinance was introduced at the May 2, 2019 Regular City Council meeting and there was concern that more input was needed from the Commissions directly regarding the expansion as well as the naming of the commissions. The proposed draft was passed to print at the October 17, 2019 City Council meeting and the Environmental Committee became the Environmental Commission.

During 2020-2021, the Environmental Commission made progress and achievements related to the following:

- PIP4 was approved
 - o Incorporated some adjustments for COVID
 - o Included funding to initiate outreach and engagement, the consultant team has provided great value and effective implementation efforts
 - o Collaboration with stakeholders (non-profit, business,)
 - o Outreach was culturally appropriate and included Spanish translation
- Saturday Park Work Days
 - o Provided incredible value for both habitat improvement and community building.
 - o Collaboration with Blue Zones
 - o City Support from Facilities
 - o Continuing to meet Bee City requirements

During 2019-2020, the Environmental Commission made progress and achievements related to the following:

- Goal: The Environmental Commission will conduct community and business outreach as well as provide input to the city regarding the content of Seaside Municipal Code (SMC) 8.28: Solid Waste.

Progress: The Environmental Commission created a subcommittee to draft code amendments. The proposed amendments to SMC 8.28: Solid Waste will be considered by the city council in the near future along with amendments to SMC 8.60: Environmentally Preferable Food Packaging and 8.62: Use of Single-Use Carryout Bags, Recycled Paper Bags, and Reusable Bags by Retail Establishments.

- Goal: Provide input regarding code amendments to SMC 8.60: Environmentally Preferable Food Packaging.

Progress: The subcommittee that was formed to work on amendments to 8.28 and 8.62 also drafted a complete revision to 8.60. The following was accomplished regarding business outreach and associated work related to the draft amendments: the Environmental Commission discussed the proposed ordinance, conducted outreach, and discussed the proposed changes at 13 monthly commission public hearings over a period of 17 months. Additionally, 198 businesses were mailed letters about the proposed changes and targeted communications were sent to all 54 restaurants in the city. Two restaurant-specific stakeholder meetings were held at Seaside Creates and two different surveys were completed by approximately 22 businesses.

A Study Session with the City Council occurred on 2.6.2020. In March of 2020 the Committee determined to withdraw this agenda item from the City Council's April meeting in response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

- Goal: The Environmental Commission will support water and energy conservation efforts within the community and encourage best practices in City operations. Address Title 17: Zoning Ordinance, including various sections limiting sustainable installations, such as rainwater capture devices, on private property.

Progress: The Environmental Commission began to clarify a code interpretation that categorized rainwater capture devices as accessory structures.

Conversations with planning staff may lead to a reinterpretation that would not view rainwater collection devices as accessory structures and potentially lessening the discretionary review process for approval of installing such a device. Conversations with the Building Official have clarified the building code strapping requirements for devices over a certain height.

Staff Liaison Rocha has been in frequent contact with Public Works staff on behalf of the Environmental Commission as related to the pollinator habitat plantings. EC members and community partners continue to care for plantings at various parks throughout the community

No significant action was taken on Title 17.