



AGENDA
CITY OF SEASIDE
ENVIRONMENTAL
COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING
440 HARCOURT AVENUE (COUNCIL CHAMBER)
Monday, June 22, 2026
5:30 PM

Virtual Participation Guide: <https://www.ci.seaside.ca.us/129/City-Council-Committee-Agendas>
<https://ci-seaside-ca-us.zoom.us/j/85698098682> | WEBINAR ID 856 9809 8682 | (669) 900-9128

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL - ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Emily Gottlieb Chair
Kat Morgan Commissioner
Forrest Kinard Commissioner
Jeremy Hathaway Commissioner
Lora James Commissioner

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

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. APPROVE MINUTES FROM APRIL 27, 2026

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. PRESENTATION BY THE MONTEREY AUDUBON SOCIETY

B. PRESENTATION BY PATRICK STADILLE OF THE XERCES SOCIETY

C. DISCUSS SPENDING OF THE REMAINING EC BUDGET

7. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

8. REPORTS FROM STAFF

This is a time specifically set aside for the Staff Liaison to provide updates on non-agendized requests from the Commission, and to provide brief information on topics under the purview of the Commission.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting:
July 27, 2026
5:30 PM

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FINAL MINUTES

CITY OF SEASIDE
ENVIRONMENTAL
COMMISSION

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
Monday April 27, 2026
5:30 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Environmental Commission meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL - ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

PRESENT: Gottlieb, James, Morgan
ABSENT: Kinard, Hathaway

3. **REVIEW OF AGENDA**

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Diane Nielson, a community member, spoke about the outreach phase and the importance of distributing information to the public. She highlighted events in the park, distributed a sample flyer, and suggested that the EC consider tabling at the FOSPA event on June 20th, 2026.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approve minutes from March 23, 2026

On a motion by Commissioner Gottlieb, seconded by Commissioner James, and carried unanimously by the following vote, the Environmental Commission approved the March 23, 2026 minutes

RESULTS: 2, 0, 1, 2
AYES: Gottlieb, James,
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: Morgan
ABSENT: Kinard, Hathaway

5. **BUSINESS**

A. PRESENTATION FROM THE RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF MONTEREY COUNTY (LAURA MURPHY) REGARDING GRIZZLY CORPS FELLOWSHIPS AND CLIMATE CORPS.

Sally Norman, GrizzlyCorps Fellow and Laura Murphy with the Resource Conservation District of Monterey County, presented on habitat creation and urban greening efforts in Seaside.

The RCD supports conservation through technical assistance, pollinator habitat development, volunteer coordination, and community outreach. Current efforts include work at Roots Community Garden (Monterey Adult School) and collaboration with Friends of Seaside Parks Association (FOSPA) across eight parks, including planting, maintenance, workshops, outreach, and weekly produce distribution.

Planned 2026–2027 activities align with the City of Seaside Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) and include conservation management plans for Capra Park, Beta Park, Havana Soliz Park, and Roots Community Garden.

Workforce support includes Green Cadre crews and a range of fellows, interns, and volunteers, including proposed GrizzlyCorps Fellows (2), CSUMB service learners, College Corps Fellows, and up to 4 California Climate Action Corps Fellows. A key goal is to recruit 4 Climate Action Corps Fellows to engage approximately 400 community volunteers.

The California Climate Action Corps Urban Greening Specialist position will serve full-time from September 2026 to August 2027.

Funding sources include federal (NACD-NRCS), state (Wildlife Conservation Board, CDFG), and local partners (City of Seaside, CFMC, BZPMC, CSMC, FOSPA). A \$100,000 fundraising goal has been identified for 2026–2027.

Laura Murphy outlined an immediate outreach goal: to recruit CCAC fellows from local communities for the 2026-2027 period. These fellows will, in turn, engage at least 400 local volunteers to support the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan in Seaside and throughout Monterey County. This initiative aims to bolster RCDMC's urban greening efforts, support conservation workforce development, and advance community outreach goals.

Chair Gottlieb inquired about Sally's perspective on the Americore program for workforce development. Sally shared that she studied Conservation and Geology at CSUMB, where her education was largely theoretical and left many knowledge gaps. She mentioned that, coming from a university background, she realized there are various factors that might prevent people from being compelled to volunteer. However, she emphasized that volunteering is an excellent way to gain a practical understanding of how things function in the real world.

Commissioner James acknowledged that individuals like Sally inspire hope in the youth by actively engaging with the community. She thanked her for her efforts, expressed appreciation for her openness in sharing the challenges she faces, and asked what could make her role easier. Sally suggested greater involvement with local schools, allowing young students to teach their parents about community issues.

In response, Sally emphasized the need for more support in outreach and community engagement, as well as opportunities to encourage more people to spend time outdoors. Commissioner James also mentioned that the City has an annual fund, potentially around \$650,000, available to nonprofits.

She then inquired about the community's education on pesticides. Laura Murphy responded, noting that specific outreach on pesticide elimination has already been conducted, and that FOSPA is currently interested in facilitating further efforts in this area.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

This item was presented and discussed; no motion was made, and no vote was taken.

B. DISCUSSION REGARDING TREE PLANTING OPPORTUNITIES

Beth Rocha, Senior Planner and Environmental Commission (EC) Liaison, presented on the City's urban forestry initiatives and EC updates.

The City aims to expand Seaside's urban canopy by planting 5,000 trees by 2040, increasing coverage from 12% to 20%. A Community Tree Adoption Program will provide residents with trees and training to support planting and maintenance on private property. An overview of FOSPA-stewarded parks was also provided. Beth also presented a virtual tour through slides of various parks in Seaside, highlighting the current landscaping and emphasizing the need for additional tree planting, primarily for increased shade.

Beth suggested that the Commissioners, as they move around the city, take note of any areas that appear neglected or overlooked. Chair Gottlieb inquired about the process for planting trees. Beth explained that there isn't a set procedure in place. Commissioner Morgan pointed out that many parks lack shade. Commissioner James asked how the trees would be watered. Beth responded that there is still much to be determined, such as whether to use tanks or water bags, and suggested that they select one method and explore how it can be implemented. She also recommended engaging with the community to understand their concerns and visiting neighborhoods to converse with residents.

Commissioner Morgan asked if there was a water tank at Beta Park. Beth clarified that Beta Park has a hose bib, and she mentioned that food garden parks typically have hose bibs and sometimes water tanks.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

This item was presented and discussed; no motion was made, and no vote was taken.

C. ANNUAL WORK PLAN DISCUSSION

Beth Rocha, Senior Planner, and Environmental Commission (EC) Liaison recommended that the Commission make a motion to approve the Annual Work Plan, with specific goals and objectives discussed during the meeting to be incorporated into the final draft, which will be completed by the liaison, Beth Rocha.

2.19.030 Duties

The Environmental Committee is tasked with conducting public meetings and preparing recommendations to the City Council on various environmental matters, including but not limited to:

- A. Reviewing and providing comments on city ordinances, policies, programs, and state mandates related to environmental regulations, pollution abatement, clean water, air and energy, flora and fauna protection, and community planning beyond the Planning Commission's scope.
- B. Serving in an advisory capacity to the City Council, commissions, committees, and boards on environmental issues.
- C. Identifying strategic environmental goals for the city, estimating the resources needed to achieve them, and investigating funding opportunities for community benefit.
- D. Developing policies and plans to increase environmental awareness in collaboration with public and private agencies, including school districts.

The Annual Workplan will include a Mission Statement and outline the Committee's General Duties and Responsibilities.

The Commission reviewed its duties pursuant to Municipal Code 2.19.030, including advising the City Council, reviewing environmental policies and programs, identifying strategic goals and funding opportunities, and promoting environmental awareness. Regarding the Annual Workplan, the Commissioners engaged in discussion.

Commissioner James suggested providing quarterly updates to the City Council and inquired how often the Council would like to receive follow-up reports. Commissioner Morgan noted observing plastic cutlery at the Commissioner and Volunteer Appreciation event. Beth responded that she wasn't sure why that was the case but mentioned that the City has several policies in place. She also proposed creating advertisements for the City News to outline how frequently the EC attends events and suggested using the Public Comment section at City Council meetings as an additional avenue for outreach.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

On a motion by Commissioner Gottlieb, seconded by Commissioner James, and carried unanimously by the following vote, the Environmental Commission approved the annual work plan, with specific goals and objectives discussed tonight incorporated in the final draft, to be completed by liaison, Beth Rocha

RESULTS: 3, 0, 0, 2

AYES: Gottlieb, James, Morgan

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Kinard, Hathaway

D. BUDGET DISCUSSION

Beth Rocha, Senior Planner, and Environmental Commission (EC) Liaison provided a budget update. The EC must incur all expenses by 6/30/26, with payments allowable after that date. If the EC enters into a contract, the City can retain the full contract amount in the budget until it expires.

Expenditures:

- Candy/Chocolate: \$24.48
- Banner: \$280.50
- Wheel: \$43.06
- Tomato Plants (petty cash): \$20.00
- Tomato Plants: \$30.00

Total Spent: \$398.04

Remaining Balance: \$3,101.96

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

On a motion by Commissioner Gottlieb, seconded by Commissioner James, and carried unanimously by the following vote, the Environmental Commission approved \$500 for the June 20th FOSPA event and plant and tree giveaway for the table.

RESULTS: 3, 0, 0, 2

AYES: Gottlieb, James, Morgan

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Kinard, Hathaway

On a motion by Commissioner Gottlieb, seconded by Commissioner James, and carried unanimously by the following vote, the Environmental Commission approved to continue the budget discussion to the next regularly scheduled meeting

RESULTS: 3, 0, 0, 2

AYES: Gottlieb, James, Morgan

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Kinard, Hathaway

6. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Chair Gottlieb informed the Commission that the NIC did not recommend the EC's proposed projects but instead suggested a flat amount of \$5,000 be allocated toward tree planting and raised flower beds. Commissioner James shared that the City Council had discussed the idea of painting murals in various areas of the city. She noted that many residents are generally unaware of the City's commissions and

proposed focusing on outreach, such as creating flyers or educational materials for both children and adults. These materials could cover basic topics like littering, water conservation, and environmental education.

7. REPORTS FROM STAFF

None

8. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

On a motion by Commissioner Gottlieb, seconded by Commissioner Morgan and carried unanimously by the following vote, the Environmental Commission approved to adjourn

RESULTS: 3, 0, 0, 2

AYES: Gottlieb, James, Morgan

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Kinard, Hathaway

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Hancock, Committee Clerk

Emily Gottlieb, Chair



**CITY OF SEASIDE
STAFF REPORT**

Item No.: 6.C.

TO: Environmental Committee

BY: Eric Azriel, Associate Planner

DATE: June 22, 2026

SUBJECT: DISCUSS SPENDING OF THE REMAINING EC BUDGET

RECOMMENDATION

Consider and discuss spending.

BACKGROUND

The EC's budget as of April was at \$3,101.96, with an additional \$500 spending approved by the commission for spending related to the June 20th FOSPA event at which the EC will be present as a volunteer group.

ATTACHMENTS

None
