



MINUTES

CITY OF SEASIDE
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 12, 2019
5:30PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm.

2. **ROLL CALL – ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

PRESENT: Raak, Hawran, Murphy, Del Valle

ABSENT: Abraham-Panni, Molle

3. **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**

Resignation of Christine Revelas provided by Lacey Raak.

Introduction of two new Committee members: Jeremy Hawran and Mariana Del Valle.

4. **REVIEW OF AGENDA**

Moving Business Item 7E to earlier in the agenda.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Catherine Crockett with Sustainable Seaside spoke regarding Earth Day on April 28th.

Raak informed her that Earth Day will be discussed in item 7E.

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. **APPROVE MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 13, 2018**

On motion and seconded, minutes passed by a unanimous vote; the minutes for the January 8, 2019 meeting were approved. Date and time corrected.

7. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

A. CAPSTONE PROJECT UPDATE FROM MADDY MAURER, CSUMB
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE SERVICE LEARNING STUDENT

Maddy Maurer provided a brief overview on CSUMB Service Learning Fair to find Service Learning Students (SLS) join her team. Professors want her to incorporate a more global perspective in her research, focusing on how local waste is being exported and tie that into environmental justice. SLS who join will play a large role in the research, outreach to local businesses, etc. Green Business Certification pursued for City of Seaside and how Seaside can be a designator. Requested input on SLS work priorities and outreach.

Committee Input

Abraham-Panni: Research tasks: affordable alternatives with WMD supplier list, existing code language and draft amendments defining "affordable," based on cost increase. What's the feasibility of purchasing desired products? What is the cost differential and fiscal impact on businesses?

Raak: Question – Focus of research has changed based on professor guidance, so are there a set of standards or requirements for you (student) that can be shared so we can recommend academic-compatible suggestions?

Maddy: Service learning is more flexible than internships.

Public Comment: NONE

E. EARTH DAY CELEBRATION DISCUSSION

Raak: Let's hear from the community on what the Earth Day celebrations are about and how we can collaborate.

Catherine Crockett: Co-sponsor with City of Seaside, FOSPA, and the NIPC committee. We also want to plan a clean-up event at Robert's Lake from 1-2pm. We expect to have 20-25 community organizations with booths. Promote EPP code changes.

Raak: How can we support?

Crockett: Suggestions for clean-up event? Seastars?

Coble: Date? Sunday April 28th, 2-4pm

Murphy: Clarification on clean-up event and how we can help?

Crockett: We want to let everyone know what's going to be happening and offer up ideas for the event to make it as strong and inclusive as possible.

Raak: Think Beyond Plastic will be good to connect with for the event. Also, that the Env Committee have a booth. Audit litter pick-up to inform single-use plastics policy.

Staff Liaison Rocha: Last year we provided tree code information at the EC booth and a craft project for kids. Let's have better EC attendance and participation at the Earth Day event. On 4.20, I've arranged for MPC professor Peter Quintanilla to invite his tree pruning class to Broadway to get some hands-on experience doing structural pruning of the New Zealand Christmas trees. We will also mark other trees to guide the contractor on which branches to remove for the rest of the trees on Broadway. Spanish speakers will be accommodated. We hope to reach out to the public to listen in on the pruning guidance.

Molle arrived.

Molle: Clarified homeowner participation and outreach.

Public Comment: NONE

B. PROPOSED EDIT TO THE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT REGARDING THE CARBON FEE AND DIVIDEND BILL

Staff Liaison Rocha: The EC approved a memo to City Council and the HR bill number has changed, so this is for the EC to consider updating the new HR bill number. Molle motioned to rescind original, update number and approve, second: Coble, unanimously passed.

Public Comment: NONE

C. BEE CITY USA RESOLUTION

Staff Liaison Rocha: The Bee City USA Reso was provided, so I plugged in all required info. The responsibilities and obligations of the Bee City USA designation will be something the Env Comm will take on: publicity, website info, expanding pollination-friendly habitats, IPM plans, policy in general plan, annual report. We found out Seaside doesn't use pesticides in parks. I need input on why Seaside should be considered a

Bee City USA for consideration in our application. Please provide feedback on bulleted blanks

Molle: How would you prefer the feedback, verbally or email? I suggest we include the recent city code change regarding beekeeping by-right and a lot of Seaside's land is wild habitat: Fort Ord to official green spaces.

Murphy: I was glad to hear that our city isn't applying pesticides in parks, but herbicides in selective locations. Collaborate with community groups to encourage pollinator friendly plants in parks

Coble: Let's make sure public works isn't removing flowers that bees like.

Hawran: Maybe a tie to Monarch migration.

Raak: We are neighbors to significant Ag producers and the role bees play in making crop production possible.

Public Comment: NONE

D. GRANTS: RESOURCES, TRACKING, APPLICATIONS

SL Rocha: We need to track grant applications and their cycles so we can submit grant applications with enough time to prepare a good submittal. This can be done though an Excel doc, informed by your fellow committee members.

Raak: I remember this conversation happening in an opposite manner, regarding "shovel-ready" projects.

SL Rocha: True, that can be a component of the document. It won't take that much time for one member to take on this task.

Raak: Does the city have an existing list of projects?

SL Rocha: Yes, there is the CIP Plan, which I provided a while ago after the presentation by Rick Riedl.

Molle: What about partnering with other organizations in filing the grant applications?

Del Valle: Does the city have a list of grants they've received in the past?

SL Rocha: I can look into that, to grab some generic background information that stays static?

Coble: Can Mayor's Youth Fund be used for other projects?

CM Pacheco: I've only seen it for very youth specific things: sports, programs, services, etc.

CM Campbell: MYF is \$3000 max per year, so it's limited.

Public Comment: NONE

F. UPDATE FROM THE PLASTIC ORDINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE AND DISCUSSION OF REPLACING CHRISTINE REVELAS WITH ANOTHER MEMBER/S

Abraham-Panni: I'm not sure we have an update. We haven't met since before the last meeting. Beth has been collecting info on Draft Reso and other materials, so I will ask Beth to provide and update.

Murphy: We have not met, there has been some work done on definitions, background. I'm not sure where we are at except we have lost a subcommittee member.

SL Rocha: We took the existing Seaside code, starting with definitions and compared it to Monterey's new code. We plugged in and updated definitions, decided what needed to be expounded upon, updated, clarified, eliminated, based on there not being legal teeth to "compostable vs biodegradable." Just as an FYI, if you are going to be on a subcommittee, the meetings aren't going to be that frequent and when we do meet we are determining what tasks need to be accomplished between then and the next

meeting. Typically what happens is we play tag with documents and updating, providing comments, which will be passed onto the next member. We also updated the proposed Resolutions, which both Laura and Kera contributed. I'm hoping we can have two more people join to tackle these tasks. Let's be clear, this is going to be "work," so please stick around to hear the working group session to inform your decision to decide to join or not. It's going to be a long process, it will go before City Council, and you will likely speak about the proposed ordinance before the Council.

Raak: Who wants to participate on this subcommittee?

Del Valle: Yes.

Coble: When will we meet? Yes.

SL Rocha: Regarding meeting dates and times...I would be less concerned with attendance and more with being responsive to email communications, as the majority of work will be accomplished in the "in-between."

Abraham-Panni: Can we discuss the expertise needs the committee has and who may be able to fill those needs?

- Community engagement timeline
- Specific roles for committee members and tasks to usher through
- Technical research, liaising with WMD
- Phased-law that heads towards more reusable items

SL Rocha: It seems like we have a group of people assembled, with two new members that just joined minutes ago. Under the guidance of our chair, making sure our sub-committee members are being effective in accomplishing tasks.

Raak: I anticipate having a role and being involved. In the workgroup this evening will begin to understand the depth of work that needs to be done.

Public Comment: NONE

G. PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED MEMORANDUM REGARDING PLASTICS ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS (TO BE PROVIDED TO COUNCIL)

SL Rocha: We specified an implementation date of the EPP ordinance of April, but there is a lot of work ahead that we need to do and won't meet that deadline. At the time it was approved, it accurately represented what we wanted to accomplish and now we want to accomplish more. I don't believe it needs to be moved forward at this time.

Murphy: Given all that has been discussed, we are looking at going much further with the proposed ordinance, so we should vote to rescind the memo. At this point we aren't ready to say anything to council.

Raak: What's the best process in terms of notifying council?

SL Rocha: We need to look at the Council's calendar, placing it on the agenda where we have: staff report written, resolution complete, and ordinance done. So, more so near the end.

Public Comment: NONE

Murphy: Rescind memo and not proceed with a new memo, second: Bob.

Ayes: Molle, Raak, Hawran, Murphy, Coble, Del Valle

Noes: Abraham-Panni

H. THE CITY OF BERKELEY: PLASTIC ORDINANCE

Raak: Berkeley passed a new plastic ordinance. This presentation will touch on the Berkeley policy where they voted to go a step further with their policy for eliminating

single-use food ware by 2022. This is an option we can entertain. Food vendors can charge customers for disposable cups and containers. Customers can provide their own reusable containers.

Berkeley's Zero Waste Commission, like our group will require the collaboration of a lot of community stakeholders. I encourage all committee members to review the policy. I reached out to Marina WMD re the anaerobic digester. There can be ramifications if there is a large influx of a certain material into the digester, which could be due to increased in compostable material going into the digester. However, that won't be an issue. Most products are made from corn starch and that acts as an ignitor, but it's an annual crop that requires a lot of pesticides. Most BPI certified products do not degrade in a marine environment, so if it ends up in the ocean it won't biodegrade. There is helpful information on impacts on locally-owned restaurants vs chains. "Go- Box" is used on many college campuses, which is a reusable container system. There are drop-off sites and recirculated to restaurants.

Molle: How would Go-Box work on a large scale?

Raak: I have a call in to the company. Large chain discussion regarding corporate mandates vs. putting undue burden on small, local businesses just because it's harder to get corporations to comply

Hawran: The Berkeley report mentioned increased water usage for reusable containers. How will this impact our area and prices?

Raak: Lack of water credits definitely might keep a Seaside restaurant from having a dishwasher.

Abraham-Panni: Research some limitations due to lack of water for businesses.

8. **REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Murphy: Call to Action from the Xerces Society. Monarch butterfly decline. Overwintering sites and breeding sites. Milkweed is a supportive plant for monarchs, but it's not appropriate to have in Seaside, which is within 5 miles of the coast, and is an overwintering site for the butterflies. Milkweed is a breeding plant for the butterflies. Let's share this info with our community and not promote planting milkweed in our city. Further explanations provided by **Molle**, regarding the harmful nature of milkweed.

I. **WORKING SESSION: PLASTICS ORDINANCE**

SL Rocha: If you need to leave, please let us know (7pm): **Raak**

Abraham-Panni: The minutes we approved are not correct.

SL Rocha: The date is wrong; the minutes on the items are from last meeting and are correct.

Sub-committee discussion:

Abraham-Panni: I've identified issues, recommended assignments. Recommend: we identify the "sticky issues," doing research, and discuss the findings.

SL Rocha: Let us know what you want to work on, what elements are of interest to you. Research, code suggestions, community outreach, etc. I'm less here to advise you on what to do next than I am to support you in what you want to do next. I will provide all we have worked on to the new members.

Del Valle: Community outreach, ordinance research.

Coble: Research.

Abraham-Panni: Provided a general overview of what we've researched so far in terms of other city codes, the unanswered questions we have and need to define Monterey + approach.

Murphy: Community input on our scope needs to happen in an inviting way that encourages creative input. What comes first, scope or community?

Del Valle: How can we get stakeholders involved and how can this ordinance help us. Monterey had a draft proposal then asked the community and businesses to share their challenges, as well as businesses that were already doing what the new code was proposing. Fast-food might have been excluded.

Abraham-Panni: We need to define scope, invite public, then revise based on feedback.

SL Rocha: Defining "affordability" and the ability of people to get paper straws, which is becoming more and more difficult. This "affordable" element might eliminate certain businesses from being exempt from the proposed code. We need data on that good-provider list for compostable goods and the costs. How can the regulations be beneficial to their business and the environment? A good provided can be charged for by the business.

Abraham-Panni: What's the consensus on our approach - Monterey -, Monterey equivalent, Monterey +, Monterey + with fee for single use materials?

Murphy: "Monterey +" approach with fee to be charged to customer, if supported by local businesses.

Del Valle: "Monterey + with fee," Go Box option, and no petro-based products.

Coble: I don't know enough to make a suggestion.

Abraham-Panni: Monterey + that doesn't allow recyclable plastic. Compostable only and assessing a fee. Lightens burden on business and places it on customer. Too far to ban bio-plastics vs fiber only, just as a matter of feasibility/convenience of serving up certain types of food: hot, liquid, etc.

Coble move to adjourn, second Abraham-Panni. Unanimous.

9. REPORTS FROM STAFF

NONE.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 PM.