



MINUTES

CITY OF SEASIDE
REGULAR MEETING
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
COUNCIL CHAMBER

Tuesday, April 9, 2019
5:30PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm.

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

PRESENT: Raak, Hawran, Murphy, Del Valle, Abraham-Panni

ABSENT: Molle

3. **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**

4. **REVIEW OF AGENDA**

Unanimous vote to add item C. Presentation by CSUMB Students (Motioned by Abraham-Panni, seconded by Murphy).

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Cathy Rivera spoke about Sustainable Seaside's interest in collaborating with the Environmental Committee on a community event, especially the Sustainable Home Tour. Sustainable Seaside needs help in finding new homes to put on the tour, and outreach to the community. Discussed the possibility of creating a Sustainable Living Fair.

-----Commissioner Molle Arrived 5:39-----

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. **APPROVE MINUTES FROM MARCH 12, 2019**

On motion by Murphy and second by Hawran, minutes passed by a unanimous vote; the minutes for the March 12, 2019 meeting were approved.

7. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

- A. LANDON HOFMAN, OWNER OF MULTIPLE MCDONALD'S RESTAURANTS IN MONTEREY COUNTY, WILL SHARE HIS EXPERIENCE IN TRANSITIONING TO COMPOSTABLE GOODS AT HIS MONTEREY STORE.

Invited guest was not present, by SL Rocha provided a summary of her conversation with Landon Hofman regarding his transition to EPP at his McDonald's store in Monterey as required of their ordinance.

B. PRESENTATION BY BROOKE WRIGHT OF ECOLOGY ACTION REGARDING THE MONTEREY BAY AREA GREEN BUSINESS PROGRAM

Provided overview of program. Ecology Action was hired to increase the intern and volunteer program. Previously, each jurisdiction paid a fee, but in 2018 a \$1MIL grant was given to grow the program, an additional \$1MIL was awarded in 2019. They are hoping for \$2MIL next round keeping the exponential growth of the program moving upwards. The money can also be used for marketing to help with outreach to businesses. SL Rocha, Raak, Murphy, and Molle asked questions about energy savings: electricity and water conservation, cost savings to businesses, and how is the cost benefit analysis done for product lifecycles.

C. CSUMB Student Update

Maddy: The service learners will have a table at Earth Day and might having a waste sorting game set up. The local business survey is complete and it incorporates elements from other local surveys on the same topic. Mariana Del Valle to review survey and Spanish version too. Molle, Del Valle, Raak, and Abraham-Panni provided feedback and suggestions to the students regarding their proposed Earth Day activity.

D. ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PACKAGING (EPP) SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

Abraham-Panni: Definitions of who the code will regulate: food service providers vs prepared foods. The sub-committee has started a document with questions to send to MRWMD. Also exploring businesses charging a fee for new EPP goods. Intention is to produce amendments that require certifiable compostable food packaging. Primary benefit of compostables will be diversion not waste control. "Certifiable Compostable" means able to break down with an industrial compostable facility and informed the reason why we removed "biodegradable," which isn't legally defined.

Raak: Spoke to the tendency to get on the "hot items": straws and cups, but it's important to define the broader application. What's the core of the policy, but also the periphery (outreach, community, waste haulers, and increased compost collection. Focus on memo to council. Still concerned about compostable plastics on marine life. Is the solution to hint at the future, that what we're writing now isn't the ultimate?

Murphy: We can be more restrictive in some of our definitions

Molle: Would the code have a grace period or set time period of 180 days before becoming effective?

Molle and Del Valle provided input and suggestions regarding timeline and CSUMB survey becoming part of the subcommittee outreach.

Public Comment: Natalie Olivas – What's the end result of compost ending up in a regular waste facility?

Maddy Maurer – MRWMD talked about expansion of Organics to Energy program as to why we are so focused on compostable goods.

E. ANNUAL WORK PLAN

SL Rocha discussed goals, objectives, and accomplishments over the past year and looking forward. Let's refocus on rainwater capture devices, which we named earlier in the year as being a concern of the committee.

Public Comment – None

Motion Murphy, second Molle, unanimously approved.

F. EARTH DAY PURCHASE SUMMARY

Chair Raak and SL Rocha provided an overview of items purchased for upcoming Earth Day event and also to be used later, as related to Bee City activities.

Public Comment – Tiffany Rivera. Are these just for Earth Day? Raak explained intent. Tiffany mentioned making reusable ziplock bags.

G. CLIMATE RESOLUTION

Raak: Last city council meeting CM Wizard proposed a Reso in support of addressing climate change, loosely connected with the Green New Deal.

It was approved to be discussed at a later council meeting. SL Rocha – you always have the option of submitting comments via email.

Public Comment – None

8. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

A. EARTH DAY VOLUNTEER UPDATE

Raak: we have a good group signed up to volunteer. Sustainable Seaside created a flyer for the event too. Thank you.

B. GRANT TRACKING UPDATE

Hawran: the only feedback we got for grants were from Murphy. Most of the grants I looked up have already passed, but I set a reminder for the next cycle on the calendar. I also did research on GrantGopher and researched local grants coming up in Aug and September. I need some feedback from the group, so I will do some more research:

environmental upgrades, habitat restoration. Grants vary from \$12k-\$100k. Many grants have specific organizational requirements limiting them to non-profits. I will report back on their responses regarding our eligibility. I still need suggestions on where to find more grants.

9. REPORTS FROM STAFF

A. CITY COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT CREATED BY CITIZENS' CLIMATE LOBBY (CCL) REGARDING HR 763

SL Rocha provided update to the EC regarding the CC approval of the Reso of Support.

- B. APRIL 20TH BROADWAY TREE PRUNING COLLABORATION WITH THE ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE PROGRAM OF MONTEREY PENINSULA COLLEGE

SL Rocha provided info on event with MPC tree pruning course.

- C. BEE CITY USA RESO APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL APRIL 4, 2019

It's official, Seaside is a Bee City Affiliate. We will have some work to do over the year to meet the obligations of the designation.

10. ADJOURNMENT

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