

CITY OF CUPERTINO SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION  
Environmental Education Center 22221 McClellan Road

Thursday January 18, 2018 4:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Angela Chen, Gary Latshaw, Vignesh Swaminathan, Anna Weber (arrived @ 4:08 p.m.), Meera Ramanathan (arrived @ 4:16 p.m.)

Commissioners Absent: none

Staff: Misty Mersich, Sustainability Manager; Cheri Donnelly, Environmental Programs Manager; Brian Babcock, Public Information Officer

Members of Public: Joan Chin

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Action Item:** Draft minutes of December 21, 2017 meeting reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Swaminathan and 2nd by Commissioner Latshaw. Motion passed 3-0-2, with Commissioners Weber and Ramanathan absent.

**POSTPONEMENTS**

None.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Subject: Finalize Sustainability Champion category for CREST Awards**

Brian Babcock, Public Information Officer, summarized the new CREST Awards categories for this year, which include: Lifetime Achievement, Volunteer of the Year, Volunteer Organization of the Year, Rising Star, Innovator of the Year, Public Safety Person of the Year, and Distinguished Artist of the Year. Commissioners discussed with Mr. Babcock the appropriate name and application questions for a sustainability award.

It was determined that the award will be called “Sustainability Champion of the Year,” and there will be three questions for the application:

1. What did the nominee do?
2. How is the action innovative, exceptional, exemplary or inspirational?
3. What was the current or future impact on the community/environment? (include quantitative impacts if possible)

The call for nominations will go out at the end of January with applications due February 28<sup>th</sup>. At the March meeting the Commission will review all applications and choose a winner.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **2. Subject: Cherry Blossom Festival and other festival planning**

This year the festival is April 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>. The Commissioners are interested in tabling for one of the days. Staff will reach out to the PIO office to see if any other commissions or City departments plan to table and explore the possibility of sharing a table.

### **4. Subject: Student Green Grant Guidelines**

Commissioners Weber and Ramanathan distributed a draft of a green grant that would be given to K-12 students. Grant awards will be given up to \$250. Commissioners discussed details of the program, and Commissioners Weber and Ramanathan will work on revising the guidelines to be disseminated to all the commissioners before posting and advertising. Staff will look into ways of reaching out to the high schools, as Peachjar might only be for CUSD.

### **4. Subject: Sustainability Speaker Series planning**

Commissioners Latshaw and Chen announced confirmation of a speaker from NASA for a talk to be held on April 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in Community Hall. The Commission discussed how to set up Community Hall for the event. Staff will look into getting a large screen that can be set up in the middle of the room. The Commissioners would like to serve refreshments. Commissioner Chen will reach out to the library to create a flyer and advertise.

### **5. Subject: Supporting Climate Legislation**

Commissioner Latshaw reported that there are some bills and legislation that the Commission might want to support, particularly SB100: 100% clean energy and AB1745: related to zero emissions cars by 2040. Commissioners discussed the best action, and it was determined that Commissioner Latshaw will draft a letter to be circulated among

the commissioners that can be sent on to the Legislation Action Committee for consideration.

## **STAFF AND COMMISSION REPORTS**

### **Commission Reports:**

Commissioner Swaminathan reported that he contacted Santa Clara University and they cannot bring the Sustainable House to Cupertino, due to cost restrictions.

Commissioner Weber announced that students at Kennedy Middle School are starting a composting program. City staff is providing material bins. The school is going to conduct a waste audit and the students will create videos and posters.

### **Staff Updates:**

- There are two new vacancies on the Commission, as terms expire for Commissioners Latshaw and Chen at the end of January 2018. Interviews for the positions take place on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- The Mayors State of the City will take place on January 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Sustainability Division to hire a new Climate Corps Bay Area member, who will start in mid-February.
- Sponsorships for Earth Day are being accepted this year. Silicon Valley Clean Energy has signed up as the first sponsor.
- Cheri Donnelly reported on a recently awarded a food rescue grant from CalRecycle.

**ADJOURNMENT- 5:51 p.m.**