

CITY OF CUPERTINO SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
Environmental Education Center 22221 McClellan Road

Thursday September 20, 2018 4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Meera Ramanathan, Anna Weber, Gary Latshaw, Angela Chen, Vignesh Swaminathan

Staff: Misty Mersich, Sustainability Manager, Roger Lee, Assistant Director of Public Works, Cheri Donnelly, Environmental Manager

Guest: Diane Russell, Citizens Climate Lobby

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Action Item: Draft minutes of June 21, 2018 and July 12, 2018 meetings reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes from both meetings was made by Commissioner Chen and 2nd by Commissioner Weber. Motion passed 5-0.

POSTPONEMENTS

None.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Latshaw reminded the Commissioners about a presentation they received from Molly Culton from Sierra Club on the Buy Clean effort. The City Council sent a letter in support of the legislation. Recently, the City of Richmond passed a resolution in support of the effort. Commissioners discussed the possibility of the City of Cupertino looking into passing its own resolution in support and look into adopting our own Buy Clean policy. There is interest in looking at how this could include concrete. This will be put on the agenda for a future meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Subject: Study Citizens Climate Lobby Fee and Dividend Carbon Tax Initiative

Commissioners heard a presentation from Diane Russell, a volunteer with Citizens Climate Lobby on the idea of a national fee and dividend carbon tax. Commissioners discussed what they can do to support such an effort. Diane explained that there are two options that the City can take action

- Pass a resolution to urge US Congress to take action on GHG's in general
- Pass a resolution, urging US Congress to take action by endorsing or specifically support a national carbon fee and dividend.

Diana will send staff a list of CA cities joining efforts or passing resolutions around the state. Staff will draft resolution language for Commission review at the next meeting.

2. Subject: Commercial Organics Reimbursement & Franchise Agreement Update

Roger Lee gave an update on the franchise agreement with Recology, and how it costs more to process the additional amount of organics that the City used to send to the landfill. An amendment to the franchise agreement will be going to Council on Oct. 2nd for less than \$8,000 to cover this cost. Recology has been taking the organics, but hasn't had to raise rates to do this. The City will also be participating in a study to examine whether it makes sense to send material to the SMART station sometime in the future. Cheri Donnelly reported that staff conducted a waste characterization study and tonnage audit of residential services. The results show that there is some organics going into the landfill carts and our recyclables are somewhat contaminated.

3. Update on Global Recycling

Cheri Donnelly gave an update on the status of recycling in the City. China has more stringent rules on recyclables it will take, and requires a less than 1% contamination rate. The message for everyone is to keep recycling, but make sure your material is Clean, Empty and Dry. This messaging and action will help in reducing contamination. Staff is working on a city-wide messaging campaign to get the word out.

4. Storm Drain Mail-In Ballot Potential

Roger Lee gave an update on a study session Council had in August on storm drain fees. Currently, residents pay \$12/year, and there hasn't been an increase since 1992. This amount doesn't cover the full and actual cost to maintain the system, so therefore it

is currently heavily subsidized by the general fund. Staff will be looking at options to poll residents to determine an appropriate increase, which will be voted on by a possible special election mail in ballot next year.

5. Student Essay Contest

Commissioners Chen and Latshaw passed out draft rules for a student essay contest. Commissioners discussed whether criteria should be judged by grade or by school, and how to narrow down the essay topic. Commissioners discussed releasing the context in January to be awarded in spring 2019. Commissioners can review the document and send any feedback to staff. This item will be continued on the next agenda.

STAFF AND COMMISSION REPORTS

- The next third Thursday in October is the date of the Sustainability Speaker Series, *"Electrification as a Solution to Climate Change"*. Staff will send a Doodle Poll to Commissioners to determine the next Sustainability Commission meeting date.
- Commissioner Ramanathan attended the Mayors meeting, where Mayor Paul suggested that the Commission give a presentation to Council at a future meeting.

ADJOURNMENT- 6:15 p.m.