

CITY OF CUPERTINO SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
Environmental Education Center 22221 McClellan Road

Thursday November 15, 2018 4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Anna Weber, Gary Latshaw, Vignesh Swaminathan, Meera Ramanathan (arrived at 5pm)

Absent: Angela Chen

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

Guest: Rhoda Fry, Councilmember Elect Liang Chao, Councilmember Steven Scharf

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Action Item: Draft minutes of October 30, 2018 meetings reviewed. Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Swaminathan and 2nd by Commissioner Latshaw. Motion passed 3-0, with Commissioners Chen and Ramanathan absent.

POSTPONEMENTS

None.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Public Comment: Councilmember elect Liang Chao introduced herself to the Commission and expressed her interest to learn more about the sustainability and climate action efforts in the City.

Public Comment: Rhoda Fry would like to explore gas powered leaf blowers. Many cities around have banned them, and there might be some issues the Commission should look into. Public Works staff let everyone know that blowing leaves into the street is against City ordinance, and can be reported to the City.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Subject: Storm Management Fee Update

Roger Lee, Assistant Director of Public Works gave an update on the status of reviewing the storm management fees. Currently there is a significant shortfall in covering the cost to maintain the storm drains, as fees are currently only \$12/year for residential properties. This is the lowest in the region and they haven't been raised in a long time and therefore costs are being subsidized by the general fund. There was a study session with Council to discuss the process in August. Neighboring cities have put fee increases on the ballots. Mr. Lee discussed the process for assessing the correct fee structure, which includes surveying property owners, reviewing results and bringing recommendations to Council in January. A discussion and Q&A of the process commenced. Commissioners suggested using different language than green infrastructure, because that term might not be easy for residents of the City to understand.

2. Subject: Student Essay Contest

Commissioners discussed the status of the essay contest rules, and whether this should be a grant or a contest, and what the difference is. Can we partner with the teachers to have it be an assignment? Is this a contest where multiple winners are included? One to each grade level? One to each school? Target is 6-8 graders, middle schoolers. There as a suggestion that the example topics be removed, so students can choose their own topics. In Cupertino there are 5 middle schools. Members of the public and guests asked a few questions and Commissioners provided context as to what they are trying to do with this student essay contest. Commissioner Latshaw and Chen will work together to bring a draft back to the Comission in January.

3. Subject: Study Support for Citizens Climate Lobby Fee and Dividend Carbon Tax Initiative

Misty updated the Commission on the latest draft of the resolution. Commissioner Latshaw suggested that he had a few items that he would like to see incorporated. Since this is not a time sensitive item, Commissioner Latshaw and Misty will work to combine the two versions and bring a new version to the Commission in January for review and approval.

NEW BUSINESS

4. Subject: Presentation on Passive House Building

Rhoda Fry, a City resident and local general contractor gave a presentation to educate the Commission on the concept of Passive House. She passed out one handout which had research on local green building codes and Passive House standards.

Commissioners discussed the City's own green building codes and how they might compare to other cities. There was an interest in working to strengthen our codes to make our buildings greener. Staff will look into what this would look like and bring information back to the Commission.

STAFF AND COMMISSION REPORTS

- Staff talked about an e-mail virus scam being passed around the City that could possibly impact Commissioners email accounts. Emails that look like they are from City staff or school district representatives, are actually not and contain attachments with viruses and malware. Commissioners are reminded to scroll down to the bottom of their City email accounts to view the Total Control Panel which will show who the email is actually from. In some cases the email From section had the correct name and email associated with it, but the contents of the email was a little funny and the signature information was wrong, and scrolling down you will see that the email is actually from someone trying to scam the email reader. Any suspicious emails should be sent to IT dept.
- Commissioners discussed canceling the December meeting, Motion to cancel the December 20th, 2018 meeting was made by Commissioner Latshaw and 2nd by Commissioner Ramanathan. Motion passed 4-0, with Commissioner Chen absent. The next meeting will be January 17th, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT- 6:10 p.m.