

City of Capitola

Commission on the Environment Meeting Minutes



Wednesday, March 20, 2024– 6:00 PM

Capitola City Hall, Community Room
420 Capitola Avenue, Capitola, CA 95010

Chair: Michelle Beritzhoff-Law
Vice Chair: Jason Shepardson
Council Member: Margaux Morgan
Commissioners: Anthony Lacenere, Peter Wilk
Youth Member: Tucker Graessle

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call** - Chair Beritzhoff-Law called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
Commissioners Present: Michelle Beritzhoff-Law, Jason Shepardson, Margaux Morgan, Anthony Lacenere, Peter Wilk
Absent: Tucker Graessle
City Staff Present: Erika Senyk

- 2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda**
No additions or deletions to the agenda.

- 3. Oral and Written Communications**
Goran Klepic, Santa Cruz County resident, spoke about concerns related to suspected activity of dealing of illegal substances in Capitola Village.

- 4. Consider the minutes from the February 21, 2024 Commission on the Environment Meeting**

Motion to approve the minutes: Commissioner Wilk
Seconded: Commissioner Lacenere
Motion passed 5-0-0

- 5. General Business**

- A. Selection of 2024 Chair and Vice Chair**
Recommended Action: Nominate and select the Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission on the Environment for 2024.

Motion to nominate Jason Shepardson for Chair of the Commission on the Environment for calendar year 2024: Commissioner Wilk
Seconded: Commissioner Morgan
Motion passed 5-0-0

Motion to nominate Anthony Lacenere for Vice Chair of the Commission on the Environment for calendar year 2024: Commissioner Wilk
Seconded: Chair Shepardson
Motion passed 5-0-0

B. Soquel Creek and Noble Gulch Maintenance

Recommended Action: Discuss potential projects related to the Soquel Creek and Noble Gulch Maintenance Plan and identify funding opportunities.

Staff presented 2024 updates to the Implementation Matrix for the Soquel Creek Lagoon Management Enhancement Plan Update for the Fish Habitat Restoration/Protection, Riparian Vegetation Enhancement, and Funding Sources sections.

The Commission discussed potential projects and funding sources for Soquel Creek environmental improvement projects such as volunteer invasive riparian vegetation removal and habitat improvement projects for juvenile Steelhead.

The Commission discussed potential funding opportunities such as the COE pursuing available grants and leveraging unutilized funds from the ESHA Riparian Vegetation Planting Reimbursement Program.

Motion to close the Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA) Riparian Vegetation Planting Reimbursement Program on July 1, 2024, to leverage unutilized funds for other riparian projects: Commissioner Morgan
Seconded: Commissioner Beritzhoff-Law
Motion passed 5-0-0

6. Items for Future Agenda

The Commission requested that the following items be agendized for a future meeting:

- Invite George McMenamin, the City's consultant for invasive riparian vegetation removal, to discuss potential projects for the COE or community volunteers to participate in.
- Discuss a potential White Roof Rebate Program that incentivizes residents and business owners to reduce energy usage.
- Discuss ideas for improving enforcement of regulations prohibiting the use of plastic straws and plastic pollution.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm to the next Regular Meeting of the Commission on the Environment on April 17th, 2024.

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Erika Senyk", written over a horizontal line.

Erika Senyk, Environmental Projects Manager

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jason Shepardson", written over a horizontal line.

Jason Shepardson, Chair