City of Capitola

Commission on the Environment Meeting Minutes

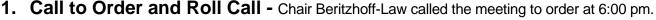
Wednesday, March 20, 2024- 6:00 PM

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



Commissioners Present: Michelle Beritzhoff-Law, Jason Shepardson, Margaux Morgan, Anthony

Lacenere, Peter Wilk

Absent: Tucker Graessle

City Stoff Propert: Erike St

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

<u>Recommended Action</u>: 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

<u>Recommended Action:</u> 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.

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ATTEST:

Erika Senyk, Environmental Projects Manager

Jason Shepardson, Chair