

City of Capitola

Commission on the Environment Meeting

Minutes



Wednesday, May 15, 2024– 6:00 PM

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

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

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call** - Chair Shepardson called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.
Commissioners Present: Jason Shepardson, Anthony Lacenere, Margaux Morgan, Michelle Beritzhoff-Law
Absent: Peter Wilk, 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**
- 4. Consider the minutes from the March 20, 2024 Regular Commission on the Environment Meeting**

Motion to approve the minutes: Council Member Morgan
Seconded: Commissioner Commissioner Beritzhoff-Law
Motion passed 4-0-1
- 5. General Business**

A. Invasive Riparian Vegetation Removal

Recommended Action: Discuss potential projects and identify funding sources for the removal of invasive vegetation along Soquel Creek and Noble Gulch.

The Commission spoke with George McMenamin, the City's contractor for invasive riparian vegetation removal, and agreed to attend a 2-3 hour volunteer training session with Mr. McMenamin to learn proper techniques for invasive plant removal. The Commission directed staff to coordinate a date, time, and location for the training in late spring/early summer 2024.

B. Capitola Wharf Interpretive Signage

Recommended Action: Provide input to staff on proposed themes and key messages for educational signage on the new Capitola Wharf.

Erika Senyk, Environmental Projects Manager, presented the staff report.

The Commission reviewed and discussed the proposed signage themes for the Capitola Wharf Interpretive Signage project and provided the following feedback to staff:

- The welcome kiosk signage should include information on how to have 'good etiquette' while visiting the wharf (e.g., how to use this space safely, where to clean your fish)
- Include water safety information on the welcome kiosk signage
- Keep the theme of Capitola consistent throughout signage messaging
- Include a reminder that we are in the wildlife's home and those animals were here first
- Could include a photo of City staff meeting President Biden on one of the signs
- Use terminology that is easy for the general public to comprehend, keep guidelines simple, and keep content understandable and relatable.

C. COE Goals Presentation

Recommended Action: Discuss a presentation by the COE for an upcoming City Council meeting to provide additional information on the COE's proposed goals for FY 2023-25.

The Commission agreed that Chair Shepardson and Commissioner Beritzhoff-Law would present the proposed COE bylaws and goals at the May 23, 2024 City Council Meeting.

6. Items for Future Agenda

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

- Discuss ideas for improving enforcement of regulations prohibiting the use of plastic straws and plastic pollution.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 pm to the next Regular Meeting of the Commission on the Environment on June 19th, 2024.

ATTEST:



Erika Senyk, Environmental Projects Manager



Anthony Lacenere, Vice Chair