

City of Capitola

Commission on the Environment Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 18, 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

1. Call to Order and Roll Call – Vice Chair Lacenere called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Commissioners Present: Anthony Lacenere, Michelle Beritzhoff-Law, Peter Wilk

Absent: Jason Shepardson, Margaux Morgan

City Staff Present: Erika Senyk

2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

No additions or deletions to the agenda.

3. Oral and Written Communications

Commissioner Wilk informed the Commission regarding oral communications with a member of the Business Improvement Area regarding increasing the number of receptacles for trash, recycling, and organics recycling along the Esplanade.

4. Staff Comments

Staff provided announcements regarding the Wharf Grand Opening event on September 25th, logistics for conducting a special meeting with George McMenamain for an invasive plant species removal training, and a reminder from the City Clerk's office to submit applications for reappointment to the COE by November 22nd.

5. Consider the minutes from the May 15, 2024 and June 19th, 2024 Regular Commission on the Environment Meetings

Recommended Action: Approve minutes.

Motion to approve the May 15, 2024 minutes: Vice Chair Lacenere

Seconded: Commissioner Beritzhoff-Law

Motion passed 3-0-2 (Council Member Morgan and Chair Shepardson absent)

Motion to approve the June 19, 2024 minutes: Commissioner Wilk

Seconded: Vice Chair Lacenere

Motion passed 3-0-2 (Council Member Morgan and Chair Shepardson absent)

6. General Business

A. Plastic Pollution Enforcement

Recommended Action: Review and discuss sample flyer and proposed plan for notifying Capitola business of single use plastics regulations.

The Commission requested that a list of alternative foodware products, drafted by Environmental Innovations, Inc., is attached to the flyers that will be distributed to businesses in the Capitola Village regarding regulations for disposable serviceware.

The Commission requested that the draft flyer be sent to Environmental Innovations, Inc. for review and a quality control check prior to distribution.

The Commission requested for the results of the CalRecycle visit on October 8, 2024 to be shared at the October COE meeting in the Staff Comments portion of the meeting.

Motion for the City to distribute the “Reminder for Restaurants” flyer after the 2024 election, but before January 1, 2025: Vice Chair Lacenere

Seconded: Commissioner Wilk

Passed: 3-0-2 (Council Member Morgan and Chair Shepardson absent)

B. Invasive Riparian Vegetation Removal Projects

Recommended Action: Discuss potential projects for removal of invasive vegetation along Soquel Creek and Noble Gulch riparian habitats.

The Commission discussed pursuing grant opportunities related to riparian restoration projects. Commissioner Beritzhoff-Law to contact San Lorenzo River nonprofit to inquire about grant opportunities for Soquel Creek native plant restoration projects.

The Commission is to review George McMenamain’s proposal, “Evaluation and Discussion of the Rispin Riparian Areas Relating to Invasive Plant Species Control and Benefits” prior to the regularly scheduled October COE meeting.

7. Items for Future Agenda

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

- Soquel Creek native plant restoration projects
- Review of a draft RFP for updating the City’s Climate Action Plan
- White roof rebate program

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm to the next Regular Meeting of the Commission on the Environment on October 16, 2024.

ATTEST:



Erika Senyk, Environmental Projects Manager



Jason Shepardson, Chair