

# City of Capitola

## Commission on the Environment Regular Meeting Agenda

### Wednesday, July 10, 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

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**PLEASE NOTE THIS IS AN IN-PERSON MEETING  
NO REMOTE ACCESS WILL BE PROVIDED**

#### **1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

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

#### **2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda**

#### **3. Oral and Written Communications**

*The Chair may announce and set time limits at the beginning of each agenda item. The Committee Members may not discuss Oral Communications to any significant degree but may request issues raised be placed on a future agenda.*

#### **4. Consider the minutes from the May 15th, 2024 and June 19th, 2024 Regular Commission Meetings**

Recommended Action: Approve minutes.

#### **5. General Business**

##### **A. Plastic Pollution Enforcement**

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

##### **B. Invasive Riparian Vegetation Removal Training**

Recommended Action: Select a date for the Commission to attend a volunteer training session with George McMenemy for removal of invasive riparian vegetation along Noble Gulch.

##### **C. Invasive Riparian Vegetation Removal Projects**

Recommended Action: Discuss additional potential projects for removal of invasive vegetation

along Soquel Creek and Noble Gulch riparian habitats.

## 6. Items for Future Agenda

## 7. Adjournment

Next regular Commission meeting is scheduled for July 21, 2024.

**Agenda and Agenda Packet Materials:** The Commission on the Environment Agenda is available on the City's website: [www.cityofcapitola.org/](http://www.cityofcapitola.org/) on Friday prior to the Wednesday meeting. If you need additional information, please contact the Public Works Department at (831) 475-7300.

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** Disability-related aids or services are available to enable persons with a disability to participate in this meeting consistent with the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Assisted listening devices are available for individuals with hearing impairments at the meeting in the City Council Chambers. Should you require special accommodations to participate in the meeting due to a disability, please contact the City Clerk's office at least 24-hours in advance of the meeting at 831-475-7300. In an effort to accommodate individuals with environmental sensitivities, attendees are requested to refrain from wearing perfumes and other scented products.

# 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

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- 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 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**ATTEST:**

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Erika Senyk, Environmental Projects Manager

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Jason Shepardson, Chair

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# City of Capitola

## Commission on the Environment Meeting Minutes



**Wednesday, June 19, 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

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**1. Call to Order and Roll Call –** Vice Chair Lacenere called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

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

Absent: Jason Shepardson, Margaux Morgan, 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**

Staff provided announcements regarding an advisory body meeting on June 20<sup>th</sup> and an email that was sent by staff to collect responses from the Commission on availability to attend an invasive riparian vegetation removal training with the City's consultant, George McMenamin.

**4. Consider the minutes from the May 15, 2024 Regular Commission on the Environment Meeting**

There was a lack of quorum to approve the minutes, considering that only two Commissioners present at the June 19<sup>th</sup> COE meeting were also in attendance at the May 15<sup>th</sup> COE meeting. This item will be reagendaized for the July COE meeting.

**5. General Business**

**A. Santa Cruz World Surfing Reserve**

Recommended Action: Recommend that the City Council adopt a resolution incorporating Capitola into the Santa Cruz World Surfing Reserve.

**Motion to recommend that the City Council adopt a resolution incorporating Capitola into the Santa Cruz World Surfing Reserve: Commissioner Wilk**

**Seconded: Commissioner Beritzhoff-Law**

**Motion passed: 3-0-2**

## **B. Save our Shores FY 24-25 Contract**

Recommended Action: Staff presentation on the City's proposed contract renewal with Save Our Shores for FY 24-25.

The Commission discussed the contract renewal options for the agreement between the City and Save Our Shores for FY 2024-25. The Commission provided the following feedback:

- The Commission sees value in Capitola Beach cleanups for litter abatement and data retrieval purposes.
- The Commission was in disagreement regarding the best value for the number of beach cleanups proposed by Save Our Shores for FY 2024-25 (4 versus 6 cleanup events).
- The Commission was in agreement that staff should obtain additional information regarding the proposed business outreach surveys, prior to including that option in the contract for FY 2024-25 (e.g., locate examples of surveys conducted at businesses in surrounding jurisdictions by Save our Shores).

## **C. Plastic Pollution Enforcement**

Recommended Action: Discuss ideas for improving enforcement of regulations prohibiting the use of plastic straws and plastic pollution in Capitola.

Commissioner Beritzhoff-Law presented current state regulations and relevant City of Capitola municipal code chapters prohibiting the use of single use plastics.

Commissioner Beritzhoff-Law will provide to staff a sample flyer and proposed plan for notifying businesses of current single use plastic regulations for the Commission to review and discuss at the July COE meeting.

The Commission requested for staff to take the following actions prior to the July COE meeting:

- Identify options for increasing levels of enforcement, beyond abatement as a public nuisance, for businesses resisting compliance with City ordinances for single use plastics.
- Acquire information on the necessary protocols for distributing a flyer to local businesses that details the City ordinances for single use plastics.

## **6. Items for Future Agenda**

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

- Review and discuss sample flyer and proposed plan for notifying businesses of single use plastic regulations
- Invasive riparian vegetation removal projects

**Motion to move the July regular Commission on the Environment meeting from July 17, 2024 to July 10, 2024: Commissioner Wilk**  
**Seconded: Vice Chair Lacenere**  
**Motion passed: 3-0-2**

## **7. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 pm to the next Regular Meeting of the Commission on the Environment on July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**ATTEST:**

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Erika Senyk, Environmental Projects Manager

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Jason Shepardson, Chair

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