



AGENDA

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, June 16, 2021
6:00 PM – **Remote Access Only**

NOTICE OF REMOTE ACCESS ONLY

In accordance with the current Santa Cruz County Health Order outlining social distancing requirements and Executive Order N-29-20 from the Executive Department of the State of California, the Commission on the Environment meeting is not physically open to the public and in person attendance cannot be accommodated.

To join Zoom:

- Join the Zoom Meeting with the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83746835709?pwd=TC9iZ29nZmE5REIzOVFhOEtQWVpUT09>

- Meeting ID: 837 4683 5709
- Passcode: 591592
- OR With a landline or mobile phone, call one of the following numbers:

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

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Enter the Meeting ID#: 837 4683 5709

To comment via email:

Comments and additional material may be sent to the Commission via CapitolaDPW@ci.capitola.ca.us by 12NOON on the day of the meeting for distribution to Commission members.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Commissioners: Cathlin Atchison, Bryce Ebrahimian, Michelle Beritzhoff-Law, Meredith Keet, Margaux Keiser, Peter Wilk

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS *(No action may be taken)*

All correspondence received prior to 12 NOON on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Commissioners to review. The Committee Members may not discuss Written Communications to any significant degree but may request issues raised be placed on a future agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 17, 2021

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Gas Powered Leaf Blower Ban
2. Tobacco Waste Resolution

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

ADJOURNMENT to July 21, 2021

Notice: The Commission on the Environment meets monthly 6:00 PM. Meetings are Remote Access Only.

Agenda and Agenda Packet Materials: The Commission on the Environment Agenda is available on the City's website: 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.

DRAFT MINUTES
Commission on the Environment
Regular Meeting
March 17, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioners Present: Michelle Beritzhoff-Law, Meredith Keet, Margaux Keiser, Peter Wilk
Commissioners Absent: Cathlin Atchison, Bryce Ebrahimian
City Staff Present: Steve Jesberg, Danielle Uharriet

Chairperson Wilk called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

WRITTEN & ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 17, 2021 minutes were approved (Beritzhoff-Law/Keet; Keiser abstained)

OTHER BUSINESS

1. 2021 Meeting Schedule approved (Keet/Keiser)
2. Work Plan

- a. Compostable and Biodegradable Take Out Materials

The Commission discussed the limited resources for enforcement. All agreed that helping businesses with product options and suggestions to comply with the ordinance mandates rather than hinder businesses would be the most productive way to support local businesses.

Peter Wilk suggested reviewing the restaurant guide produced by the Surfrider Foundation.

Meredith Keet suggested Save Our Shores may also have information to be included in a guide.

Michelle Beritzhoff-Law offered to create guide template for the Commission to input content.

- b. Rispin Park Riparian Restoration – information only

Grants would be the best options to fund further riparian restoration work into Rispin Park.

- c. CAP

The City has taken steps toward reducing its impact on the environment by quantifying its 2005 baseline community-wide GHG emissions and regularly updating the inventory in 2010, 2015, and 2018; and has already met the 2020 AB 32 GHG emissions reduction targets. The most recent inventory will move to further reductions by 2030 as well as the 2045 carbon neutrality goal.

Focusing emissions reductions on transportation and natural gas are needed to achieve goals by 2045. The Commission should discuss and develop transportation and natural gas reduction action items for inclusion in a presentation/report to the City Council by the Community Development Director.

3. Gas Powered Leaf Blower Ban

The Commission further discussed banning gas-powered leaf blower ban in Capitola; and agreed the current ordinance is restrictive; battery/electric powered leaf blowers may not be a better option; banning gas powered blowers could lead to a ban on all landscape equipment such as trimmers/edgers, chain saws, lawn mowers; perhaps this ban is not a high priority but educating users of the existing ordinance regulations would be a more positive approach.

Peter Wilk provided comparison information from the EPA and will share his research information with staff. The Commission requested staff to bring back a comparison table of gas and electric landscape equipment.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Leaf blower comparison table

ADJOURNMENT to May 19, 2021

Approved at the meeting of May 19, 2021

Danielle Uharriet
Environmental Projects Manager

**CITY OF CAPITOLA
COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT
Agenda Report**

Meeting Date: June 16, 2021

Agenda Item: 1

Subject: Gas Powered Leaf Blower Ban

The commission has been considering pros and cons of gas-powered and electric/battery leaf blowers but concluded that further research and comparisons to other landscape equipment was necessary to further evaluate the need for a citywide ban. The following information focuses on air pollution/carbon monoxide, particulate matter emissions and noise from various types of gas-powered and battery/electric landscape equipment.

Emissions comparisons between gas-powered and electric/battery powered landscape equipment is difficult to assess due to various engine sizes, battery types and sizes, equipment age and manufacture; therefore, the electric/battery information is approximate.

Particulate matter created by gas-powered landscape equipment is a measured emission; Electric/battery powered landscape equipment do not produce contaminants such as hydrocarbons but do sweep up similar amounts of hazardous airborne particulate matter.

Air Pollution/Emissions

	<u>CO</u> Carbon Monoxide (lbs./hour)	<u>PM</u> Particulate Matter (g/hp-hr)
Gas Leaf Blower	12 lbs	7.7
Electric Leaf Blower	0.478 lbs	~7.7
Gas Lawn Mower	89 lbs.	7.7
Electric Lawn Mower	0.0001 lbs.	~7.7
Gas Trimmer/edgers/cutters	10 lbs.	7.7
Electric Trimmer/edgers/cutters	0	~7.7
Gas Chainsaw	~85-90lbs.	not available
Electric Chainsaw	0	not available

Noise

Noise is measured in a unit called a decibel (dB). Decibels work on a logarithmic scale, meaning that the perceived increase of 10 dB is a doubling of the sound. A leaf blower that operates at 70 dB will sound twice as loud as a leaf blower operating at 60 dB. The dB(A) system assigns lower decibel values to low-frequency sounds, which are harder for the human ear to hear.

Noise Levels

30 dB(A)	Soft whisper
40 dB(A)	Refrigerator hum
60 dB(A)	Normal conversation, air conditioner, metal rake on concrete
65-85 dB(A) Measured at a distance of 50 ft.	Gas powered leaf blower Electric/battery powered leaf blower

90-100 dB(A)	Gas-powered lawn mower, chainsaw, motorcycle
120 dB(A)	Emergency vehicle siren

It is recommended that the Commission review and discuss the comparison information and make a recommendation to the City Council.

**CITY OF CAPITOLA
COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT
Agenda Report**

Meeting Date: June 16, 2021

Agenda Item: 2

Subject: Tobacco Waste

Mayor Brooks has suggested the commission consider advising the Council on passing a resolution recognizing tobacco waste as a public health and environmental threat. The Santa Cruz City Council recently passed a resolution recognizing the negative impacts that tobacco waste has on the public health of residents and to the environment of the city. The intention of the resolution is to pursue policies to mitigate tobacco waste and encourage engaging local legislative representatives to promote a ban on plastic cigarette filters.

Cigarette butts are the most prevalent form of litter found in the ocean, creeks, on our beaches, city sidewalks, in our parks, playgrounds, trails and other public spaces. Cigarette butts are not biodegradable. They are made of plastic material cellulose acetate. Once littered, cigarette butts leave behind the plastic, toxic chemicals contained within the butts, including lead, arsenic, and nicotine. These chemicals then leach into the soil and waterways.

The rise of vaping has led to an increase in other forms of waste including toxic liquid nicotine, plastic cartridges, batteries, and other electronic parts capable of exploding or burning. These relatively new forms of waste are often incorrectly disposed of, and can harm the environment, wildlife, and humans.

Despite the City's attempts to reduce tobacco waste, including anti-litter laws, anti-smoking signage, providing increased waste and cigarette disposal containers, and clean-up efforts, tobacco waste continues to persist in excess in our community.

It is recommended that the Commission discuss the information and consider recommending the City Council pass a resolution recognizing tobacco waste as a public health and environmental threat.