

**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 July 21, 2021



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Danielle Uharriet  
Environmental Projects Manager