

MINUTES
Commission on the Environment
Regular Meeting
September 15, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

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

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

WRITTEN & ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – Staff reported the leaf blower ordinance memo was sent to the City Council. No written or oral communications.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 21, 2021 minutes were approved (Keet/Atchison)

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Restaurant Guide/Compostable and Biodegradable Take Out Materials

Cathlin Atchison suggested reviewing Green Business for guidance of take-out materials.

Meredith Keet commented a representative at the Santa Cruz City Dimeo Lane Resource Center was creating a guide for restaurants. If other local agencies are working on parallel paths, then creating a task force may be beneficial to design a standard countywide guide that includes product sources, options, and funding to assist with product transition for businesses.

Peter Wilk requested information about the City of Santa Cruz program to compare and coordinate information. He suggested the COE review and edit the existing city flyer; staff will email a copy. Peter also requested information about the City of Santa Cruz program for comparison of ordinance requirements, product information, and enforcement.

Meredith highlighted the key to the success of the regulations is enforcement.

Steve Jesberg recommended the COE work on a locally focused tri-fold brochure, expanding on the current restaurant rules, and utilize the Surfrider Foundation Ocean Friendly Foodware Guide as a resource of detailed information. Staff will research other local agencies for similar efforts, and work for uniformity and consistency countywide.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Cathlin Atchison discussed the Western Monarch Count. The count typically takes place in late November through December(Thanksgiving – New Year) and results are released in January of the following year along with year-to-year comparison information indicating the monarch population is dwindling. Cathlin suggested the COE promote participation in the volunteer count.

Save Our Shores Annual Coastal Clean Up Day is Saturday, September 18th, 2021.
John Laird will be at Cowell's beach Saturday, September 18th with the Cigarette Surfboard.
Capitola Fall Clean Up Week is October 11th – October 15th

Meredith Keet requested an update on the status of the residential composting.

ADJOURNMENT to October 20, 2021

Approved at the meeting of October 20, 2021

Danielle Uharriet
Environmental Projects Manager