

MINUTES
Commission on the Environment
Regular Meeting
October 20, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioners Present: Cathlin Atchison, Michelle Beritzhoff-Law, Margaux Keiser Meredith Keet, Peter Wilk - Chair

Commissioners Absent: 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 – September 15, 2021 minutes were approved (Keet/Keiser)

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Restaurant Guide/Compostable and Biodegradable Take Out Materials

Michelle Beritzhoff-Law presented a draft 2-sided guide design with bullet points of the current ordinance regulations.

A discussion ensued about detail of content, outreach to restaurants and ordinance enforcement. Education is a priority before enforcement; product stream of eco-friendly products and financial hardship may be challenges for some businesses. Current enforcement is by complaint only. The Commission discussed enforcement utilizing volunteers, use of the current fining structure, and development of an action plan for enforcement to present to the city manager and city council.

Steve Jesberg commented initially the city hired Save Our Shores to assist with implementation of the new ordinance with an educational outreach campaign and enforcement effort with the restaurants. He noted budget would need to be designated for enforcement. He will discuss the enforcement plan with the city manager; and the City Council may consider setting the enforcement plan as a priority work item during a Council work program review at the beginning of 2022. Additionally, there are new plastics regulations that the city will be considering at the beginning of 2022.

The Commission unanimously supported the 2-sided design with quick easy and clear information and the following actions:

- A. Michelle Beritzhoff-Law will refine the 2-sided guide/flyer design including graphics and penalties
- B. COE will develop a plan for enforcement for staff to discuss with the City Manager and City Council

2. Western Monarch Count

Meredith Keet commented Elkhorn Slough was hosting a virtual event highlighting native planting for pollinators.

Cathlin Atchison stated the Xerces Society is now promoting planting for pollinators, not just the correct milkweed or correct plants for monarchs. She suggested the COE promote the proper plants.

3. Residential Composting Update

Beginning January 2022, the Marina Landfill will be accepting residential organics in the green cans. Greenwaste Recovery will be the lead on a public education campaign.

4. State passed Gas Powered Leaf Blower Ban

On October 9, 2021, Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill 1346. This bill would require the state board, by July 1, 2022, consistent with federal law, to adopt cost-effective and technologically feasible regulations to prohibit engine exhaust and evaporative emissions from new small off-road engines. The bill would require the state board to identify and, to the extent feasible, make available funding for commercial rebates or similar incentive funding as part of any updates to existing applicable funding program guidelines to local air pollution control districts and air quality management districts to implement to support the transition to zero-emission small off-road equipment operations.

5. 2022 Meeting Schedule

The Commission unanimously approved the 2022 meeting schedule. (Beritzhoff-Law/Keet)

6. Cancel December 15, 2021 meeting

The Commission unanimously approved canceling the December 15, 2021 meeting. (Keiser/Beritzhoff-Law)

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Restaurant Guide/Compostable and Biodegradable Take Out Materials
Review the 2021 work plan

ADJOURNMENT to November 17, 2021

Approved at the meeting of February 16, 2022