

**MINUTES**  
**Commission on the Environment**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**February 16, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioners Present: 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** – Michelle Beritzhoff-Law shared a resource “Urban Ocean Toolkit” which aims to provide processes/frameworks through which cities can better manage marine/plastic debris.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – October 20, 2021 minutes were approved (Keet/Keiser)

**OTHER BUSINESS**

1. 2022 Work Plan

**#1 Compostable and Biodegradable Take Out Materials Restaurant Guide and Enforcement**

Margaux Keiser will discuss the enforcement of the compostable/biodegradable take out materials ordinance at the March 1, 2022, City Council Goal Setting Session. Margaux suggested education and options would clarify the city’s expectations for food service businesses. Ongoing supply chain problems for obtaining the compostable/biodegradable serve ware have been a hindrance and hardship for some businesses.

Meredith Keet commented the city of Santa Cruz is visiting every food service business within the city to educate businesses, provide sample products and explain the ordinance requirements.

Michelle Beritzhoff-Law suggested reviewing the city’s special event requirement and incorporating the ordinance requirements into the event conditions.

**#2 Soquel Creek**

Peter Wilk suggested the city’s consulting fisheries biologist, Don Alley and consulting riparian restoration specialist, George McMenamain make recommendations for improving the health of the creek, fisheries and riparian vegetation.

**#3 Climate Action Plan (CAP)**

The City Council may be including further work on the CAP during the upcoming year. The COE may be developing action items for inclusion in a report to the City Council by the Community Development Director.

Peter Wilk recommended review of the CAP and noted previous work on green building and bike planning.

Michelle Beritzhoff-Law supported including reviewing the CAP in the COE work plan and recommended addressing sea level rise.

**#4 Rispin Park Art & Cultural Commission Collaboration**

Steve Jesberg updated the COE on the Rispin Park plan noting the landscape design, which incorporates both native and historical plantings, has been completed. The Art & Cultural Commission may be working on a design project for the historic, murals and interpretive signage at a later design phase for the overall project. Michelle Beritzhoff-Law suggested the COE collaborate with the Art &

Cultural Commission to incorporate environmental information about the riparian vegetation, creek, fish and habitat for Soquel Creek in murals and interpretive signage. This effort could highlight Soquel Creek as a valued resource in the local community.

Other work plan items discussed:

Heritage Tree Investigation/Revision of Tree Ordinance - Peter Wilk commented this work item will be best addressed by the Planning Commission.

New Brighton Beach – Michelle Beritzhoff-Law commented the COE may consider some type of public education regarding shark activity at New Brighton Beach

Capitola Environmental Guided Walk – Peter Wilk recalled working on a guided walk throughout Capitola highlighting various environmental sites to raise environmental awareness throughout the city.

Central Coast Climate Collaborative 4C – an organizing platform that bridges across sectors and scales to catalyze and advance equitable climate solutions throughout the Central Coast. Peter Wilk commented on the COE past involvement with the organization.

## 2. Organics/Recycling Guide

On January 1, 2022, a statewide regulation (SB1383) was implemented requiring residents to include food waste and yard waste in the green organics container. Greenwaste Recovery mailed a flyer (attachment 1) to all residents before the holidays and rate correction flyer at the end of 2021. A sticker (attachment 2) for the green organics curbside bin will be distributed citywide by Greenwaste. Solutions to address multi-family residential complexes that do not have individual green bins for organics collection are in the process of being resolved.

Greenwaste will be giving a presentation on the organics collection at the February 24, 2022, City Council meeting.

## 3. Elect Chair and Vice-Chair

Michelle Beritzhoff-Law was unanimously elected Chair (Wilk/Keet)

Peter Wilk was unanimously elected Vice-Chair (Keet/ Keiser)

## 4. Meeting schedule review

The Commission agreed to maintain the monthly meeting schedule.

## **ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

Report of City Council Goal Setting meeting

Review of work plan

**ADJOURNMENT** to March 16, 2022

**Approved at the meeting of April 20, 2022 (Keet/Wilk)**