

**MINUTES**  
**Commission on the Environment**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**April 20, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

Chairperson Beritzhoff-Law called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

**WRITTEN & ORAL COMMUNICATIONS** – None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – February 16, 2022 minutes were approved (Keet/Wilk)

**OTHER BUSINESS**

1. Introduction of new commissioner Jason Shepardson

Jason Shepardson commented that he is a local physical therapist with a local private practice. Mr. Shepardson has an interest in local politics and civic engagement by serving on the Commission on the Environment.

2. Report from City Council goal setting meeting 3/1/22

Steve Jesberg gave a brief overview noting the City Council supported additional EV stations, Climate Action Plan implementation, bike and pedestrian safety projects but did not fund the enforcement of compostable take-out materials ordinance for food services.

3. 2022 Work Plan

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

Peter Wilk commented the problem is ordinance enforcement of corporate businesses such as McDonald's and Burger King, not local businesses.

Michelle Beritzhoff-Law suggested compiling businesses that breach the ordinance, raise the issue to the City Council. She supported utilizing and/or combining resources with the City and County of Santa Cruz, as previously suggested by Meredith Keet, to address an educational effort; and to continue the guide as a work item.

Jason Shepardson suggested a more positive approach by highlighting and recognizing businesses that are complying with the ordinance in the city's newsletter and website.

The Commission agreed recognizing the businesses is a way to promote the regulations and that continued progress on the guide is a beneficial work item.

**#2 Soquel Creek**

The Commission requested meeting with Don Alley, consulting fisheries biologist and George McMenamin, consulting riparian restoration specialist, to initiate a conversation about potential projects for improving Soquel Creek water quality and riparian environment.

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

Jason Shepardson inquired about the Building Code/Green Building incentives for light/white roofs.

The Commission requested information regarding the adopted Climate Action Plan, Reduction Measures and Implementation for review.

#### **#4 Environmental Education**

The Commission discussed initially identifying opportunities for interpretive signage at Rispin Park and other areas along Soquel Creek. Staff suggested the signage in Peery Park and at Stockton Bridge be assessed, redesigned and updated.

Peter Wilk suggested the previous COE efforts to create the Environmentally Sustainable Living webpage be reviewed and updated.

#### **ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

Review of Draft Compostable and Biodegradable Take Out Materials Restaurant Guide.

Review and update the Environmentally Sustainable Living webpage

Staff to email: current COE members, links to Climate Action Plan, 3CE bike grants and environmentally sustainable living webpage, CAP Reduction Measures and Implementation.

**ADJOURNMENT** to May 18, 2022

Minutes Approved at the meeting of May 18, 2022