



MEETING MINUTES CAPITOLA COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Monday, August 18, 2014 – 6:00 P.M.
City Council Chambers
420 Capitola Avenue, Capitola CA

Vice-Chairperson Kristin Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Members present: Bruce Arthur, Amie Forest, Maddie Marlatt, Dennis Norton, and Kristin Sullivan–Vice- Chairperson

Members absent: Elisabeth Russell

City Staff Present: Steve Jesberg, Danielle Uharriet

Community Members Present: None

2. WRITTEN AND ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Amie Forest suggested that the Commission utilize Google Docs as a way to share information, studies and reports from outside sources with fellow commissioners. Steve Jesberg stated that staff will need to verify that this would not be a violation of the Brown Act, and that the information posted may need to be available to the public. He will research the subject and provide an update at the next meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bruce Arthur made a motion to approve the June 16, 2014 meeting minutes. Kristin Sullivan seconded. Motion passed 3-0, Amie Forest abstained.

4. OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Climate Action Plan

Danielle Uharriet stated the memo provided by Rich Grunow, Community Development Director, summarized the current status of the CAP. Mr. Grunow will be presenting draft green house gas reduction measures at the September COE meeting.

● Reach Codes

A reach code is a strategy in the California Long-term Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan to attain the goal of Zero New Energy buildings. There was no further discussion on the item.

b. Rispin Gardens-grant update and status

Steve Jesberg stated that the city had received a \$375,000 grant for improvements, including an upgraded ADA pathway, at Rispin. Staff is currently preparing an RFP for a park plan that will be reviewed through an EIR process. Public workshops/meetings will be held to receive community design input possibly in the fall or winter 2014.

Dennis Norton supported removing the chain link fencing as soon as possible. He recommended using building details that were stored from the prior project, such as pillars and other architectural features.

Kristin Sullivan suggested that the ADA pathways utilize environmentally friendly/green paving materials. The landscaping should be native plantings.

c. City Hall Landscape Project and Parking Lot LID Project

Steve Jesberg stated that the City has applied to receive a financial incentive to participate in a Proposition 84-funded Low Impact Development (LID) Design Program. The initial site assessment identified stormwater management features that capture and infiltrate rainwater from the city hall parking lot, and identified opportunities to improve landscape water conservation and reduce irrigation run-off from the parking areas.

The project will be ranked among other Program candidates according to project benefits. The highest-ranking projects will be selected to advance to the LID Design Phase for development of a preliminary design plan. Each program phase will evaluate projects on various LID benefits prior to advancing to the next stage of design and construction. City funding will be required for each continued phase of the program.

d. Review of water usage and status of turf removal projects

Steve Jesberg highlighted the city examples of sod removal throughout the city, low flow fixture installation at all city facilities and the overall water reduction of ~32%. A possible project is reclaiming shower water at Esplanade Park to irrigate the grass. Staff has had the water tested and determined that although salty, it is potentially a resource.

Bruce Arthur suggested synthetic turf be considered for Esplanade Park and Jade Street Park playing fields. The turf in Esplanade Park has been in place for many years adapting to salty conditions, therefore reclaimed water from the shower would not be harmful.

Amy Forest suggested a reclaimed water sign be placed within the park.

Dennis Norton supported keeping the lawn in Esplanade Park and pursuing reclaimed shower water. Kristin Sullivan did not support synthetic turf without research that showed the turf was an environmentally sound product.

e. Collaboration with Soquel Creek Water District for Education and Outreach

Amie Forest encouraged the city to discuss further water reduction measures with Soquel Creek Water District. She suggested that the city be featured on the district's website for the water reduction efforts. She stated a new program, Conservation Plus, will be launched in September.

5. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- a. Climate Action Plan – Draft Green House Gas Reduction Measures
- b. Energy Benchmarking of city buildings

6. ADJOURNMENT – The commission adjourned at 7:06 p.m. to a regular meeting on Monday, September 22, 2014 at 6:00 p.m., in the City Hall Council Chambers, 420 Capitola Avenue, Capitola, California.



Approved at the meeting of September 22, 2014



Danielle Uharriet
Environmental Projects Manager

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT
Sign in Sheet

Meeting Date: 0/10/14

Name	Signature
Bruce Arthur	Bruce Arthur ✓ 
Amie Forest	
Maddie Marlatt	Maddie Marlatt
Dennis Norton	Dennis Norton
Elisabeth Russell	
Kristin Sullivan	