

City of Capitola

Commission on the Environment Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 17, 2023– 6:00 PM



Capitola City Hall, Community Room
420 Capitola Avenue, Capitola, CA 95010

Chair: Michelle Beritzhoff-Law
Vice-Chair: Jason Shepardson
Council Member: Mayor Margaux Keiser
Commissioners: Anthony Lacenere, Peter Wilk

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Mayor Margaux Keiser, Anthony Lacenere, Jason Shepardson, Peter Wilk
Chair Michelle Beritzhoff-Law was absent from the meeting.
City Staff Present: Erika Senyk

Vice-Chair Shepardson called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

2. Oral and Written Communications

A resident expressed a concern about a pole interjecting into the right of way near Gayle's Bakery on the intersection of Bay Ave and Capitola Ave.

3. Consider the minutes from the April 19, 2023, Commission on the Environment Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes: Commissioner Wilk
Seconded: Mayor Keiser
Motion passed 4-0-1 (Chair Beritzhoff-Law Absent)

4. General Business

A. Use of Green Building Funds

The Commission discussed two potential projects to be funded by the Green Building Funds, including habitat restoration for Steelhead in Soquel Creek and a white roofs rebate program. The Commission requested that clarification be provided by the City Attorney on what types of projects could be funded by Green Building Funds and to move the additional uses of Green Building Funds discussion to the June Commission meeting. Mayor Keiser will contact the City Attorney to request additional clarification on the eligible uses of Green Building Funds.

Commissioners divided up flyers informing residents of their eligibility for the ESHA rebate program to be distributed to eligible parcels prior to the June Commission meeting.

B. Capitola Beach Cleanups

City Staff informed commissioners of a partnership contract draft between City of Capitola and Save Our Shores for organizing four beach cleanups annually and conducting outreach to Capitola businesses. Commissioners discussed important goals and logistics for successful

beach cleanups, including hosting cleanups that are easily accessible and equitable for Capitola residents, are well promoted on the City's website, newsletter, and social media outlets, and are fun and welcoming for all community members and participants.

Commissioners requested that City Staff obtain additional information on the schedule of beach cleanups hosted by Capitola Beach Company and suggested that future beach cleanups could be hosted by the Commission. Commissioners discussed that beach cleanups hosted by the Commission or Capitola Beach Company could be scheduled in addition to beach cleanups organized by Save Our Shores.

C. Rispin Riparian Invasive Plant Species Removal

The Commission requested to move the discussion about George McMenemy's proposal for removing and controlling invasive plant species in Rispin Riparian Areas to the June Commission meeting, after clarification has been provided by the City Attorney on whether Green Building Funds can be used to fund this project. Commissioner Wilk recommended that George McMenemy attend a future Commission meeting to discuss what actions can be done for invasive plant removal within the allocated budget.

5. Items for Future Agenda

The Commission requested that the following items be agendaized for a future meeting:

- Use of Green Building Funds (to include white roof rebate program)
- Rispin Riparian Invasive Plant Species Removal Proposal prepared by George McMenemy
- Use of Community Tree and Forest Management Account (to include Tree Giveaway with the Arbor Day Foundation and replacement of glass sculptures on 41st avenue with trees)

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm to the next Regular Meeting of the Commission on the Environment on June 21, 2023.