

City of Capitola

Commission on the Environment Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 21, 2024– 6:00 PM



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

Chair: Michelle Beritzhoff-Law
Vice Chair: Jason Shepardson
Council Member: Margaux Morgan
Commissioners: Anthony Lacenere, Peter Wilk
Youth Member: Tucker Graessle

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call** - Chair Beritzhoff-Law called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.
Commissioners Present: Michelle Beritzhoff-Law, Anthony Lacenere, Peter Wilk
Absent: Margaux Morgan, Jason Shepardson, Tucker Graessle
City Staff Present: Erika Senyk

- 2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda**
No additions or deletions to the agenda.

- 3. Oral and Written Communications**
No oral or written communications.

- 4. Consider the minutes from the November 15, 2023 Commission on the Environment Meeting**

Motion to approve the minutes: Commissioner Wilk

Seconded: Chair Beritzhoff-Law

Motion passed 3-0-2 (Council Member Morgan and Vice Chair Shepardson absent)

- 5. General Business**

- A. COE Bylaws & FY 2023-24 Goals**

Recommended Action: Review the COE Bylaws and FY 2023-24 Goals and recommend that the City Council adopt revised COE Bylaws.

The Commission reviewed and discussed potential revisions to the COE Bylaws.

The Commission directed staff to put forward revised bylaws for City Council consideration. Revisions included the following addition to Section 2: "The purpose of the COE is to provide advice and recommendations to the City Council on policy and funding matters relating to sustainability, environmental protection, climate action plan implementation, and resource enhancement which benefit the City of Capitola and which are not under the jurisdictions of existing committees or commissions."

**Motion to submit the revised bylaws for City Council adoption: Chair Beritzhoff-Law
Seconded: Commissioner Wilk
Motion passed 3-0-2 (Council Member Morgan and Vice Chair Shepardson absent)**

The Commission reviewed and discussed the list of FY 2023-24 goals.

The COE directed staff to provide the following FY 2023-25 Goals to the City Council for review/input:

1. Support the update of the City's Climate Action Plan goals at COE meetings.
2. Pursue projects related to the Soquel Creek and Noble Gulch Maintenance Plan and identify funding opportunities.
3. Improve enforcement of regulations prohibiting the use of plastic straws and plastic pollution.
4. Investigate a White Roof Rebate Program that incentivizes residents and business owners to reduce energy usage.

**Motion to submit the FY 2023-25 Goals to the City Council for review: Commissioner Wilk
Seconded: Chair Beritzhoff-Law
Motion passed 3-0-2 (Council Member Morgan and Vice Chair Shepardson absent)**

B. Blue City Network Certification

Recommended Action: Review the benefits and minimum requirements for the Blue City Network Certification and recommend that staff pursue steps for the City's admittance into the Blue City Network.

The Commission reviewed the Blue City Network Certification program's potential benefits and the minimum requirements for the City of Capitola's admittance into the program.

**Motion to recommend that staff pursue the steps for the City's admittance into the Blue City Network program: Commissioner Wilk
Seconded: Commissioner Lacenere
Motion passed 3-0-2 (Council Member Morgan and Vice Chair Shepardson absent)**

6. Items for Future Agenda

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

- Vote for Chair and Vice Chair for the Commission on the Environment for 2024-2025.
- Discuss potential projects related to the Soquel Creek and Noble Gulch Maintenance Plan and identify funding opportunities.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm to the next Regular Meeting of the Commission on the Environment on March 20th, 2024.