

City of Capitola

Commission on the Environment Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 20, 2024– 6:00 PM



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

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

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call** – Chair Shepardson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
Commissioners Present: Jason Shepardson, Anthony Lacenere, Michelle Beritzhoff-Law, Peter Wilk
Absent: Margaux Morgan
City Staff Present: Erika Senyk

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

- 3. Oral and Written Communications**

Sheryl Coulston, Katy Guernsey, and John Guernsey, three residents of Brookvale Terrace Mobile Home Park and members of the BrookvaleTerrace Native Plant Restoration Committee, reported on the status and positive impacts of the Committee's Noble Gulch native plant restoration project, which was partially funded by the City's Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA) Riparian Vegetation Planting Reimbursement Program.

Capitola resident, Neal Savage, spoke on behalf of his support for the County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors approved ordinance to prohibit the sale of filtered tobacco products and is in favor of City Council passing an ordinance banning the sale of filtered tobacco products in Capitola.

Local resident, Goran Klepic, asked that the City increase enforcement to prohibit the sale of illegal substances in Capitola.

Elliot Guernsey, resident of Brookvale Terrace Mobile Home Park, asked that the City consider a plan to address removal of invasive Eucalyptus trees in riparian corridor areas and to plant native species that butterflies will use for roosting.

- 4. Staff Comments**

Staff provided a reminder from the City Clerk's office for Commissioners to submit applications for reappointment to the COE by Friday, November 22nd at 5pm or to notify the City Clerk that they will not be reapplying to join the COE for calendar years 2025/26.

5. Consider the minutes from the September 18, 2024 Regular Commission on the Environment Meeting

Recommended Action: Approve minutes.

Motion to approve the September 18, 2024 minutes: Commissioner Beritzhoff-Law

Seconded: Vice Chair Lacenere

Motion passed 4-0-1 (Council Member Morgan absent)

6. General Business

A. Climate Action Plan

Recommended Action: Review and approve the proposed Scope of Work to be included in the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the update of the City's Climate Action Plan.

Commission reviewed the proposed Scope of Work (SOW) and provided edits to be incorporated into the SOW prior to release of the RFP for Climate Action Plan updates.

Motion to approve the Scope of Work, as edited by the Commission, to be included in the RFP for the update of the City's Climate Action Plan: Chair Shepardson

Seconded: Commissioner Beritzhoff-Law

Passed: 4-0-1 (Council Member Morgan absent)

B. Prohibited Sale of Filtered Tobacco Products

Recommended Action: Provide feedback on the County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors approved ordinance amending Santa Cruz County Code Ch. 5.60 to Prohibit the Sale of Filtered Tobacco Products.

Motion to notify City Council that the Commission on the Environment is unanimous in their support for prohibiting the sale of filtered tobacco products in Capitola: Chair Shepardson

Seconded: Commissioner Wilk

Motion passed 4-0-1 (Council Member Morgan absent)

C. December COE Regular Meeting

Recommended Action: Select a date for the December 2024 Commission on the Environment Regular Meeting.

Commission selected Thursday, December 19th as the preferred date for the next COE meeting, with Wednesday, December 17th as the alternative date.

D. Soquel Creek Native Plant Restoration

Recommended Action: Discuss potential projects for restoring native vegetation along Soquel Creek and Noble Gulch riparian habitats.

Commission discussed potential native plant restoration projects in riparian areas and funding sources. Commission requested for staff to contact the City's contracted native plant specialist, George McMenamin, to inquire about the optimal times of year for invasive ivy removal.

7. Items for Future Agenda


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

- White roof rebate program
- Incorporating community outreach into the development of the City's new Climate Action Plan
- Incorporating community involvement in native plant restoration projects


8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm to the next Regular Meeting of the Commission on the Environment on December 19th, 2024.

ATTEST:



Erika Senyk, Environmental Projects Manager



Michelle Beritzhoff, Chair