

City of Capitola

Commission on the Environment Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 19, 2025– 6:00 PM



Capitola City Hall, Council Chambers
420 Capitola Avenue, Capitola, CA 95010

Chair: Michelle Beritzhoff-Law

Vice Chair: Michael Maroney

Commissioners: Mayor Clarke, Dennis Norton, John Mulry

Staff Representative: Erika Senyk

-
- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call** – Staff representative, Erika Senyk, called the meeting to order at 6:26pm.
Commissioners Present: Michelle Beritzhoff-Law, Michael Maroney, John Mulry
Absent: Mayor Clark, Dennis Norton
City Staff Present: Tamar M. Burke (City Attorney), Julia Gautho (City Clerk), Erika Senyk (Environmental Projects Manager)
 - 2. Swearing in of new Commissioners**
Commissioner Maroney and Commissioner Mulry were sworn in by the City Clerk.
 - 3. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda**
No additions or deletions to the agenda.
 - 4. Public Oral and Written Communications**
Sally-Christine Rodgers, Trash Talkers Organizer, provided the Commission with a written letter regarding the Santa Cruz Pitch In initiative and the second annual Pitch In All-Santa Cruz County Cleanup Day scheduled for May 10th, 2025. The letter was distributed to the Commission by City staff prior to the start of the meeting on February 14th, 2025.

No oral communications were made by members of the public at the meeting.
 - 5. Staff Comments**
The City Clerk provided an announcement that there is a Brown Act Training available to City Council members and all City Council advisory body members on Wednesday February 26th, 2025 at 5pm in the City Council Chambers at City Hall.
 - 6. November 20, 2024 Regular Commission Meeting Minutes**
Recommended Action: Review and approve minutes.

Motion to approve the November 20, 2024 minutes: Chair Beritzhoff-Law
Seconded: Commissioner Mulry
Motion passed 3-0-2 (Mayor Clarke and Commissioner Norton absent)

7. General Business

A. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair

Recommended Action: Select a Chair and Vice Chair to serve a one-year term for 2025.

Erika Senyk, Environmental Projects Manager, presented the staff report.
Each Commissioner provided their background and interest in the COE.

Motion to select Commissioner Beritzhoff-Law as Chair of the Commission on the Environment for calendar year 2025: Commissioner Maroney

Seconded: Commissioner Mulry

Motion passed 3-0-2 (Mayor Clarke and Commissioner Norton absent)

Motion to select Commissioner Maroney as Vice Chair of the Commission on the Environment for calendar year 2025: Chair Beritzhoff-Law

Seconded: Commissioner Mulry

Motion passed 3-0-2 (Mayor Clarke and Commissioner Norton absent)

B. Commissioner Training

Recommended Action: Receive training on ethics, transparency, and general governance from the City Attorney's Office and the City Clerk.

The Commission received trainings on ethics, transparency, and governance from the City Attorney's Office and the City Clerk's Office. Staff will provide copies of the presentation slides to the Commission following the meeting.

C. Regular Meeting Schedule

Recommended Action: Approve the Commission's 2025 regular meeting schedule.

Erika Senyk, Environmental Projects Manager, presented the staff report.

Motion to approve the regular March 19th, 2025 Commission on the Environment meeting date: Vice Chair Maroney

Seconded: Commissioner Mulry

Motion passed 3-0-2 (Mayor Clarke and Commissioner Norton absent)

The Commission discussed the regular monthly COE meeting schedule.

Commissioner Mulry expressed a preference for regular COE meeting dates other than the third Wednesday of each month.

The Commission confirmed a preference for a 6pm meeting time on a consistent schedule, where regular COE meetings occur on the same day of each month.

The Commission requested for staff to look into City Hall room availability for regular COE meeting dates, excluding Tuesdays and the third Wednesday of each month.

8. Items for Future Agenda

Staff recommended the following items for the March 19th, 2025 agenda:

- Prohibited Sale of Filtered Tobacco Products
- 2025 COE Workplan

Commissioner Mulry requested various documents (e.g., past projects, original plans, improvement plans, historical documents) pertaining to pedestrianizing the Esplanade and Esplanade Park.

Commissioner Mulry requested that staff research whether the act of recommending active transportation planning projects to the City Council would fall within the purview of the Commission on the Environment.

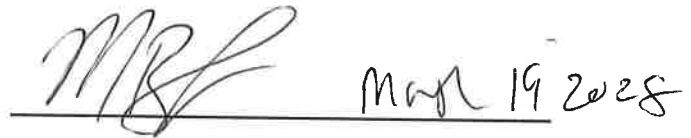
9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53pm to the next Regular Meeting of the Commission on the Environment on March 19th, 2025.

ATTEST:



Erika Senyk, Environmental Projects Manager



Michelle Beritzhoff-Law, Chair