

MINUTES
Commission on the Environment
Regular Meeting
November 13, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioners Present: Cathlin Atchison, Michelle Beritzhoff-Law, Jacques Bertrand, Bryce Ebrahimian, Meredith Keet, Peter Wilk,

Commissioners Absent: None

City Staff Present: Steve Jesberg, Danielle Uharriet

WRITTEN AND ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

OTHER BUSINESS

1. The minutes of August 14, 2019 were approved (Wilk/Keet)

2. 2020 Meeting Schedule (unanimously approved)

3. Sustainability Guidance for Events in Capitola

Steve Jesberg stated the implementation of these guidelines will require coordination with the Police Department for the Special Event Permit application process. Event organizers will be responsible for compliance with the guidelines and include education and compliance with event sub-contractors, vendors and suppliers.

Meredith Keet suggested event organizers monitor trash and recycling; utilizing volunteers to assist with directing guests to the correct bins, sorting, and keeping receptacles clearly labeled with images or pictures of what is acceptable to place in each bin.

Bryce Ebrahimian suggested the images for the bins be simple, clear graphic depictions of items for the various bins.

Michelle Beritzhoff-Law volunteered to research images for bins. She commented that the event guidance could utilize lessons learned from the past Wharf-to-Wharf race, e.g. boxed water & recycling; and research the process for becoming a green event through the Council for Responsible Sport certification.

Meredith Keet commented the BIA is working with city staff to install bottle filling stations on the Esplanade. Meredith inquired about the possibility of an opportunity to tour the MRF.

Bryce Ebrahimian suggested COE hold a community environmental event or booth at Wharf-to-Wharf/Little Wharf, and/or Art & Wine Festival to provide trash and recycling information.

Cathlin Atchison suggested businesses pursue becoming a Certified Green Business through the Santa Cruz County Green Business Program.

Peter Wilk stated plastic cups and compostable ware should be utilized at all events and businesses. Individuals are encouraged to complain to the city for action. Multiple complaints may result in accumulated fines.

Michelle Beritzhoff-Law suggested the fine schedule for violations be different for events than for businesses.

4. Peery Park Update and other projects for discussion

Peter Wilk commented that now that the work in Peery Park is complete, Peter suggested the monies collected through the tree fund be used to off-set maintenance of heritage trees. He suggested that offering a financial incentive for heritage tree preservation will be a beneficial use of the tree funds.

Cathlin Atchison stated Seattle has an extensive tree program that could provide be helpful in developing a tree maintenance program.

A motion was made for the COE to request the Community Development Department and City Council to consider revising the language in the tree fund incorporating language for maintenance of heritage trees. (Wilk/Beritzhoff-Law/4-0)

Peter Wilk inquired about additional work in Peery Park. Danielle Uharriet responded that there are portions of the riparian work that have not been completed and will require additional funds to continue work, including on-going maintenance. Staff will inquire with George McMenam, riparian specialist, for scope of work and cost estimate for work beyond the current work areas.

Cathlin Atchison inquired about a riparian restoration connection between Peery Park and the library via Rispin Park. She suggested a monarch pathway/pollinator garden in Rispin Park.

Jacques Bertrand suggested that ivy be removed from the redwoods in the North Rispin portion of the property. He also recommended ivy removal in Noble Gulch.

Steve Jesberg stated there is an existing landscape plan for Rispin Park and pathway. He commented that the RCD had completed a restoration project in the North Rispin Park area several years ago and Mr. McMenam does some periodic maintenance for the adjacent property.

Michelle Beritzhoff-Law suggested seeking grant for riparian restoration projects.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA AND WORK PLAN STATUS

- ◆ Ban gas powered blowers
- ◆ Sustainability Guideline review
- ◆ Heritage Tree review
- ◆ Monarch Garden at Rispin Park

ADJOURNMENT to a Regular meeting on February 19, 2020

Approved at the meeting of February 19, 2020

Danielle Uharriet
Environmental Projects Manager