



AGENDA

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, April 20, 2022
6:00 PM – **Remote Access Only**

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Commissioners: Michelle Beritzhoff-Law, Chair, Bryce Ebrahimian, Margaux Keiser, Meredith Keet, Jason Shepardson, Peter Wilk

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS *(No action may be taken)*

All correspondence received prior to 12 NOON on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Commissioners to review. The Committee Members may not discuss Written Communications to any significant degree but may request issues raised be placed on a future agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 16, 2021

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Introduction of new commissioner Jason Shepardson
2. Report from City Council goal setting meeting 3/1/22
3. 2022 Work Plan Discussion

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

ADJOURNMENT to May 18, 2022

Notice: The Commission on the Environment meets monthly 6:00 PM. Meetings are Remote Access Only.

Agenda and Agenda Packet Materials: The Commission on the Environment Agenda is available on the City's website: www.cityofcapitola.org/ on Friday prior to the Wednesday meeting. If you need additional information, please contact the Public Works Department at (831) 475-7300.

Americans with Disabilities Act: Disability-related aids or services are available to enable persons with a disability to participate in this meeting consistent with the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Assisted listening devices are available for individuals with hearing impairments at the meeting in the City Council Chambers. Should you require special accommodations to participate in the meeting due to a disability, please contact the City Clerk's office at least 24-hours in advance of the meeting at 831-475-7300. In an effort to accommodate individuals with environmental sensitivities, attendees are requested to refrain from wearing perfumes and other scented products.

NOTICE OF REMOTE ACCESS ONLY

In accordance with the current Santa Cruz County Health Order outlining social distancing requirements and Executive Order N-29-20 from the Executive Department of the State of California, the Commission on the Environment meeting is not physically open to the public and in person attendance cannot be accommodated.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88991188749?pwd=dzI4Z2krR2pOc1VXcE8vR2xmTysvQT09>

Meeting ID: 889 9118 8749

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Comment via email:

Comments and additional material may be sent to the Commission via CapitolaDPW@ci.capitola.ca.us by 12NOON on the day of the meeting for distribution to Commission members.

DRAFT MINUTES
Commission on the Environment
Regular Meeting
February 16, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioners Present: Michelle Beritzhoff-Law, Margaux Keiser, Meredith Keet, Peter Wilk - Chair
Commissioners Absent: Bryce Ebrahimian
City Staff Present: Steve Jesberg, Danielle Uharriet

Chairperson Wilk called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

WRITTEN & ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – Michelle Beritzhoff-Law shared a resource “Urban Ocean Toolkit” which aims to provide processes/frameworks through which cities can better manage marine/plastic debris.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 20, 2021 minutes were approved (Keet/Keiser)

OTHER BUSINESS

1. 2022 Work Plan

#1 Compostable and Biodegradable Take Out Materials Restaurant Guide and Enforcement

Margaux Keiser will discuss the enforcement of the compostable/biodegradable take out materials ordinance at the March 1, 2022, City Council Goal Setting Session. Margaux suggested education and options would clarify the city’s expectations for food service businesses. Ongoing supply chain problems for obtaining the compostable/biodegradable serve ware have been a hindrance and hardship for some businesses.

Meredith Keet commented the city of Santa Cruz is visiting every food service business within the city to educate businesses, provide sample products and explain the ordinance requirements.

Michelle Beritzhoff-Law suggested reviewing the city’s special event requirement and incorporating the ordinance requirements into the event conditions.

#2 Soquel Creek

Peter Wilk suggested the city’s consulting fisheries biologist, Don Alley and consulting riparian restoration specialist, George McMenamin make recommendations for improving the health of the creek, fisheries and riparian vegetation.

#3 Climate Action Plan (CAP)

The City Council may be including further work on the CAP during the upcoming year. The COE may be developing action items for inclusion in a report to the City Council by the Community Development Director.

Peter Wilk recommended review of the CAP and noted previous work on green building and bike planning.

Michelle Beritzhoff-Law supported including reviewing the CAP in the COE work plan and recommended addressing sea level rise.

#4 Rispin Park Art & Cultural Commission Collaboration

Steve Jesberg updated the COE on the Rispin Park plan noting the landscape design, which incorporates both native and historical plantings, has been completed. The Art & Cultural Commission may be working on a design project for the historic, murals and interpretive signage at a later design phase for the overall project. Michelle Beritzhoff-Law suggested the COE collaborate with the Art &

Cultural Commission to incorporate environmental information about the riparian vegetation, creek, fish and habitat for Soquel Creek in murals and interpretive signage. This effort could highlight Soquel Creek as a valued resource in the local community.

Other work plan items discussed:

Heritage Tree Investigation/Revision of Tree Ordinance - Peter Wilk commented this work item will be best addressed by the Planning Commission.

New Brighton Beach – Michelle Beritzhoff-Law commented the COE may consider some type of public education regarding shark activity at New Brighton Beach

Capitola Environmental Guided Walk – Peter Wilk recalled working on a guided walk throughout Capitola highlighting various environmental sites to raise environmental awareness throughout the city.

Central Coast Climate Collaborative 4C – an organizing platform that bridges across sectors and scales to catalyze and advance equitable climate solutions throughout the Central Coast. Peter Wilk commented on the COE past involvement with the organization.

2. Organics/Recycling Guide

On January 1, 2022, a statewide regulation (SB1383) was implemented requiring residents to include food waste and yard waste in the green organics container. Greenwaste Recovery mailed a flyer (attachment 1) to all residents before the holidays and rate correction flyer at the end of 2021. A sticker (attachment 2) for the green organics curbside bin will be distributed citywide by Greenwaste. Solutions to address multi-family residential complexes that do not have individual green bins for organics collection are in the process of being resolved.

Greenwaste will be giving a presentation on the organics collection at the February 24, 2022, City Council meeting.

3. Elect Chair and Vice-Chair

Michelle Beritzhoff-Law was unanimously elected Chair (Wilk/Keet)

Peter Wilk was unanimously elected Vice-Chair (Keet/ Keiser)

4. Meeting schedule review

The Commission agreed to maintain the monthly meeting schedule.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Report of City Council Goal Setting meeting

Review of work plan

ADJOURNMENT to March 16, 2022

Approved at the meeting of April 20, 2022

Danielle Uharriet
Environmental Projects Manager

**COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT
2022 PROJECT WORK PLAN**

DATE: 20 April 2022

PROJECT TITLE: Compostable and Biodegradable Take Out Materials Restaurant Guide

PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT:

Create an informational guide/flyer about the city's compostable and biodegradable take out materials ordinance. Refine the design of the 2-sided guide/flyer with quick easy and clear information to be distributed to local food service businesses; and to be incorporated into the city's special events permit conditions.

IDENTIFIED ISSUES AND LIMITATIONS:

Limited and delayed delivery of the permitted products. Enforcement of the ordinance.

INTENDED RESULTS:

Increase awareness of the ordinance requirements and provide product resources.

PROJECT PRIORITY:

COE to determine

COST OF EFFORT:

TBD

RESOURCES AVAILABLE:

RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT AND STAFF/TEAM:

City Manager
Public Works

**COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT
2022 PROJECT WORK PLAN**

DATE: 20 April 2022

PROJECT TITLE: Soquel Creek

PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT:

Improve the health of Soquel Creek, fisheries, and riparian vegetation. Discuss the health of Soquel Creek and pursue recommendations for improvements with Don Alley, consulting fisheries biologist and George McMenemy, consulting riparian restoration specialist.

IDENTIFIED ISSUES AND LIMITATIONS:

Issues: Pollutants, water quality, fish habitat.
Limitations: Permitting, design and implementation.

INTENDED RESULTS:

Improve the water quality of Soquel Creek and to increase public awareness and involvement in maintaining and improving Soquel Creek as a local natural resource.

PROJECT PRIORITY:

COE to determine

COST OF EFFORT:

TBD

RESOURCES AVAILABLE:

Soquel Creek Management Plan

RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT AND STAFF/TEAM:

Public Works

**COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT
2022 PROJECT WORK PLAN**

DATE: 20 April 2022

PROJECT TITLE: Climate Action Plan

PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT:

Review the Climate Action Plan and develop list for further review and study for project development.

IDENTIFIED ISSUES AND LIMITATIONS:

Key issues identified initially: Green building, sea level rise, and bike plan

INTENDED RESULTS:

Actions to achieve further reductions of greenhouse gas emissions and to continue reductions to reach the 2045 carbon neutrality goal.

PROJECT PRIORITY:

COE to determine

COST OF EFFORT:

TBD

RESOURCES AVAILABLE:

Climate Action Plan

Bike Plan

RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT AND STAFF/TEAM:

Community Development Department

**COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT
2022 PROJECT WORK PLAN**

DATE: 20 April 2022

PROJECT TITLE: Interpretive Signage for Rispin Park Art & Other Areas Along Soquel Creek

PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT:

Design project for interpretive signage within Rispin Park and other areas along Soquel Creek. Incorporate environmental information about the riparian vegetation, fish, wildlife, and habitat for Soquel Creek in murals and signage.

IDENTIFIED ISSUES AND LIMITATIONS:

Possible collaboration with Art & Cultural Commission. Expertise in flora and fauna signage.

INTENDED RESULTS:

Highlight Soquel Creek as a valued resource in the local community.

PROJECT PRIORITY:

COE to determine

COST OF EFFORT:

TBD

RESOURCES AVAILABLE:

Soquel Creek Management Plan

RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT AND STAFF/TEAM:

Art & Cultural Commission
Public Works