



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: 2/21/2024
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Teleconference and
City Hall Downtown Conference Room, 1st Floor
701 Laurel St., Menlo Park. CA 94025

A. Call To Order

Vice Chair Schmidt called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present: Kissel (arrived at 6:05 p.m.), Lin, McKenna, Pelegri-Llopart, Schmidt
Absent: Hedley
Staff: Management Analyst II Ori Paz, Management Analyst II Liz Tapia

C. Public Comment

- Menlo Spark representative Brian Schmidt spoke about the organization, Nature Bloomers and their work in Belle Haven.

D. Regular Business

D1. Approve the January 31, 2024 Environmental Quality Commission meeting minutes (Attachment)

ACTION: Motion and second (McKenna/ Pelegri-Llopart), to approve the January 31, 2024 Environmental Quality Commission meeting minutes, passed 5-0-1 (Hedley absent).

D2. Receive an update on the Urban Forest Plan progress (Presentation)

Vice Chair Schmidt made the presentation.

- Arlene Nunez Garcia spoke on concerns related to staff capacity and project timeline.
- Pam Jones spoke on concerns related to preserving existing trees and finding space for new trees.
- Scott Marshall spoke in support of the Urban Forest Plan.

The Commission discussed the Urban Forest Plan tree maintenance, coverage area, canopy assessment, community engagement, importance of preserving existing trees, the CALFIRE grant application, and Urban Forest Plan cost.

D3. Review and discuss recommendations from the EV Ad Hoc Subcommittee on the 2025 – 2030 scope of work for CAP strategy No. 2 and No. 3 (Attachment)

Vice Chair Schmidt introduced the item.

Vice Chair Schmidt gave the presentation.

The Commission discussed reach code recommendation and priorities for EV (electric vehicle) charging.

ACTION: Motion and second (Kissel/ McKenna), to adopt recommendations from the EV Ad Hoc Subcommittee with the additional recommendation to prioritize and evaluate San Jose's EV charging reach code as a model for Menlo Park, passed 5-0-0 (Hedley absent).

ACTION: Motion and second (Schmidt/ Pelegri-Llopart), to dissolve the EV Ad Hoc Subcommittee, passed 5-0-1 (Hedley absent).

E. Reports and Announcements

E1. Reports and announcements from staff and Commissioners

Management Analyst Ori Paz reported out on Climate Action Plan (CAP) No. 5 progress, EV charging, solar for public buildings, building electrification, Peninsula Clean Energy partnership, Telsa pilot program and Love Our Earth Festival.

Management Analyst Liz Tapia reported out on the zero emission landscaping equipment rebate program launching April 1.

Commissioner Pelegri-Llopart reported out on the Peninsula Clean Energy board meeting March 22.

Commissioner McKenna reported that the Building Decarbonization subcommittee would present their recommendations at the next Environmental Quality Commission meeting.

Vice Chair Schmidt reported that the CAP No. 6 Climate Adaptation subcommittee would present their recommendations at the April Environmental Quality Commission meeting.

Commissioner Kissel spoke on promoting electrification in response to rising PG&E prices.

Vice Chair Schmidt spoke on the City Council prioritization meeting on March 2.

F. Adjournment

Vice Chair Schmidt adjourned the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

Liz Tapia, Management Analyst II

Minutes approved at the March 20, 2024 Environmental Quality Commission meeting

CAP 2 & 3 - Integrated Recommendations

- 1. Focus on increasing EV charging in apartments (~~especially~~ Prioritize larger complexes), small businesses, and city-owned buildings through partnerships, policy, and programs**
 - a. Create an inventory of installation opportunities in current buildings and future developments
 - b. Develop dashboard to show progress, including tracking EVs by income and charging availability
 - c. Partner with public agencies and private property owners to install EV charging
 - d. Focus on private residences after completing target group above and utilizing lessons learned
 - e. Explore incentive-based rules (e.g. direct install programs) and reach codes for existing buildings
 - f. For new construction, evaluate San Jose's EV charging reach code as a model for Menlo Park
- 2. Focus on EV charging, not EV purchases**
 - a. Leverage partners who are already promoting EVs widely to prompt resident EV purchases
 - b. Focus on L1 & L2 chargers, not DC Fast Chargers. Evaluate future tech as it evolves / can scale
 - c. Consider removing other fees from city-owned charging and source alternative funding to support operation, maintenance, and additional chargers
- 3. Focus on informing stakeholders of current incentives and benefits**
 - a. Create education and outreach campaign on EVs, affordability, and emphasize current incentives
 - b. Find potential partners for L1 & L2 charging
 - c. Aggregate funding for EV charging and utilize a wider variety of grants from federal, state, local, and utility, especially for low-income housing