

CITIZENS ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

DATE: Thursday October 4, 2018

TIME: Scheduled for 4:30 pm at the City Hall Misato Room

PRESENT: Dan Hall, Lynette Power, Alison Bettin, and Bruno Borsari

GUESTS:

STAFF: Natural Resources Sustainability Coordinator John Howard, Asst. City Planner Luke Sims

1. Call to order by Chair Hall at 4:32 pm. Introductions of CEQC members in attendance.
2. **Community Input Session:** No community members were present, so no presentation was conducted. John provided background that he provided notice of the input session to the Chamber of Commerce, on the City website, and at Planning Commission meeting which was covered by the local media.

Lynette asked if changing the title to Sustainability Commission would be better received by the community. Chair Hall suggested discussing as part of the Other Business category.

3. **Review of Sept. 6 Minutes:** approval moved by Bruno, seconded by Alison. Draft minutes approved unanimously.
4. **Unified Development Code:**

John stated that he spoke before the Planning Commission about the CEQC's plan to review the UDC, and they are supportive. One commissioner cautioned against being too specific about best practices and technologies since those can change.

Asst. Planner Sims provided a brief overview of the UDC, stating that much of the real estate in the City is recorded as a "lot of record". Luke suggested the following focus areas within the UDC for the CEQC: bluffland, shoreland, bike parking regulations, ground permeability, screening, and edible landscapes. Other possible topics for the CEQC might include lot size maximum, road designs, land use standards, non-conforming uses and dark skies policy.

Dan asked about the parking regulation and whether developers and the public prefer having standards. Discussion indicates that some people opposed to a development project can use parking standards as a way to deter the project.

Lynette sees this review of the UDC as valuable exercise and encourages review by all.

Alison said GreenStep could be good option for framing discussion.

Lynette shared her experience with renting, and the limitations created by the rules that limit the number of non-family member renters irrespective of the size of the house.

The CEQC discussed ways to divide the UDC so that the review would be more efficient and timely with other proposed changes to the UDC going before the Planning Commission. Dan thought reading the full 190 pages would be daunting, but it may work to have champions of the different sections who then discuss with the full group. Luke suggested taking the time to do a thorough review, and therefore breaking the UDC up into sections read by all, and discussing each section at a meeting.

The CEQC supported Luke's suggestion, and John was tasked with sending out the first sections for CEQC review. (Article 1 and Article 2 Division 1&2).

Lynette gets updates about drinking water issues, and seems many other cities are experiencing issues such as E.coli and industrial chemicals within their water.

Luke and John stated that many concerns are brought to the City's attention by residents, and their reporting is invaluable.

Lynette thought that some regulations about use may be overly restrictive, such as massage therapy, which was heavily restricted in the late 1990s, and may still be.

5. Ongoing Initiatives:

- a. Partners in Energy: The Green Ribbon Commission kicked off in late September, and will be a vehicle to help businesses share best practices and utilize available utility programs. Seven businesses attended representing a wide variety of industries.
- b. Green Step: The new GreenCorps member will likely be a big help in advancing GreenStep actions.

6. Other business:

- a. Lynette asked about the Master water stewards program, and whether it had taken off in the County. John is familiar with the program, but is not aware of any master water stewards in the area.
- b. Title of the proposed new commission: Lynette thought that titling the new commission as a "Sustainability Commission" might be more appealing than "Environmental Commission". Dan is not sure "sustainability" is any different. Alison believes "sustainability" connotes a wider focus, which can be seen as too overarching. Alison prefers "Natural Resources" as the title of the Commission. "Natural resource stewardship" was raised by Bruno. No consensus reached.
- c. Luke suggests doing outreach at public events, such as the farmers market or a library, rather than at a CEQC meeting as few people will attend public meetings. It is better to meet people where they physically are.

Quorum lost at 5:47 pm.