



MONDAY, JUNE 14, 2010

7:00 P.M. - REGULAR ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

Council Chambers, Los Altos City Hall
One North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Environmental Commission regarding any item on this agenda are available to the public on the counter in the main lobby located at One North San Antonio Road, Los Altos CA 94022 during business hours.

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the audience may bring to the Commission's attention any item that is not on the agenda. Please complete a "Request to Speak" form and submit it to the staff liaison. Speakers are generally given two or three minutes, at the discretion of the Chair. State law prohibits the Commission from acting on items that do not appear on the agenda.

CONSENT CALENDAR

These items will be considered by one motion unless any member of the Commission or audience wishes to remove an item for discussion. Any item removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion will be handled at the discretion of the Chair.

1. Commission Minutes
Approval of minutes – Regular Meeting of May 10, 2010

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Vacant Environmental Commission Position
Update on process for appointment of a new Environmental Commissioner
2. Got Bags? Program
Update on Chamber of Commerce and Environmental Commission collaboration on the project
3. Waste Management Services Contract
 - a. Staff update on transition plan from Los Altos Garbage to Mission Trails Waste Services

- b. Public education outreach to community by the Environment Commission
- 4. Bay Area Climate Collaborative (BACC)
Update from Commissioner Bray
- 5. Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory
 - a. Report was received by City Council
 - b. Report and discussion by Environmental Commission subcommittee on next steps
- 6. Items for Information
 - a. Ethics Training – June 29, 2010, 6pm – 8:30pm at City Council Chambers
- 7. 2009-2010 Environmental Commission Goals and Work Plan
Review of 2010 Goals and Work Plan

COMMISSION REPORTS AND DIRECTIONS ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City will make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the staff liaison 24 hours prior to the meeting at (650) 947-2610. A sound enhancement system is available in the City Council Chamber. You may check out headsets, which boost the public address signal during the meeting. Please ask for assistance PRIOR to the start of the meeting or during a break in the meeting.

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS, HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 10, 2010, AT 7:00 P.M. AT
LOS ALTOS CITY HALL, ONE NORTH SAN ANTONIO ROAD, LOS ALTOS,
CALIFORNIA**

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Rosewater, Labetich, DeMichiel, Anderson, Chien-Hale, Keller, Bray

ABSENT: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Commission Minutes
MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ANDERSON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DeMICHIEL to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 8, 2010. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. Packard Foundation New Building
Scott Shell, EHDD Architecture, presented and Commissioners discussed the new Packard Foundation building at 343 Second Street.
3. Chamber of Commerce
Julie Rose, Executive Director of the Los Altos Chamber of Commerce, presented and Commissioners discussed the Got Bags? program. MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ANDERSON that Chair Rosewater and Julie Rose meet to lay out the plans for how the program will work. THE MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF A SECOND. MOTION BY CHAIR ROSEWATER, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR LABETICH that Chair Rosewater and Julie Rose meet to come up with a plan that says the Chamber of Commerce and the Environmental Commission endorse the Got Bags? program and recommend to meet with five grocery stores in Los Altos and ask them to put the stickers on the doors and allow the Commission to give out stickers to put on cars at some public event in Los Altos. COMMISSIONER LABETICH WITHDREW HIS SECOND. Chair Rosewater and Julie Rose will meet and bring back a proposal to the Commission at the June meeting.
4. Water Conservation Efforts
Staff provided an update on the City's participation in the Water Wise Program measuring water consumption at City Hall.
5. Earth Day Project
Commissioner Chien-Hale provided a report on the Earth Day projects.
6. Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory
Commissioner Bray provided an update on the subcommittee's meeting with Staff regarding the Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory. MOTION BY COMMISSIONER KELLER,

SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR LABETICH that the Commission adopt the Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory as a baseline for the City, and that the Commission recommend that City Council accept this report as the City's baseline and direct the Environmental Commission to work with staff to propose goals and develop a plan to achieve them. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Environmental Commission Overview Presentation
Staff provided an update on and Commissioners discussed the Environmental Commission Overview Presentation. The item was tabled until a request has been made for a presentation.
8. Items for Information
Staff report on:
 - a. Creek cleanup May 8, 2010
 - b. Commission Training – May 18, 2010, 5:30pm reception and 6pm training at City Council Chambers
 - c. Ethics Training – June 29, 2010, 6pm – 8:30pm at City Council Chambers.
9. 2009-2010 Environmental Commission Goals and Work Plan
Commissioners discussed the 2009-2010 Environmental Commission Goals and Work Plan and items for the 2010-2011 Goals and Work Plan.

COMMISSION REPORTS AND DIRECTION ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Rosewater adjourned the meeting at 9:13 p.m.

J. Logan, Assistant City Manager and STAFF LIAISON

Item #5



AGENDA REPORT

DATE: May 25, 2010
TO: City Council
FROM: Environmental Commission
SUBJECT: COMMUNITY GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG) INVENTORY REPORT

RECOMMENDATION

- A. Receive Community GHG Survey Los Altos Environmental Commission; and
- B. Approve modification to the Environmental Commission 2009-2010 Work Plan.

BACKGROUND

On September 22, 2009, Council received the City of Los Altos Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Report. On July 28, 2009, City Council approved the Environmental Commission 2009-2010 Work Plan. One of the approved Commission goals was to investigate the feasibility of accomplishing a GHG inventory for the community. The Environmental Commission appointed a sub-committee who investigated the process, deemed it feasible, and Commissioners agreed to begin the Community Greenhouse Gas Survey using ICLEI methodology.

The Community Greenhouse Gas Survey is now completed, approved by the Environmental Commission, reviewed with staff, and is now presented to the City Council.

DISCUSSION

Due to legislative, environmental, and economic reasons, many cities are now trying to reduce carbon emissions. AB32 and SB375 encourage California cities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 15% from current levels by 2020 and achieve an 80% reduction by 2050. The above-referenced ICLEI methodology and tools are widely accepted by local governments as an effective means to organize and plan this process. This is also the methodology used by staff to complete the City of Los Altos 2005 Government Operations Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory.

Following the ICLEI methodology, the Environmental Commission Sub-Committee gathered baseline data for electricity and gas directly from PG&E that is based on actual metered usage; auto transport data that is based on California State Highway Department tracking data, and air transportation data that is estimated based on U.S. averages.

We request that the City Council receive this Community GHG Survey Report thereby completing Step 1 of the ICLEI five-step process as defined below:

1. Inventory current level of GHG emissions
2. Establish target for reduction
3. Develop reduction plan
4. Implement reduction plan
5. Monitor/evaluate progress

After discussion with staff, the Environmental Commission believes we are now in a position to work together to move forward to Steps 2 and 3 in the ICLEI process. We propose to develop a target and a reduction plan, and request modification of the Environmental Commission 2009-2010 Work Plan to reflect this direction.

The Commission proposes to set a goal consistent with the majority of cities in California who have already established them. The goals are intended to demonstrate commitment to reducing GHG emissions; there is no legislative or punitive remedy for failing to achieve them. However, the Commission believes that setting goals is instrumental in getting the community focused on a target for reductions.

We propose to use ICLEI tools to model potential GHG reduction strategies, costs, and payback, and recommend those with the most positive impact for our city. We anticipate that community outreach and education will comprise the largest part of that Community GHG Reduction Plan. Additionally, we feel there are opportunities beyond GHG emission reductions to address and would like to broaden the scope of the reduction plan to include monitoring and reducing water usage and other natural resources.

The resulting recommendations for both target and implementation plans would be brought before Council for approval.

FISCAL IMPACT

None. It is anticipated that the majority of work will be completed by the Environmental Commission, but some staff time will be required to evaluate alternatives and recommend next steps by the City.

ALTERNATIVES

Provide direction to the Environmental Commission regarding next steps for community GHG reductions.

Attachment(s):

Community GHG Survey Los Altos Environmental Commission