

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF
THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS, HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2008 AT 7:00 P.M. AT
LOS ALTOS CITY HALL, ONE NORTH SAN ANTONIO ROAD, LOS ALTOS,
CALIFORNIA**

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Anderson, Rosewater, DeMichiel, Chien-Hale

ABSENT: Schink, Coombs

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Commission Minutes

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER DEMICHEL, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CHIEN-HALE to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 8, 2008. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. Green Town Los Altos

Green Town Los Altos representatives (Margie Suozzo and Don Bray) made a presentation regarding their report "Reducing Waste in Los Altos: Key Findings and Recommendations". Other Green town Los Altos representatives (Kacey Fitzpatrick, Peg Champion, Linda Gass, Karen Janowski and Paul Blumenstein) also attended this meeting.

Ms. Suozzo and Don Bray presented the three (3) proposed goals of the Green Town Los Altos (GTLA).

Goal #1: Divert More Waste (75% diversion by 2013; Zero Waste by 2020).

Goal #2: Reduce Waste Generated (Reduce total waste by 5% by 2013).

Goal #3: Reduce toxins in the environment (generated from the improper disposal of household hazardous waste and universal waste).

Ms. Suozzo and Don Bray also presented the near term and medium term proposed recommendations of the Green Town Los Altos.

GTLA Near Term Recommendations (within 1 year):

1. Adopt the recommended waste management goals through a resolution of the City Council.
2. Include the GTLA goals and supporting services in the Waste Management RFP.
3. Develop a Public Education and Outreach Program
4. Implement a Sustainable Events Policy to Require Better Waste Management Practices.

GTLA Medium Term Recommendations (within 3 years):

5. Seek Municipal Government Certification as a Green Business.
6. Promote Waste Reduction and Increase Diversion at School/Club Events.
7. Increase C & D Diversion Rate to 75%
8. Offer Convenient Household Hazardous Waste and Universal Waste Collection.

Commissioner Rosewater presented a chart that shows a comparison between the solid waste management recommendations from the Environmental Commission and GTLA. The Commission found the priorities of the GTLA to be in almost complete alignment with the priorities submitted to City Council by the commission in September. Eight out of ten of the GTLA recommendations explicitly match those made by the Commission. The Commission fully endorses the other two as well, which are: Recommendation # 2.1 -- Weekly residential and commercial food waste and compostable collection and Recommendation # 2.9 --Structure contract with incentives for landfill diversion.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ROSEWATER, SECONDED BY CHAIR ANDERSON to endorse (1) the GTLA goals stated in the "Reducing Waste in Los Altos: Key Findings and Recommendations," and (2) the near-term recommendation #2 related to the waste management contract." THE MOTION PASSED 3-1.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER DEMICHIEL, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ROSEWATER to recommend a study session regarding waste management practices with City Council, Jim Gustafson, the Environmental Commission, and the Green Town Los Altos. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

GTLA recommends in their report that the City should hire or re-purpose a half-time staff person to provide outreach and education on environmental initiatives to the community and to oversee environmental initiatives within city operations.

Commissioner Chien-Hale suggested GTLA consolidate some of their recommendations.

Commissioner DeMichiel and Chair Anderson found GTLA's draft report to be professional, organized, and extremely compelling.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ROSEWATER, SECONDED BY CHAIR ANDERSON to request GTLA to make a presentation at a future meeting regarding the items non-related to the solid waste contract (Green Business Certification and Sustainable Events). THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

COMMISSION REPORTS AND DIRECTION ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Anderson adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Aida Fairman, STAFF LIAISON