



MINUTES
Town of Atherton
Environmental Programs Committee
SEPTEMBER 21, 2023
COMMITTEE MEETING
1:00 PM

REGULAR MEETING

ROLL CALL

Committee Members: Frederick, Loew, Farrell

Council Liaison: Lewis

Staff: Rachael Londer, Management Analyst II, Anthony Suber, Deputy City Manager/City Clerk

PUBLIC COMMENTS – *Public Comments can emailed directly to Rachael Londer, Management Analyst II, rlonder@ci.atherton.ca.us*

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Committee on any matter not on the Agenda that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee. State law prohibits the Committee from acting on items not listed on the Agenda except by special action of the Committee under specified circumstances. Speakers' time is limited to three minutes. Additionally, the public may address the Committee on any subject listed on the Consent and Regular Agenda.

Min Hui, shared her personal background and interests in sustainability and being a part of the commission

AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Approve Committee Minutes for July 20, 2023 Meeting.**
Frederick moved to approve, Loew Second
2. **Discussion on Community Engagement and Outreach Activities**
 - Staff reported out on engagement activities including Patchwork with Purpose Event, Sustainability Photo Contest, and Bike Rodeo
 - Committee discussed next steps for priority outreach activities including Canning/Preservation Workshop using Induction Cooktops, Sustainable Movie Night, and Compost Workshop
 - Committee member Loew requested the Town identify a solution for recycling plastics including medication bottles and create an outreach campaign to inform residents to alternative ways to dispose of hard to recycle plastics

3. **Discuss EPC Member Recruitment**

- Member of the public, Min Hui, submitted an application – Council will review during their October 18 City Council Meeting
- Committee member Frederick raised the idea for a Menlo College Seat, where one seat on the EPC would be dedicated to Menlo College students rotating on availability due to sports events, classes, and other commitments
- Deputy City Manager Suber shared that the City Council has governing authority, not this group. Suber cautions against changing governing documents for just a group of students. It could work better as a formal partnership with the Menlo College. Another opportunity could be having Menlo College students as volunteers, members of the public, and/or Town interns. Committee member Frederick to follow up with Menlo College Students on their preference.
- Chair Farrell has an interested community member who may submit an application.

4. **Review of Subcommittees - Oral Reports Only**

- Electric Landscaping Tools / Sustainable Landscaping Technology (Formerly Leaf Blower) – Frederick & Farrell

Committee member Frederick is working with Menlo College to host a demo of an electric lawn mower in October or November. Potential to expand demo to a full study done by students. The College will create a course if successful to have students work with landscapers and residents. Management Analyst Londer offered that the Town could market the demo once all outreach materials are available.

Management Analyst Londer reported that 20 leaf blower rebates have been distributed. There's an opportunity to further market and staff will work with Chair Farrell to refine messages for the next phase of outreach as enforcement of the leaf blower ban starts July 1, 2024.

Committee members discussed the rebates for rain barrels and how they may not be as useful of a tool in Atherton where homes do not have traditional gutters and down spouts.

- Reach Codes – Home Electrification – Farrell
No Report.

- Water Conservation – Frederick & Farrell
No Report.

- Earth Day – Farrell

Chair Farrell connected with Menlo Park Climate Team and Menlo-Atherton High School. Both are interested in knowing if Atherton wants to collaborate on the event for 2024. Staff to check in with City Manager Rodericks about putting Earth Day on the City

Council agenda for the October 18 City Council meeting.

· Sustainability Website – Vacant
No Report.

FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

Committee member Frederick requested that the Committee discuss the loss of fire insurance in Atherton and the potential to be designated as a CalFire Fire Safety Town. Staff requested additional information over email to determine if the topic was within the scope of the EPC or if it should be addressed through another channel.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 2:11 PM.

Rachael Londer
Management Analyst II