



AGENDA
Town of Atherton
Environmental Programs Committee
JULY 20, 2023
COMMITTEE MEETING
1:00 PM
Council Chambers
80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA 9402

REGULAR MEETING

ROLL CALL

Committee Members: Chair Farrell, Frederick, Loew (All Present)

Council Liaison: Council member Lewis

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

Establishing Quorum per AB 2449 & AB 361

Committee member Loew participating remotely from 255 Polhemus Avenue due to just cause. Chair Farrell motioned to allow Loew to participate. Committee member Frederick seconded.

AGENDA

1. Approve Committee Minutes for May 18, 2023 Meeting

Committee member Farrel made a motion to pass the minutes, Chair Fre second, and Council member Lewis moved to approve.

AYES: Chair Farrell, Committee member Frederick, Chair Farrell, and Committee member Loew

2. Discussion on Community Engagement and Outreach Activities

The Committee discussed a variety of activities to host to motivate environmental action in Town and decided to host the following:

- Patchwork with Purpose Event in partnership with Friends of the Atherton Library to encourage upcycling of clothes and fabrics (led by Summer Intern, Aishani Garg)
- Climate Careers Panel (led by Summer Intern, Aishani Garg)
- Compost and Vermiculture Workshop (led by Committee member Frederick)
- Canning and Preserving Workshop (led by Chair Farrell)
- Electric Vehicle Showcase (led by all committee members)

- Zero Waste Demonstration and Fair (led by all committee members)

Staff will take the first step in scheduling and reserving space for each of these events. Each of these events will be under the Love Our Earth brand to create excitement and connection leading up to Earth Day 2024.

Committee member Loew reminded the committee of the feedback he received to host a collaborative event in 2024. Staff shared that a survey is out to guide our approach and that a recommendation will be made to Council in October. Staff will reach out to both Menlo College and Menlo-Atherton High School to see if they are interested in and have availability to use their facilities on Sunday, April 22.

3. Discussion on EPC Member Recruitment

Staff shared that there are two vacancies for the following terms:

- 4 year term – expiring in June 2027
- 2 year term – expiring in June 2025

Any residents may apply and the Council will make the decision on whether or not to appoint them. EPC Members are encouraged to do outreach to identify potential members

Committee member Frederick expressed interest to combine Tree Committee into EPC. The committee discussed the connection between the scope of the informal Tree Committee and the scope of the EPC. One interesting nexus was around fire protection, as more fires are anticipated with our changing climate.

Public Comment: Gary Bloom from the Menlo Park Fire and Protection District shared that there is no policy and little community discourse preventing the encouragement of tree planting. There are policies around tree species removal and replanting.

Committee member Frederick introduced an idea for the EPC to conduct a tree inventory and the Committee discussed the various resources that would be needed which are currently not available. Committee member Farrell suggested sharing this idea with Menlo College students.

Staff shared that they would be open to talking to any interested students or committee member candidates to help share the scope of the EPC to see if their interests align.

Public Comment: Gary Bloom encouraged the Committee membership to be open to all ages

FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

Review of Subcommittees - Oral Reports Only

- Electric Landscaping Tools / Sustainable Landscaping Technology (Formerly Leaf Blower) – Frederick & Farrell
- Reach Codes – Home Electrification – Farrell
- Water Conservation – Frederick & Farrell
- Earth Day – Farrell
- Sustainability Website – Vacant

Partnership Earth Day

Staff to ask about Menlo College and MA location availability

NEXT MEETING DATE CONFIRMATION

The next meeting of the Environmental Programs Committee will be on Thursday, September 21 at 1:00 PM

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 PM.

Fire Districtt