



ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD

PO Box 190 | Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

6:00 PM – Regular Meeting

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER at 6:07 pm.
2. ROLL CALL: Tony Soriano (Chair), Bud Benneman (Vice-Chair), Joan Siegal, KC Fockler, Kathleen McGowan.

Staff Liaison: Tess Nguyen

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tess Nguyen: Council Member Natalie Moser has requested that the Environmental Board meeting be made available on zoom, with both in-person and zoom access capability. To accommodate this the Environmental Board would need meet at a location with the necessary technical equipment. Currently there are two other boards or committees that meet at the same time (3rd Wednesdays at 6pm) that utilize rooms with that equipment. Tess will research the availability of technically equipped rooms on other Wednesdays in the month and will report back.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a. Jeff Henderson: Is concerned about urban heat islands and would like to share information that NASA has cameras on Los Angeles showing that roads and parkways are heat islands and which areas are the most severe heat islands. A tool is available to identify urban heat islands (UHIs). There are various mitigation's that can be taken to mitigate urban heat island intensity, e.g., painting the streets with reflective paint, modifying parkway treatments, and others. Jeff believes that it is important to address those UHIs of highest intensity. Joan Siegal noted that in some cases mitigation measures to reduce water use on parkway medians may conflict with mitigating UHIs so this could be a complex issue.
- b. Mark Sheldon (former EB member): Would like to bring several items to the Environmental Board's attention including:
 - i. By-laws of the Environmental Board (EB) were drafted but never finalized.
 - ii. Encourages student art contest again this year.

- iii. Councilmember Natalie Moser recently led a City Council action to direct staff to develop a Citywide Sustainability Masterplan and Mark recommends that the EB engage on the development of that plan.
 - iv. Mark also encouraged the EB to investigate the issues associated with sea level rise, including the policy of managed retreat espoused by the Coastal Commission for sea level rise adaptation.
 - v. Mark asked about the recent closure of the City's internal environmental assessment committee. In response to Mark Sheldon's question, Tess Nguyen explained that at the direction of City Council, an evaluation of redundancy of various city staff functions and committees was conducted to identify those which warrant dissolution to increase staff efficiency. As a result, the City's internal environmental assessment committee (staff level) which was previously making determinations that were redundant with separate staff determinations on CEQA instruments has been closed due to redundancy. This closure does not affect the public's engagement and access to CEQA evaluations on projects.
5. APPROVAL OF FEB 19, 2020, MINUTES. Chair Soriano verbally reviewed the draft minutes from the last meeting of the Environmental Board. Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.
6. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW ITEMS
- Gisler Residential Mitigated Negative Declaration No. 20-002. Deadline to submit comments is August 10, 2021. KC Fockler volunteered to review the document.
7. COMMITTEE REPORTS
- a. Executive Committee (Soriano, Benneman):

Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment study/comments. A combined set of comments needs to be submitted by Monday, July 26. Tess recommends that the comments should be succinct and specific, possibly organized as bullet points by topic. Tony directed each person to abbreviate their comments to make them clear and succinct and to send them back to Tony promptly so that he can assemble and submit them on time.
 - b. Education Committee (Benneman, Fockler):
 - i. 2020 Art Contest: the committee had to change the way artwork pieces were submitted from physical to digital submissions due to Covid-19 pandemic. Each of the ten (10) winners received \$300 in gifts. The Education Committee organized a parade to deliver the gifts. The artwork was displayed on HB3 TV. The art contest was very well received, and the committee recommends holding it again this year.
 - 1. Middle School Winners: Chloe Pajaro, Julie McQuaid, Sandra Orr, Mia Deocariza, Ellie Murray
 - 2. High School Winners: Ashley Nguyen, Jaana Mantere, Grace Kanaly, Tracy Truong, Ava Rhinehart
 - c. Natural Resources Committee (Siegal, McGowan):

- i. Beekeeping Memo: Kathleen provided an overview of the recommendations from the committee's review of the environmental issues related to beekeeping as presented in the draft memo prepared in 2020 and recirculated prior to tonight's meeting. The committee's finding is that the potential ecological impacts are mixed but likely minor and that land use and human health and safety questions are more significant but outside the purview of the EB's charge. The draft memo was addressed to the Planning Commission, however Tess clarified that the memo should be submitted to the City Council since the EB is advisory to the City Council. Joan stated that she believes that there are more impactful environmental issues that the EB should be focused on.

1. Chair Soriano made motion that the memo should be submitted to Councilmembers Natalie Moser and Dan Kalmick as-is. Seconded by Member Fockler. Motion approved unanimously.

- d. Green Economy (Fockler, Siegal, Soriano): Britany Mello is the new staff person coordinating the program, she is also the Director of Human Resources. Following the resignation of the City's Environmental Programs Manager, KC Fockler has been the keeper of the access/credentials to the California Green Business Network which is the certifying organization. Tess will forward the log-on information from KC Fockler to Britany Mello.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- a. Suggestion to use BCC to manage email communication between Executive Committee, Staff Liaison and EB members outside of meetings to avoid Brown Act conflicts with CC only to Chair and Staff Liaison. Bud Benneman to research the issue. KC Fockler to reach out to a colleague who is a licensed parliamentarian.
- b. Tess will research changing of meeting date for the environmental board to a potential new date, instead of the third Wednesday, and possibly at City Hall where zoom access facilities are available.

9. MEMBER COMMENTS

- a. KC suggested that officer positions should be extended since the EB has not been able to meet for more than a year and the officers did not have the opportunity to fully serve. This can be voted upon at the next EB meeting along with selection of a secretary.
- b. Suggestion was made to combine annual reports for 2019 which was never finalized with the abbreviated 2020 annual report and possibly also 2021 annual report.
- c. Tony reminds everyone to revise and submit their comments on the SLRVA

10. ADJOURNMENT at 7:27 pm