



DATE: March 9, 2015

AGENDA ITEM # 6

TO: Environmental Commission
FROM: J. Logan, Staff Liaison
SUBJECT: Environmental Commission and City Council Joint Meeting

RECOMMENDATION:

Review draft report on 2014/15 Environmental Commission Accomplishments and Work Plan

BACKGROUND

On a scheduled annual basis, the City Council sets aside two meetings in March to meet with the various City Commissions and Committees. These meetings occur immediately following the appointment of new Commissioners and Committee members. This is an opportunity to discuss with Council: 1) the Commission/Committee annual Accomplishments; 2) discuss and determine project and topic priorities for the year and that are within the Commission/Committees' subject matter jurisdiction and to prepare an annual Commission Work Plan.

DISCUSSION

The Environmental Commission requested and the City Council scheduled the Joint Meeting on March 17, 2015 at 7:00 pm for approximately forty-five minutes.

In preparation for this meeting, the Commission needs to finalize its 2014/15 Accomplishments and the 2015/16 Environmental Commission Work Plan Priorities and Projects for presentation and discussion with Council.

Attachment

- A. DRAFT 2014/15 Environmental Commission Accomplishments and Work Plan Priorities and Projects



DATE: March 9, 2015
Report to Council on
March 17, 2015

TO: City Council
FROM: Environmental Commission
SUBJECT: 2014/15 Environmental Commission Accomplishments and Work Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

Review draft report on 2014/15 Environmental Commission Accomplishments and Work Plan

BACKGROUND

The Environmental Commission has completed its annual report on the City Council approved 2014/15 Environmental Commission Work Plan. The Work Plan serves to focus the Commission's agenda items and discussions and serves as a roadmap for the year. The Work Plan Accomplishments also serve to focus the Commission for discussions, revisions and development of a subsequent Work Plan. The Commission now approaches Council for a discussion of the 2014/15 Accomplishments and on goals and projects for the 2015/16 Environmental Commission Work Plan.

DISCUSSION

Six Environmental Commission Goals were targeted for 2014/15:

1. Provide environmentally relevant information to the community to improve sustainability
2. Climate Action Plan
3. Water Conservation
4. Restrictions for use of selected environmentally harmful products
5. Solid waste diversion and source reduction practices
6. Green Business practices

Accomplishments:

1. Provide environmentally relevant information to the community to improve sustainability
 - A. Community outreach and education
 - Commission participated in the Community Center Focus Group and provided suggestions on the environmental aspects of the proposed community center (April)

- A public interest survey was developed and input collected in four time sessions at the Farmers' Market with the intention to better understand the environmental needs and interests of residents to target topics for community outreach and education (July)
- Invited speakers presented information on topics of environmental interest to the Commission and public. Speaker were from Acterra on residential energy efficiency programs in Los Altos; multiple speakers on Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) feasibility study
- Outreach and preparation to host a joint public forum with Los Altos Hills, Cal Water, Purissima Water District for a Water Innovation Seminar scheduled on March 12, 2015
- Updating draft dashboard to display Climate Action Plan (CAP) data is in progress
- In coordination with the Engineering Division, Commissioners conducted broad outreach and visits to food establishments regarding the polystyrene ban

B. Discussion and planning for materials to add to the City website under the Green Initiatives landing page on water conservation

2. Climate Action Plan

- Subcommittee met with staff to discuss CAP implementation goals, measures and timelines
- A Special Presentation on a residential energy efficiency program was received in May (Debbie Mytels, Acterra)
- An effort to jointly promote CAP related efforts with BPAC is under consideration and a meeting was held with Chairs and Liaisons of both Commissions
- The Sunnyvale Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) feasibility study was tracked and discussion held with staff to encourage the resulting staff report to Council (Dec.)
- Two special presentations on CCA were made (Margaret Bruce, Business for Clean Energy in July, and Dustin Clark, Sunnyvale Sustainability Coordinator, in August)

3. Water Conservation

- Possible Los Altos measures through adoption of a water conservation ordinance were discussed; survey of surrounding jurisdictions was completed; outreach to Santa Clara Valley Water District staff for guidance was conducted; comments from residents was received
- Resolutions and Ordinances in neighboring communities were studied
- Requests for monthly City of Los Altos Water District aggregate water usage data was proposed to Cal Water with on-going discussion
- Water Conservation materials were posted on the Green Initiative homepage of the City Website

4. Restrictions for use of selected environmentally harmful products

- Assisted staff with visits to food service establishments to provide education on expanded polystyrene (EPS) ban
- Assisted staff with follow-up on the plastic bag ban and promoted educational outreach on re-usable bags
- Survey retailers and food services establishments about implementing EPS ban

5. Solid waste diversion and source reduction practices

- Staff presentations by Jim Gustafson were received in April, June, and July
- Discussion and planning to encourage local businesses to pursue green business certification continues
- A joint presentation by Jim Gustafson and Richard Tagore-Erwin, consultant was received (Sept.)
- The draft solid waste ordinance was reviewed and action taken to recommend Council to:
 - Separate Solid Waste Ordinance from the new C&D (construction and demolition) requirements
 - Incorporate Commercial and Multi-family recycling
 - Incorporate Special Event Recycling
 - C&D actions to be integrated into the Green Building Code (Sept.)

6. Green Business Practices

- Discussion and planning to encourage local businesses to pursue green business certification continues

2015/16 Environmental Commission Work Plan Priorities and Projects

Subcommittee draft - 2015/16 Environmental Commission Work Plan Priorities

1. Promote Energy Conservation

- Provide outreach and educational materials
- Partner with local community groups
- Evaluate and copy effective programs in neighboring cities

2. Increase Energy Efficiency

- Provide outreach and educational materials
- Promote energy efficiency financing, e.g. California First, Energy Upgrade California, HERO
- Encourage installation of energy-efficient appliances, both indoor and outdoor
- Provide energy efficiency outreach and programs for renter-occupied households
- Develop and distribute an energy self-audit checklist
- Consider enhanced building requirements
- Partner with local community groups

3. Increase Renewable Energy

- Provide outreach and educational materials
- Identify funding opportunities to promote solar PV installations
- Identify and promote all possible available rebates
- Participate in regional partnerships to provide reduced-cost PV installations
- Consider enhanced building requirements for solar PV

4. Evaluate Feasibility of Community Choice Energy (CCE)
 - Track and consider participation in the Sunnyvale CCE
 - Evaluate the feasibility of CCE just for Los Altos

5. Promote and Support Electric Vehicle Ownership
 - Provide outreach and educational materials
 - Consider additional requirements for pre-wiring in new construction
 - Consider additional public EV charging stations
 - Consider incentives for EV ownership
 - Partner with local community groups

6. Evaluate Feasibility of Bus/Shuttle Service
 - Consider such a service for school children living north of El Camino
 - Consider such a service during non-school use times for seniors

7. Promote Water Conservation
 - Provide outreach and educational materials
 - Identify and promote incentives and rebates
 - Consider additional city water saving resolutions
 - Consider a Los Altos water conservation ordinance
 - Partner with local community groups

8. Green Business Practice
 - Develop a plan to encourage local businesses to obtain green business certification
 - Provide outreach and educational materials
 - Partner with local community groups.
 - Evaluate and copy effective programs in neighboring cities

Prior Draft - February

1. Provide environmentally relevant information to the community to improve sustainability
 - Continue revisions of environmental relevant content on City web site
 - Work with staff to create forums to achieve CAP goals, e.g. presentations and workshops on water saving measures, drought tolerant landscaping, energy efficiency, solar installations and transportation alternatives
 - Continue to invite speakers to EC meetings to present on environmental topics
2. Climate Action Plan.
 - Work with staff to develop appropriate work plan items
 - Continue to track the Sunnyvale CCA feasibility study
 - Investigate and recommend measures to improve transportation and energy efficiency, e.g. programs offered by PG&E, Acterra, Energy Upgrade California, CaliforniaFIRST
 - Implement the CAP dashboard
3. Water Conservation.
 - Work with staff on drought related measures
4. Restrictions for use of selected environmentally harmful products

March 17, 2015

Increase effectiveness of plastic bag and EPS ban and utilization of environmentally sustainable alternative sources

5. Solid waste diversion and source reduction practices

Work with staff as directed

6. Green Business Practices.

Develop a plan to encourage local businesses to pursue green business certifications

We welcome your input and guidance.

Thank you,

Gary Hedden

Chair, Environmental Commission