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Sustainability Commission

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Agency: City of Chula Vista- Boards & Commissions

Date: Sept. 9, 2024

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Summary

Here's what you need to know

- The Sustainability Commission welcomed its newest member Dr. Eleuterio Buquiran. The Commission will have all the seats filled next month with the addition of their second youth Commissioner, Dave Wu.
- The City of Chula Vista's Edible Food Rescue efforts are compliant with the State of California mandate (SB 1383, 2016.) The City's progress toward meeting the Statewide goals won't be available until the State does their waste characterization study in the future.
- The Sustainability Commission will recommend that the City Council prohibit artificial turf installations or replacements on City property. Commissioners Sharkey and Salazar will make a presentation to the City Council in the future.

Immediate Actions

- Agenda Item 5.1 Unanimously approved the July 8, 2024 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes
- Agenda Item 5.2 Unanimously approved appointment of Commissioner Alatorre to

FY2024-2025 Vice Chair.

- Agenda Item 5.3: Unanimously approved the draft memo on artificial turf policy recommendations with the condition that the ask be clearly outlined and include no future use of artificial turf in City-owned properties.

Accessibility Issues

- This meeting room set up is not conducive to the hearing impaired, those who hear with their eyes (i.e. read lips.). No matter where a member of the public would sit at least two Commissioners would have their backs to them. No podium exists for public comment.

Follow-Up Questions

- Since the Edible Food Rescue program is one component of the State's landfill methane reduction effort, what are the City of Chula Vista's other organic waste reduction efforts? How are they doing relative to the 2016 State mandate (SB 1383?)
- The Edible Food Rescue program has been fully "rolled out" since January 1, 2024. What do the businesses impacted by this program have to say about it? Does the City of Chula Vista regularly survey them for feedback?
- Is artificial turf available for sale within the jurisdictional boundaries of the City of Chula Vista?
- Are local City of Chula Vista businesses currently installing artificial turf?

Notes

Meeting Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 5:08 PM by Chair Korgan.
- The agenda for this meeting may be viewed by clicking [here](#), while a video and audio recording of the meeting may be found by clicking [here](#) and [here](#), respectively.
 - **All timestamps below were taken from the City of Chula Vista audio recording.**

Commissioners in Attendance:

- Commissioner John Knox
- Commissioner Haley Salazar
- Commissioner Raymundo Alatorre
- Commissioner Jeanine Sharkey
- Commissioner Adriana Guevara Gluyas

- Commissioner Christos Korgan (Chair)
- Commissioner Eleuterio Buquiran
- Commissioner Abigail Costello (Youth Advisory)

Staff Present:

- Monica Rodriguez, Sustainability Commission Secretary, Office of Sustainability
- Manuel Medrano, Environmental Manager, Office of Sustainability
- David DiDonato, Recycling Specialist II, Office of Sustainability

Others Present:

- Tina Matthias, Founder & Executive Director, South Bay Sustainable Communities
- Robert, chulavistalivedata.com
- Karen Henry, Documenters.org

Agenda Item 3. Non-Agenda Public Comments:

- None

Agenda Item 4.1: Introduction of New Commissioner Dr. Eleuterio Buquiran

- Presentation:
 - None
- Public comments:
 - None
- Commission comments:
 - Chair Korgan welcomed the [newest member of the Sustainability Commission](#), Eleuterio Buquiran.
 - Commissioner Buquiran asked his colleagues to call him “Dr. Eli” (in response to Chair Korgan not wanting to mispronounce his name.) He went on to say, “it is my pleasure to be included as part of the Sustainability Commission here at Chula Vista because my goal and passion is really about sustainability and environmental.” **[01:50]**
- Commission action:
 - None.

Agenda Item 4.2: Edible Food Rescue Efforts in Chula Vista in Compliance With [Senate Bill 1383](#) (SB 1383 Lara, Chapter 395, Statutes of 2016)

- Presentation: [Edible Food Recovery Progress](#) by David DiDanato, Recycling Specialist
 - SB 1383 Program goal is “short lived climate pollutant reduction; the big one being methane.” **[04:30]**
 - A component of this *reduce organic waste* program rescues edible food (e.g.

- fresh products and prepared food) before it goes into the trash.
- Buried organics creates methane in the landfill.
- “We are a little behind that (goal of 75 percent organic waste reduction by 2025 Statewide) currently.” **[05:11]**
- Countywide food recovery capacity (i.e. organizations to take this edible food from businesses) is sufficient.
- 99 percent of Chula Vista’s food recovery is performed by volunteers/ nonprofits.
- Chula Vista’s local program meets the State’s mandated requirements.
- Businesses are required to recover a specific amount of food.
- Program data (i.e. type and quantity in pounds recovered) is submitted to [CalRecycle](#). Until CalRecycle conducts the water characterization study, staff does not have data to assess their reduction progress relative to these Statewide goals.
- Public comments:
 - None
- Commission comments:
 - Commissioner Salazar inquired if recordkeeping was like a log sheet? **[0:27:21]**
 - Commissioner Knox also inquired about recordkeeping, “are those records public records?”
 - Commissioner Alatorre asked, “Are you planning on scaling this up?” [
- Commission action:
 - None.

Agenda Item 5.1: Approval of the Meeting Minutes of July 8, 2024

- Presentation:
 - None
- Public comments:
 - None
- Commission comments:
 - None
- Commission action:
 - The motion to approve the [draft meeting minutes](#) was made by Commissioner Knox. Chair Korgan seconded said motion. All voted in favor.

Agenda Item 5.2: Elect New Vice-Chair for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

- Presentation:
 - None

- Public comments:
 - None
- Commission comments:
 - Commissioner Guevara Gluyas was not interested in serving as Vice Chair again for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.
 - Commissioner Knox asked for a clarification of the Vice Chair’s duties. He noted that Commissioner Alatorre had seniority on the Commission.
 - Commissioner Alatorre accepted.
- Commission action:
 - Chair Korgan made a motion to appoint Commissioner Alatorre as Vice Chair. Commissioner Knox seconded said motion. All voted in favor.

Agenda Item 5.3: Commission Draft Memo on Artificial Turf Policy Recommendations

- Presentation:
 - Commissioner Salazar and Commissioner Sharkey prepared a draft [2-page letter to the Mayor and City Council](#) that was included in the Board Meeting Agenda package.
- Public comments:
 - None
- Commission comments:
 - Chair Korgan offered gratitude to the primary and secondary who worked on this. **[0:36:26]** “I thought It was well written, thoughtful.”
 - Commissioner Salazar wanted to add a few new issues to the letter that were not included in the earlier presentation made to the Commission.
 - Commission Sharkey said she will condense her earlier Powerpoint [presentation to the Sustainability Commission](#) to create the presentation to accompany the letter to the Mayor and City Council.
 - Commissioner Salazar expressed a desire to include the loss of habitat for invertebrates in ruining the soil below ground, smothering the habitat (fungus, bacteria, invertebrates that live below ground.) **[0:40:29]**
 - Commissioner Sharkey noted that the draft letter mentions habitat and pollinators.
 - Commissioner Allatore suggested that the Commission start with education.
 - Commissioner Knox suggested revisiting the goal and purpose in this future presentation. Commissioner Knox said, “are we asking the City to recognize that artificial turf is inconsistent with our Climate Action Goals?” **[0:43:24]**
 - Chair Korgan explained that recommending to the City Council is not fully thought through yet. The Commission is currently pushing through the plastics ban and does not have unlimited asks (with the City Council.)

- Chair Korgan said, “raising awareness is one thing but I think we can do better.” **{0:44:30}**
- Chair Korgan requested that artificial turf education be added to the City of Chula Vista website and social media.
- Commissioner Sharkey would like to revisit this issue in one year to assess its impact.
- Commission action:
 - Chair Korgan made a motion to approve the draft memo with the condition that the ask is clearly outlined and no future use of artificial turf in City-owned properties. Commissioner Sharkey seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Agenda Item 6: Staff Comments by Manuel Medrano, Environmental Manager

- Various upcoming Sustainability Events over the next two months were presented.
- The City Council will ratify Christos Korgan to the Measure P Citizens’ Oversight Committee on September 10, 2024.
- The City Council will ratify Dave Wu as the new youth Sustainability Commissioner on September 10, 2024.

Agenda Item 7: Chair’s Comments

- Next month the Commission will welcome another youth commissioner. Chair Korgan gave “encouragement of our current and future youth participants to share your cognitive vision... we look forward to hearing your thoughts at future meetings.” **[1:11:21]**

Agenda Item 8: Commissioners’ Comments

- Commissioner Knox really liked the Sustainability Newsletter and thanked staff for putting it together.
- Commissioner Salazar attended the new [Bayfront Cultural and Design Committee Meeting](#) then followed up with a site visit of the area. She said, “the new park knocked my socks off and it is not even done.” **[01:14:17]** She was also impressed with the boatyard and their goal to be the cleanest and zero emissions.

Adjournment:

- **Chair Korgan adjourned the meeting at 6:26 PM.**

If you believe anything in these notes is inaccurate, please email us at

documenters@inewssource.org with "Correction Request" in the subject line.