



*Visalia Environmental Committee informs and advises the Visalia City Council and Citizens
on preserving and improving environmental quality for the benefit of the community.*

MEETING MINUTES – Conf. Call
April 8, 2020

1. Welcome & Introduction

The Visalia Environmental Committee (V.E.C.) meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m. by Chair Melkonian.

Members Present: Maile Melkonian, Steve Sanders, Mark Wall, David Shelburne, Renee Burton and Kathy Falconer

Members Not Present: Melisa Prins

Members of the Public: None

City Staff: Nathan Garza

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of February 12, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Member Falconer made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the March 11, 2020 Environmental Committee meeting. Member Wall seconded, the motion carried 6-0.

4. Earth Day 2020 Sub-Committee Update

Chair Melkonian reported that all Earth Day sponsors and exhibitors were informed that the event has been postponed until September 19, 2020. Member Falconer reported that the activities planned for Earth Day are scheduled to continue with new event date. She also reported that one sponsor (Bye Bye Mattress) had to withdraw their sponsorship due to another commitment scheduled on the same day. Member Falconer informed all Members that the deadline for Earth Day sponsors and exhibitors has been rescheduled to August 14, 2020, and the deadline for the Eco Art program had been updated to August 15, 2020. Chair Melkonian suggested that Member Falconer reach out to local artists as many people are looking for things to do while social distancing. Member Wall recommended that Member Falconer connect with Garden St. Studios, Art's Visalia, etc. as these groups have a lot of contacts with local artists.

5. VEC Battery Program Update

Chair Melkonian stated that the purpose of the updated battery site collection list is to develop individual collection assignments at high volume collections sites. Staff was directed to email a list of all high volume collection sites to all Members.

6. Member Requests & Announcements

Chair Melkonian asked if any Members would like create a sub-committee to revamp the Low Water Use Landscape award application. Member Wall stated that he was willing to do so.

Member Wall informed all Members that a recent Harvard study had been completed on long-term exposure to air pollution (PM 2.5) and COVID 19 mortality in the United States.

Member Sanders shared that he is working with an organization "Climate Rise" who are planning to host a virtual art event on April 18, 2020 and that all proceeds will help to support Sequoia Riverlands Trust.

7. Adjourn

Chair Melkonian adjourned the meeting at 7:37pm.