



*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
May 13, 2020

1. Welcome & Introduction

The Visalia Environmental Committee (V.E.C.) meeting was called to order at 5:53 p.m. by Chair Melkonian.

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

Members Not Present: None

Members of the Public: None

City Staff: Ana Boswell

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of February 12, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Member Falconer made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the April 8, 2020 Environmental Committee meeting. Member Wall moving and Member Falconer seconded, the motion carried 6-0.

4. Earth Day 2020 Sub-Committee Update

Member Falconer informed the event, layout and participants are confirmed for September 19, 2020. Free full page add in the online version of Parks & Rec Live and Play magazine available online on May 15. All yard signs will be update by Yolanda at later date. Per city officials, only 1 tree will be planted at opening ceremony; garden tour rescheduled for March 27, 2021; Recycle Art Contest deadline postponed to August 15 and it will be announced via City's website, social media and e-letter, and select Visalia Transit's routes; Member Wall suggested to utilize promotion of the event to boost transit ridership; the only confirmed participant for the Clean Air meeting in September is Yanny Gonzalez. Member Falconer has been in touch with Parks and Recreation who have several ideas and option online for residents, which could be considered for the event; further discussion of more space, protection and adjustment to any restrictions still in place will be discussed in the July meeting; Farmers Market booth and or placement of yard signs

5. Low Water Usage Landscape Awards Update

Member Wall led the discussion about the draft and criteria for the award review of future recipients. The rubric and examples from other cities were submitted by member Prins. Member Wall discussed the expansion and increase of different award levels (professional vs. amateur; business vs. homes) in order to increase interest and stakes in competition; have award contest 1 or 2 times a year (right before replanting/changing landscape season); Chair Melkonian suggested to get VTD, Lifestyles magazine, etc. more involve for coverage of contest and awards in order to increase the visibility and profile in the community; Member Wall requested more discussion in hardscape and plant material areas to be considered when reviewing participating locations; Member Wall and Chair Melkonian suggested to invite professional landscapers in future meetings for further input, information of 4 landscape professionals provided: Parris for "Holistic solutions for clean, efficient and renewable resource Management in landscape design" out of Fresno; Dan Vena at Sierra Landscapes Designs; Melanie Mackensy at Luis' Nursery; Ellas Peyton from Quercus Landscape Design out of Springville

6. Member Requests & Announcements

Member Falconer requested the committee to support the SJV sponsored artwork calendar.

Member Wall requested a second draft of the Low Water Use Landscape Award to be included in June's agenda.

Member Falconer requested the committee to get involved in the Make a Difference Day (October 2020)

Chair Melkonian informed the Habitat for Humanity's birdhouse auction had been postponed for August 19, 2020.

7. Adjourn

Chair Melkonian adjourned the meeting at 7:00 pm.