



*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 – ZOOM meeting**

### **June 10, 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, and Melisa Prins **Members**

**Not Present:** Kathy Falconer, Renee Burton

**Members of the Public:** Amy Frame

**City Staff:** Nathan Garza

#### **2. Public Comment**

None

#### **3. Approval of March 13, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Chair Melkonian asked that all members review the draft meeting minutes as prepared. After reviewing, Member Sanders made the motion to accept the meeting minutes from the March 13, 2020 Environmental Committee meeting. Member Wall seconded, the motion carried 5-0.

#### **4. Earth Day 2020 Sub-Committee Update**

Chair Melkonian informed the event, layout and participants are confirmed for September 19, 2020. Member Wall suggested that the Earth Day sub-committee consider how they plan to address the states "Stay at Home" order if the rules have not been lifted by September 19, 2020. Chair Melkonian stated that the sub-committee will be discussing potential COVID-19 precautions at their July meeting.

#### **5. Low Water Usage Landscape Awards Update**

Member Wall shared the updated application and led a discussion about the award review process of future applicants. The rubric and examples from other cities were reviewed. He also suggested that the updated application include a turf scoring sheet as well. Chair Melkonian suggested that the application include a percentage breakdown of plants versus turf area. She also asked the Members to consider whether the program should be a competition or participation award. Member Wall explained that a participation award would likely encourage more applicants. The VEC Members discussed the possibility of including different award levels and award prizes, possibly including low water and native plants for the recognized gardens. Chair Melkonian suggested that the subcommittee work on the proposed updates and bring it to the July 8, 2020 meeting to focus the 2021 Low-Water Use Landscape award program update.

#### **6. Reappointment of Members**

Staff Member Garza explained that Members Falconer and Prins terms are expiring at the end of June 2020. Both Members indicated that they want to continue to volunteer to serve on the Environmental Committee. Member Falconer will begin a second term and Member Prins will begin her third and final term if appointed. Member Shelburne made the motion to recommend both Member Falconer and Prins be reappointed to service on the Visalia environmental Committee for their individual respective terms. Member Wall seconded, the motion carries 5-0.

#### **7. Review New Member Application**

Chair Melkonian reminded all Members that the Committee is made up of 7 Members and currently has 2 vacant alternate positions open. She then directed staff to contact the three applicants and verify that they're willing to serve on the Environmental Committee as alternates. Staff will forward the applications of those applicants willing to do so to all VEC Members so that this item can be added to the July 2020 meeting agenda.

## **8. Member Requests & Announcements**

Member Wall requested That the July ZOOM meeting be set up allow for more time so as to have to login to two meeting.

## **9. Adjourn**

Chair Melkonian adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm.