



*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 (Draft)**

### **September 16, 2020**

#### **1. Welcome & Introduction**

The Visalia Environmental Committee (V.E.C.) meeting was called to order at 5:55 p.m. by Chair Melkonian.

**Members Present:** Maile Melkonian, Steve Sanders, Kathy Falconer and David Shelburne were present in person. Mark Wall attended by conference call.

**Members Not Present:** Renee Burton

**Members of the Public:** None present

**City Staff:** Andrew Munn

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

None

#### **3. Approval of August 12, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Chair Melkonian asked that all members review the draft meeting minutes from the August 12, 2020 monthly meeting. After reviewing, Member Sanders made the motion to accept the meeting minutes from the June Environmental Committee meeting. Member Falconer seconded, the motion carried 5-0.

#### **4. Visalia Environmental Committee Alternate Member Applicant Interview with Dustin Johnson**

The Committee interviewed Mr. Dustin Johnson for the vacant Committee Alternate position. The interview examined Mr. Johnson's experience and interest in Environmental issues. After deliberation, Member Shelburne made the motion, Member Falconer seconded, and the Committee voted 5-0 to recommend Mr. Johnson be appointed by the City Council as alternate member of the Committee.

#### **5. Low Water Use Landscaping Award Judging Criteria Subcommittee Update**

Member Wall reported on his progress on the update the judging format for the Low Water Use Landscape Award. He reiterated the need to establish judging criteria that provides for more objectivity in the decision-making. He was unable to make contact the College of Sequoias Ornamental Horticulture Department for their assistance in possibly creating an opportunity for a student to participate in this project. Members Wall and Sanders will continue their efforts on this matter.

#### **6. Water Conservation Ordinance Stage 3 Update**

Staff member Munn provided a brief presentation to the Committee highlighting the upcoming changes to City water conservation rules.

The Committee discussed the implications of the increased conservation measures, requesting additional information from staff on the following:

- The availability of funds to finance a turf replacement program similar to the Cal Water program in 2015-16
- City efforts to advise local nursery and landscape businesses of the Stage 3 measures, and establish a cooperative program to promote the purchase of water efficient plantings.
- Research on water use by businesses employing outdoor mister systems in restaurant and entertainment settings.

#### **7. 2020-21 Committee Goal Planning**

Chair Melkonian suggested the committee review the Goals set by the Committee in the recent past.

City Staff Munn provided the committee members with the available Committee Goal documents from 2016, 2019 and 2020.

The Committee considered establishing a subcommittee consisting of members Melkonian and Sanders. Further discussion was tabled until the September meeting.

**8. Earth Day: Plug In America update**

Member Falconer reported on the status of the Plug In America grant for the Earth Day event.

Plug In America has offered to carry-over their \$2,200 grant and the electric vehicle test drive event to the 2021 Earth Day. If the 2021 event is cancelled, Plug-n-America will request a refund of the full amount.

Plug In America has offered an alternate guaranteed grant of \$1,000 if the City commits to promoting a Plug In webinar event.

The Committee suggested that consideration of this matter be an action item at the next meeting.

**9. EcoCreate Art Contest Presentation**

Member Falconer provided a PowerPoint presentation showing the winners of the Committee-sponsored EcoCreate Art Contest. Additionally she provided the Committee with a summary of the accounts for the event.

**10. Member Requests & Announcement**

Member Falconer presented three environmentally oriented events she suggests the Committee recommend the City promote on the GoGreenVisalia, Visalia Environmental Committee Calendar, promote on the City's main website and newsletter, and on flyers on City property:

- National Clean-Up Day ([www.nationalcleanupday.org](http://www.nationalcleanupday.org)) September 18, 2021
- California Clean Air Day ([www.cleanairday.org](http://www.cleanairday.org)) October 7, 2020
- National Recycle Day ([www.epa.gov/americarecycles/america-recycles-day](http://www.epa.gov/americarecycles/america-recycles-day)) November 15, 2020

**11. Adjourn**

Chair Melkonian adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm.