



*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**

**January 8, 2020**

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

The Visalia Environmental Committee (V.E.C.) meeting was called to order at 5:48 p.m. by Chair Melkonian.

**Members Present:** Maile Melkonian, Melisa Prins, Steve Sanders, Mark Wall, and David Shelburne,

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

**Members of the Public:** None

**City Staff:** Nathan Garza

### **2. Public Comment**

None.

### **3. Approval of December 11, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Member Wall made a recommendation to accept and approve the meeting minutes for the December 11th, 2019 meeting. Member Sanders seconded. The motion carried 5-0

### **4. Low Water Use Landscape Award Application Review**

Chair Melkonian asked all Members to review the two applications received for the 2020 Low Water Use Landscape Award. Chair Melkonian requested that the application submitted by the Downtown Business Association be tabled until the February V.E.C. meeting to allow this group to submit updated photos and too include additional information on any water savings associated with their project.

Member Shelburne made the motion to award the Low –Water Use Landscape Award to Mr. Steve Nelsen for his residential low-water use landscape project. Member Sanders seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

Member Wall then suggested that if the true spirit of the award is to conserve water then the application for the Low-Water Use Landscape Award program should be updated to include what the V.E.C. is using to determine what quantifies as a water savings when reviewing future applications. Member Wall and Member Prins offered to review the current application and make recommendations via email which will be brought before all Members at their February 12, 2020 meeting.

Member Melkonian reminded all Members to look for both residential and commercial addresses as potential Low-Water Use Landscape awardees.

### **5. VEC Battery Program Update**

Staff Member Garza informed the Committee Members of a safety concern brought up by a residents of a local assisted living complex. The issue was with regards to how to properly handle recycled lithium batteries. The resident suggested that the Members consider placing a notice on the bin located at his complex to include a request that all lithium batteries being placed inside the collection bin to include a small piece of tape placed on both ends of each battery to prevent the possibility of a fire. Chair Melkonian requested that staff post the notice at this particular location.

Staff requested that Members consider reviewing the battery drop off locations list at their February meeting to update collection contacts to include more of the participating locations. The request was made by Member Melkonian to include this as an agenda item for the February 2020 meeting.

### **Member Requests & Announcements**

Staff reminded Members of the January 11, 2020 Dump On Us event, and stated that the total tonnage collected during the 2019 Holiday Tree Recycling Program will be made available at the February 2020 meeting.

Chair Melkonian announced a community discussion on E. Main St. development being held at Café 210 on January 13, 2020 at 6:30pm. She also announced two upcoming candidate forums. The first is scheduled for January 14, 2020 at Café 210, and the second event is scheduled for January 30, 2020 at College of the Sequoias Ponderosa Room.

**6. Adjourn**

Chair Melkonian adjourned the meeting at 7:12pm.