



*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)

March 10, 2021

1. Welcome & Introduction

The Visalia Environmental Committee (V.E.C.) meeting was called to order at 5:47 p.m. by Chair Melkonian.

Members Present: Maile Melkonian, Steve Sanders, Kathy Falconer, David Shelburne, Mark Wall, Holly Deniston-Sheets and Dustin Johnson were present by Zoom teleconference.

Members Not Present: None

Members of the Public: Omar Faris, Southern California Edison; Holly Merrihew, Southern California Edison

City Staff: Andrew Munn, Shelley Albanese

Chair Melkonian introduced Shelley Albanese as new Staff Representative.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of February 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes

After Committee review of the minutes, Member Wall made the motion to accept the meeting minutes; Member Johnson seconded, the motion carried 7-0.

4. The future of EVs in Visalia Discussion with Omar Faris, Transportation Electrification Advisor, Southern California Edison

Mr. Faris provided an overview of Southern California Edison's Charge Ready Infrastructure Program, designed to facilitate the installation of charging capacity in non-residential and multi-family residential facilities. It is expected to launch this summer.

It was discussed that it would be desirable for new construction to be required to install 220 plugs for single family homes and EV infrastructure for multifamily.

5. V.E.C. Op-Ed in Support of Stage 2 and City Water Conservation Communications Updates (Maile Melkonian and Dustin Johnson)

The Op-Ed has been published in the Visalia Times Delta. It was mentioned that it has received good feedback from the public thus far.

6. Low Water Use Landscape Award Subcommittee update (Mark Wall and Steve Sanders)

It was stated that the sub-committee will review the brochure and provide Staff Representative Albanese with any requested edits.

An updated draft will be sent to the committee prior to April's meeting, for review.

7. City Council Work Session Review of City Commissions and Committees (Mark Wall and Holly Deniston-Sheets)

The committee discussed main points to communicate with the Council, and what inquiries to make during this opportunity. The committee asked what else might be needed in preparation for the work session review this Monday, March 15. Staff Representative Albanese stated that she would inquire and provide further information.

8. V.E.C. Internal Survey (Mark Wall and Holly Deniston-Sheets)

The committee reviewed the results of the internal survey.

It was stated that the committee would like to ask council what the role of the V.E.C. should be.

It was also discussed whether the committee is an operational or advisory committee. The mission was shared with the committee which states, The Visalia Environmental Committee informs and advises the Visalia City Council and citizens on preserving and improving environmental quality for the benefit of the community. Issues addressed including air quality, hazardous waste, recycling, water conservation and all other natural resources.

9. Member Requests and Announcements

Chair Melkonian requested that Nathan Garza provide a presentation on recycling, including Styrofoam, at the April meeting.

Chair Melkonian requested that the Low Water Use Landscape Award brochure be revisited at the April meeting.

Chair Melkonian requested website and social media communications be discussed at the April meeting.

It was also requested that recommendations to council regarding electric vehicles be discussed at the May meeting.

10. Adjourn

Chairperson Melkonian adjourned the meeting at 7:46 pm.