



*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)**

**April 14, 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:** None

**City Staff:** Shelley Albanese, Nathan Garza, Jason Serpa

### **2. Public Comment**

None

### **3. Approval of March 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. Presentation on Recycling, Including Styrofoam with Nathan Garza and Jason Serpa, City of Visalia**

Staff Members Serpa and Garza were available to the committee to answer questions. Staff Member Serpa provided an update on current recycling mandates. Staff Member Serpa mentioned the contract for recycling services will be up for renewal as of June 30<sup>th</sup>. The RFP is being reviewed by purchasing. Discussion included Committee concern that the foreign policy tensions with China has negatively affected recycling capacity in the U.S. and locally. Chair Melkonian also asked Committee members to think of ways the City could encourage businesses to use less styrofoam.

### **5. Low Water Use Landscape Award Subcommittee Brochure (Mark Wall and Steve Sanders)**

Feedback was provided to Staff Member Shelley Albanese. Chair Melkonian mentioned she would connect with Staff Member Albanese to review additional suggestions. Staff Member Albanese will print copies for the committee to distribute. Discussion incurred.

### **6. Website and Social Media Communications (Kathy Falconer)**

Member Falconer presented the May tips for the committee's feedback. It was discussed that a working subcommittee to provide feedback on the website would be created. Members Falconer, Shelburne and Melkonian volunteered to be on the subcommittee.

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

The committee discussed what the next step for the Council members was. Staff Member Albanese reported that the council finished their review of all the committees and commissions at the last council meeting. At this time, Council and staff members are reviewing the information they discussed during each committee review. The committee expressed that they wish to have a council member attend more often.

**8. Member Requests and Announcements**

Member Wall requested the committee send a letter of recognition to an organization, Trips for Kids, that is hosting an Earth Day bicycle ride. Staff member Albanese will follow up with the committee whether the letter is approved to be send on behalf of the committee.

Member Falconer requested a representative from Cal Recycle present at the June meeting.

Member Falconer requested the Committee consider hosting an electric vehicle test drive event in September. Chair Melkonian put this item on the May agenda. Staff Member Albanese will check to see if the City would favor such an in-person event at that time. Member Falconer will check with Plug-In-America to see if support funding might be available.

Chair Melkonian mentioned that two members' terms end June 30<sup>th</sup>. If any member knows of anyone that would be interested in being a member of the committee, to encourage them to apply.

**9. Adjourn**

Chairperson Melkonian adjourned the meeting at 7:29 pm.