



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY
Sustainability and Environmental Resources
Committee Meeting
Monday, June 19, 2017 10:30 AM
Town Hall Conference Room
765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:37 AM.

Roll Call:

Committee Members:

Present: Al Sill, Jim Lussier, Loverine Taylor, Delle Maxwell, Brandi de Garneau, Meredith McClintock, Maryann Derwin, George Salah, Mia Di Giovanni, Anne-Laure Strong,

Absent: Judith Murphy, Rebecca Flynn, Stefan Unnasch,

Other Attendees: Keith Weiner, Leslie Field (Ice911), Jeff Aalfs (PCE and PV Town Council)

Oral Communications:

- Loverine: she has installed a new irrigation controller, the pro-C from Hunter; trying to understand how to fulfill requirements to get a rebate.
- George: do we have data on GHG emissions for town? Yes, from 2014. But there is an issue with data aggregation when one large user dominates the data, so we can't currently get the 2015 data (this is PG&E data). What about transit related GHG? We get the data from the county based on an allocation to PV of a portion of the overall transit GHG for the region. How should we be addressing transit and increasing congestion? Potentially could drive a new SERC subcommittee.

Residential Battery Systems (presentation and discussion with Deputy Building Inspector Keith Weiner):

The town is starting to see some installations of the Powerwall battery from Tesla. The first submittals were inadequate. Keith has come up with submittal guidelines. Each battery provides 14 kW of sustained power. It can provide limited power for an average house for a day (3 bedrooms, 2 baths). Batteries can be chained together for larger houses (up to 10). In PV there will usually be 2 to 3 chained together. One Powerwall costs around \$6200; the installation runs between \$800 and \$2000. A single battery weighs about 265lbs and has a warranty of 10 years.

For the installation of systems with multiple batteries, the homeowner needs to pay attention to structural integrity. The system can be tied into a home solar system or not.

Tesla also has the Powerpack product targeted at commercial installations. The biggest buyers are hotel chains. Google also uses these. Hotels are taking advantage of these systems to load shift based on real time pricing.

Vermont's Green Mountain Power has teamed with Tesla in energy storage aggregation. There are Powerpack grid scale storage units at substations, linked to Powerwall units at individual homes. The GMP customers pay \$15/month or a one-time charge of \$1500. They are guaranteed backup power and no one needs to own or install their own backup system.

Rainwater catchment / Graywater: Some newer homes are putting in rainwater catchment systems with capacities of 5000 gallons and larger. Keith is seeing graywater systems going in on many newer homes under construction. He offered that he could do a simple 2 hour graywater system class here. Perhaps actually build a simple L2L system during class.

Keith does not have data on installations of heat pump water heaters at this time but plans to start accumulating that data.

Presentation by Leslie Field, Ice911:

Leslie is a PV resident. Ice911 is focused on climate change.

As a committee, we can sponsor a speaker to speak at the community hall. Leslie reached out to SERC to see if we would sponsor her.

She proposed to talk on "Why consider geo-engineering?" – spread silicon dioxide hollow beads (they increase solar reflectivity) to slow down climate change so that there is more time to take all the necessary steps to reverse the impact of climate change. The objective of her proposed talk is to build awareness in the community.

Committee Discussion: Do we think this is valuable?

- Perhaps as part of a speaker series. But we should structure the series based on what we want, not just what falls into our lap. Fits into our Education subcommittee.

Approval of Minutes – May 15, 2017:

May 15, 2017 minutes were approved as written.

Old Business:

Update from Maryann:

The region has received a commitment of \$647M for the electrification of Caltrain.

Voters in the Bay Area counties may be asked to vote on an increase in bridge tolls of up to \$3 for improvements in mass transit and highway improvements.

Commute.org is San Mateo County's effort to reduce traffic congestion. Up to now, PV has not had a representative, but a PV representative will be added soon.

Update from Brandi:

Cal Water is filing an application for a rate case for 2018 to 2020. PV will see if we can participate with the Office of Rate Payer Advocates to try to push smart meters.

The Town Council had its first budget review – it was generally supportive of our budget proposal but suggested moving funds from the water heater rebate to L2L.

The Town Council also adopted a resolution in support of the Paris Climate Agreement.

The Green Building Ordinance will go live soon. Brandi will present an overview at a future meeting.

Debrief of Garden Tour – April 2, 2017:

It was very successful, with 9 gardens and the school house (for the reception) on the tour.

There were 124 who registered (including volunteers).

If we do it again next year, we should start the planning process in the fall.

A summary from Delle is attached at the end of the minutes.

Finalize Sub-Committee Members & Review Next Steps:

Energy / Electrification: Anne-Laure, George, Lovey, Meredith. Subcommittee chair George

Energy Efficiency: George, Rebecca, Al, Jim, Mia. Subcommittee chair Al

Water Conservation: Judy, Lovey, Jim, Rebecca, Delle, Mia (will need to reduce this subcommittee by one). Subcommittee chair Rebecca

Education: George, Al (website), Meredith. Subcommittee chair Meredith

Each subcommittee should meet once between now and our next committee meeting. Review what we have gone over. Decide on what you would like to hear more about. The Education subcommittee should also consider thoughts on the speaker series and the garden tour.

New Business:

Select Committee Officers for 2017:

Chair – Meredith

Vice-chair – George

Secretary - Al

Announcements: None

Next Meeting – Date/Time and Topics:

Monday, July 17, 10:30AM to 12:30PM

Planned Topics:

- Guest Speaker – Chris Hunt
- Brandi to present on the Green Building Ordinance
- Possible field trip to see an installed heat pump water heater

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 12:36PM

Report on Portola Valley Eco-Friendly Garden Tour

April 14, 2017

Garden Tour subcommittee members Judith Murphy, Delle Maxwell, Danna Breen, Brandi de Garreaux, and Marge DeStaebler

We organized **The Portola Valley Eco-Friendly Garden Tour**, held on April 2, 2017. The tour showcased gardens with waterwise and sustainable plantings and features. The tour was for residents of Portola Valley only.

The weather was beautiful, and all the gardens received many visitors; numbers are given below. Brandi had to cap the registration in order to keep the amount of visitors reasonable for garden owners; we could have easily had more people sign up!

The Schoolhouse had information tables for the Backyard Habitat program (Marge DeStaebler), Water Conservation (Rebecca Flynn), Master Gardeners (Mike Pettinari), and CalWater. The Herb Dengler prints were displayed. Delle Maxwell and Sue Chaput set up the reception food and drink.

Feedback from volunteers, owners, and visitors was very positive. An informal email survey indicated that people (owners and volunteers) would be happy to do another tour next year. The following is a brief summary of the event.

Attendance:

Final registration number: 124

Volunteers: 24 (may be off by 1 or 2), including CalWater folks

Visitors to gardens:

1. Yates/Holland – 100
2. Schachter – 60
3. Richards – 73
4. Lipman – 77
5. Breen – 60+ (no docent to count accurately)
6. Unknown 63 (Nuttall or Von Feldt)
7. Unknown – 54 (Nuttall or Von Feldt)

8. Hufty/Alegria – 82

9. Town Center Native Garden – Unknown

10. Reception – Approximately 50. Master Gardener Mike Pettinari talked to 37 people at his table.

Expenses/Budget:

We had assumed that the reception would not exceed \$200.00.

CalWater donated \$200.00 as a sponsor.

\$144.39 for 8 1-gallon plants as gifts for owners, 15 2" succulents as gifts for volunteers

\$26.59 for fruit for reception

Sue Chaput also supplied food and drink for the reception, amount TBD when receipts come in.

Volunteers:

Volunteers came from Master Gardeners, Portola Valley Garden Club, the Sequoias and our active volunteer community. They were docents, staffed the tables in the Old Schoolhouse, and helped with setup and the receptions.

Planning meetings/schedule:

- Planning subcommittee meetings were held on June 23, 2016 and October 17, 2016.
- The subcommittee met November 7, 2016 to tour all the prospective gardens.
- The majority of the work was done during the month of March, including creating the web pages, securing volunteers, getting garden descriptions and plant lists, securing tables, registering visitors, and doing publicity.

Post tour follow-up

- Thank you emails were sent to garden owners and volunteers.
- Thank you sent to community on the forum

Things that can be improved (thanks to Judy, Brandi, and other participants for the summaries):

For the public:

- Make clearer that it is SELF-GUIDED
- Some organizational principle to listing order of gardens
- More info on overview about details of accessibility
- Google map with a pin on each garden
- More labeling of plants
- After-tour publicity showcasing what we did

For organizers/owners/volunteers:

- Address of garden on spreadsheet for assigning volunteers
- Party night before for just garden owners and volunteers – nicer/smaller?
- Tour for just garden owners to see one another's gardens
- Name/location on clipboards and sandwich boards for easier tracking
- Name tags to ID owners and docents
- More docents. Need 2 per 2-hour shift. Garden owners don't have time to track attendance while talking with other visitors
- Create a timeline based on this year's documentation which will help with tracking progress.

For Gardens:

- Plant lists for all (we had some)
- Plant labels (we had these at Town Center)
- Put cones where you don't want people to park

Registration process:

- Initial Eventbrite process didn't work since we needed extra step to verify residency. Brandi had to redo it by hand, which was extra work for her.
- If we do the tour again, we should figure out a simpler method.
- Might want to start registration about a week earlier so no need to add extra stress to process.

If we do it again:

- We can probably start planning for gardens in October, as we have a documented process in place.
- Documentation includes plant lists and checklists, overview page,

letters to volunteers and owners, meeting minutes, and schedules for various tasks, and Brandi's registration pages.