



**Town of Atherton  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**January 21, 2021**

**1:00 p.m.**

**HOLBROOK PALMER PARK-MAIN HOUSE**

150 Watkins Avenue  
ATHERTON, CALIFORNIA

**REGULAR MEETING**

**1. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Chair Holly Joseph  
Jennifer Carrico  
Emily Conn  
Kelly Davis

**Absent:** Dian Hawkins Manuelian

**Staff Present:** Stephanie Davis, Principal Planner  
Jake Garcia, Associate Planner

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**3. COMMITTEE AND STAFF MEMBER COMMENTS:**

Principal Planner Davis notified the EPC that Diana Hawkins Manuelian was elected to the City Council and was appointed by Mayor Lewis to be the Council liaison to the EPC.

Principal Planner Davis informed the EPC that the City Council has directed staff to proceed with preparing a part time sustainability coordinator position for further approval by the City Council. And that if approved the Sustainability coordinator would not be active until a later date likely after the start of the fiscal year.

Principal Planner Davis presented an update of the Leaf Blower Ordinance and the direction given to staff to move forward with the draft and implement the Town Electric Leaf Blower Pilot Program as well as a public education and outreach program for the Town residents to be initiated by the new Sustainability Program.

Principal Planner Davis indicated that the EPC may be asked for assistance in drafting the Sustainability Coordinator role/ request for proposals for the position.

Committee member Davis asked whether the Leaf Blower Ordinance is still being considered.

Principal Planner Davis highlighted that upon further data collected by the Town's Pilot program, and efforts of public outreach and education have begun Staff will report back to the City Council for further direction.

City Manager Rodericks highlighted that the Pilot Program will likely need to go through multiple seasons to get a more robust set of information to provide to the City Council for approval.

#### **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

##### **a. Approval of Minutes from the November 19, 2020 regular meeting.**

The minutes were approved as distributed.

**M/S Conn / Davis**

**Aye: 3    Noes: 0    Absent: 1**

#### **5. REGULAR BUSINESS**

##### **a. Potential 2021 Earth Day / Community EPC Sponsored Event**

Associate Planner Garcia presented the memo.

The EPC discussed how a virtual earth day event movie could be shown and marketed to the Town.

Staff highlighted that marketing options commonly used in the Town and for past EPC Earth Day events.

The EPC discussed logistics of spending the budget within the fiscal year.

Staff highlighted the option to break up any earth day event planning efforts into Ad Hoc Sub Committee groups.

The EPC discussed the limitations that virtual events have expressly concerns around engagement and user experience. The EPC concluded that it may be best to plan for an alternative EPC sponsored Event.

The EPC further discussed alternatives including the possibility to plant a tree at the new Town Civic Center with a commemorative plaque, or a panel of environmental focused topics, and public outreach and education opportunities.

The EPC decided to move forward with the option to propose planting a tree at the Town Civic Center and to prepare leaf blower outreach and education specific to leaf blowers.

The EPC discussed ideas for leaf blower outreach and education including methods of breaking down indirect impacts of leaf blowers.

Staff indicated that the EPC could proceed with plans by preparing a draft work plan to be considered by the City Council.

An Ad Hoc Sub Committee of Joseph and Carrico were appointed to prepare a draft work plan for an EPC sponsored Tree Planting at the Town Civic Center and an initial leaf blower education and outreach materials.

**6. SET/CONFIRM NEXT MEETING**

- a. The next regular EPC meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2021

**7. ADJOURN**

Meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM.