

**SPECIAL MEETING SUMMARY OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF CALABASAS, CALIFORNIA HELD
MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2023 AT 4:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS,**

OPENING MATTERS

Call to Order/ Roll Call of Commission Members

Chair Cohan called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

Present: Chair Cohan, Vice Chair Schwartz, Commissioner Byrne, Commissioner Jagtiani, Commissioner Shillan, Student Member Shapiro, Student Alternate Member Parmar

Absent: None

Staff: Interim Public Works Director Lanzafame, Assistant Engineer Bezdecny

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Los Angeles Football Club SoCal Youth Girls Team.

Approval of Agenda: ***Commissioner Shillan moved, Commissioner Jagtiani seconded, to approve the meeting agenda for the October 30th, 2023 Commission Meeting. MOTION CARRIED 5/0***

Approval of Meeting Summary of the September 5th, 2023 meeting: ***Vice Chair Schwartz moved, Commissioner Byrne seconded, to approve the meeting summary of the September 5th, 2023 Commission Meeting. MOTION CARRIED 5/0***

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission Statement was read by Commissioner Shillan.

ORAL COMMUNICATION- PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no speakers.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Vote on Community Recycling Awareness 2024 Calendar Drawing Contest

Ms. Bezdecny provided an oral report discussing the drawing contest and provided a presentation with each of the finalists for voting. After 2 rounds of voting, the Commission selected the winning drawings (Attachment A).

2. Vote on Community Recycling Awareness 2025 Calendar Theme

Commissioner Jagtiani provided the suggestions of 'Recycling Helps Ecosystems and Wildlife', 'Upcycling and Creative Reusing', 'How Do I Recycle?', and 'Landfills Versus Recycling'. Commissioner Byrne provided additional comment on Commissioner Jagtiani's Wildlife Theme and added that littering is a topic many kids in the community care about based on the Pumpkin Festival activity.

Alternate Student Member Parmar brought up the past theme of 'Innovating for the Next 25 Years', 'What Recycling Solutions Do You Have?', and 'Recycling in My Life'.

Commissioner Shillan discussed the idea of a recycle superhero and stated she would prefer an open-ended theme.

Vice Chair Schwartz provided comments on the proposed themes.

Chair Cohan requested Staff keep a note of all themes discussed for future years.

Commissioner Jagtiani moved to vote on one of two themes: 'How Do I Recycle in My Life?' and 'Recycling Helps Ecosystems and Wildlife'.

- **'How Do I Recycle in My Life?': 5/5**
- **'Recycling Helps Ecosystems and Wildlife': 0/5**

The 2025 Recycling Calendar Theme will be 'How Do I Recycle in My Life?'"

3. Vote on Creation of Battery Recycling Subcommittee

Vice Chair Schwartz discussed her ideas for the creation of the subcommittee.

Vice Chair Schwartz moved, Chair Cohan seconded, to form the Battery Recycling Subcommittee with Vice Chair Schwartz and Commissioner Byrne. MOTION CARRIED 5/0

Commissioner Shillan discussed the merits of the idea on the subcommittee.

4. Commissioner Comments and Subcommittee Reports

Native Plants: Vice Chair Schwartz encouraged Calabasas residents to take advantage of the free milkweed provided by King Gillette Ranch.

Climate Action Plan: Mr. Lanzafame provided an update on the City's efforts to move forward with the development of a Climate Action Plan.

Water Conservation: No Report

Public Forum: Commissioner Shillan discussed the need to begin planning for the upcoming event.

Chair Cohen moved, Commissioner Jagtiani seconded for the Public Forum Theme to be "Environmental Initiatives In and Around Calabasas". MOTION CARRIED 5/0

Arbor Day: The date was announced to be March 16th, 2024 at De Anza Park.

Earth Day: The date was announced to be April 13, 2024.

Student Recycling Drawing Contest: Chair Cohan expressed his appreciation for Vice Chair Schwartz's work on sorting through the drawings and thanked the teachers.

Pumpkin Festival: Commissioner Jagtiani thanked Commissioner Shillan and Commissioner Byrne for their work. Commissioner Shillan expressed her gratitude to Commissioners, Students, and Staff who assisted day-of and for Commissioner Byrne's activity for the table. Commissioner Byrne discussed her activity. Commissioner Jagtiani asked Staff about the Las Virgenes Creek Trail Tour interest and Staff responded that there were about 10 individuals who signed up. Commissioner Schwartz requested that Staff add environmentally- and family-friendly activities in Calabasas to the Drawing Calendar.

Student Member Task Force: Commissioner Jagtiani stated that she thinks the new subcommittee is doing a good job keeping students involved with the Commission. Chair Cohan provided additional details on how the students are staying involved.

Green Business and Sustainable Homes: Chair Cohan requested to be joined by another Commissioner.

Student Members: Student Member Shapiro provided a report.

During Commissioner Comments, Commissioner Shillan thanked Ms. Bezdecny for her help and to Mr. Lanzafame for his guidance as interim director. Chair Cohan talked about Walk to School Day and encouraged more to join in future years, he thanked the Pumpkin Festival Subcommittee for their success and Mr. Lanzafame for his assistance with the commission, and expressed his excitement for the new Public Works Director; finally, he announced that he had spoken to LVUSD Superintendent about restarting their Environmental Stewardship Committee.

Mr. Lanzafame spoke on his time as interim director and talked about the importance of the environmental control that the City took on when incorporated and how that lives on in the Environmental Commission. He stated that our new Public Works Director, Curtis Castle, will begin on November 27th.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Cohan adjourned the meeting of the Environmental Commission at 5:04 p.m. to a **Regular Meeting of the Commission for Tuesday December 5th, 2023.**

COVER

Summer Zentner | 8th Grade | A. E. Wright Middle School | Teacher: Hayley Tepper

JANUARY

Brooklyn Spencer | 6th Grade | A. E. Wright Middle School | Teacher: Julie Herrera

FEBRUARY

Melody Huston | 8th Grade | A. E. Wright Middle School | Teacher: Ryan Bostrom

MARCH

Benjamin Warren | 7th Grade | A. E. Wright Middle School | Teacher: Brooke Schneider

APRIL

Ava Buschmann | 4th Grade | Lupin Hill Elementary School | Teacher: Jen Wurtzel

MAY

Mikael Khadorkovsky | 6th Grade | A. E. Wright Middle School | Teacher: Julie Herrera

JUNE

Lor Arsen McGrath | 7th Grade | A. E. Wright Middle School | Teacher: Brooke Schneider

JULY

Dakota Collazo | K | Bay Laurel Elementary School | Teacher: Cyndi Donahue

AUGUST

Lorenz Ursua | 3rd Grade | Lupin Hill Elementary School | Teacher: Randi Loeb

SEPTEMBER

Miryam Mendelowitz | 5th Grade | Chaparral Elementary School | Teachers: Wilcox & Ekizian

OCTOBER

Aubree Hinck | 4th Grade | Bay Laurel Elementary School | Teacher: Jennifer Kodama

NOVEMBER

Oliver McClure | 2nd Grade | Lupin Hill Elementary School | Teacher: Mrs. Hughes

DECEMBER

Ellie May Cohen | 1st Grade | Bay Laurel Elementary School | Teacher: Sharon Horne

BACK

Allison Spearrin | 3rd Grade | Chaparral Elementary School | Teacher: Chris Larkin