



CITY of CALABASAS

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

DATE: NOVEMBER 30, 2023

TO: ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: TRA'A BEZDECNY, ASSISTANT ENGINEER

SUBJECT: SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

MEETING DATE: DECEMBER 5, 2023

BACKGROUND:

The mission of the Environmental Commission of the City of Calabasas is to advise the City Council regarding the stewardship of our environment as it affects the character of the Community and quality of life of our residents. They strive to balance those elements that influence the degree to which our community sustains its social, economic and physical environment while maintaining and enhancing our natural and cultural resources. One of the many ways Commissioners engage in the community is through subcommittees on environmental issues and community events.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS:

This report highlights the work of Subcommittees since the last Environmental Commission meeting and provides information regarding upcoming work.

Native Plants (Commissioner Jagtiani and Vice Chair Schwartz)

No report.

Climate Action Plan (Chair Cohan and Commissioner Byrne)

No report.

Water Conservation (Chair Cohen and Commissioner Jagtiani)

No report.

Battery Recycling (Vice Chair Schwartz and Commissioner Byrne)

No report.

Green Business Program and Sustainable Homes (Chair Cohen)

No report.

Public Forum (Commissioners Shillan and Jagtiani)

Event Date – February 29, 2024

Topic for 2024 Forum was voted and confirmed at the 10/30/2023 Environmental Commission meeting:

Environmental initiatives: In and around Calabasas

The program will focus on organizations that can outline their local initiatives and highlight their volunteer component. Based on information we gather and availability the plan is to select 3 speakers to present and have others host information tables. Sub-Committee will contact key local organizations such as: Santa Monica Mountains Trails - <https://www.smmtc.org/volunteer/>
Heal the Bay - <https://healthebay.org/take-part/>
MRCA - <https://mrca.ca.gov/educational-outreach-programs/volunteer-2/>
California Native Plant Society - <https://www.cnps.org/volunteer>

Additionally, we've communicated with council members for suggestions for contacts and with Tra'a to include a presentation on City initiatives that fit the theme as well.

Arbor Day (Chair Cohan and Commissioner Jagtiani)

No report.

Earth Day (Commissioner Shillan and Vice Chair Schwartz)

Event Date – Saturday April 13, 2024

Student Recycling Drawing Contest (Chair Cohan and Vice Chair Schwartz)

No report.

Pumpkin Festival (Commissioners Shillan and Byrne)

Event Date – Sunday October 22, 2023

[Event information page](#)

Our subcommittee planned the event which included the table design, activities and scheduled. The Environmental Commission table was in the Community Partner Expo section, located in the parks actual parking lot. All commissioners were provided free access to the event and could enter event after obtaining their wristbands at the admission gate will-call table. The team schedule was set as follows:

9:00am to 6:00pm – Jacy
9:00am to 6:00pm - Luresa
10:00am to 11:30am - Beth
11:30am to 1:00pm - Navin
1:00pm to 2:30pm - Noah
4:00pm to 5:30pm - David

For our table schedule, Jacy and Luresa arrived early to set up and remained at the event until close. During the day the team supported these actions at our table:

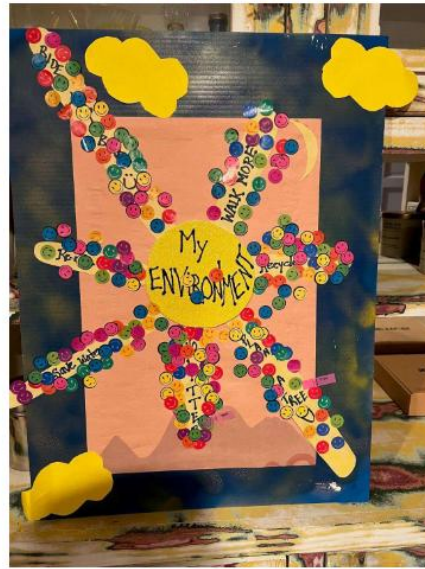
- Activities we developed were two in person actions for all our adult and youth visitors. They were focused on asking our visitors to show us what was environmentally important to them.
- We provided the public information on how to get to all the City's Environmental resources on our webpage digitally via a QR code.
- Tatiana and Tra'a set up to host creek tours, there was no interest to attend during the Pumpkin Festival, so the effort was converted to collecting information to notify of future tours.
- Candy and stickers were given away to the kids.

Our environmentally focused activities as outlined above had great visitor response and an informative output. Our results as created by the public are below:

Adult Poster - outlining most important issue and zip code



Youth Poster – requesting most important issue they can do today



The poster which targeted young children asked 'what they could do to help protect our environment and future' yielded the following numbers. An interesting note: similar to the results of the 'adult oriented poster', a handful of children made a point to say that "all of the categories were important to our protecting our environment" so their stickers were placed in the center-on the words, 'our environment'.

Results for Youth survey:

- My Environment = 3
- Re-use or re-purpose = 23
- Walk more = 25
- Save Water = 31
- Plant a tree = 35 + 2
- Ride my bike = 37
- Recycle = 40 + 2
- WON'T LITTER = 53**

For the Adult survey, which was largely local zip codes, here are the numbers:

- Our Environment = 15 *like the kids, felt all categories were important.*
- Get involved = 10
- Recycling/managing waste = 6
- Water conservation = 10
- Natural resource conservation = 10

Air quality = 11
Parks, recreation, and trails = 17
Rivers, creeks, springs, and beaches = 18
Wildlife protection = 21
WILFIRE PREPARATION AND RECOVERY = = = = = 31

Student Member Task Force (Chair Cohan and Commissioner Jagtiani)

No report.

Student Members (Noah Shapiro and Navin Parmar)

No report.

FISCAL IMPACT/SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Funding for the various programs and events come from the City's General Fund and educational grant programs.

REQUESTED ACTION:

This is an informational item only and requires no action.