

**MEETING SUMMARY OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF CALABASAS, CALIFORNIA HELD
TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2024 AT 6:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS,**

OPENING MATTERS

Call to Order/ Roll Call of Commission Members

Chair Cohan called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Present: Chair Cohan, Vice Chair Schwartz, Commissioner Byrne, Commissioner Jagtiani, Commissioner Feilich, and Student Member Tesser

Absent: Alternative Student Member Fong and Alternative Student Member Schaffer

Staff: Public Works Director Castle, Assistant Engineer Bezdecny, Environmental Management Analyst Stepanian

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Student Member Tesser.

Approval of Agenda.

Commissioner Byrne moved, Commissioner Schwartz seconded, to approve the meeting agenda with a slight modification to move the Waste Management (WM) presentation to the beginning of the agenda for the August 6, 2024 Commission Meeting. MOTION CARRIED 5/0.

Approval of Meeting Summary of the February 6, 2024 meeting.

Commissioner Byrne moved, Commissioner Schwartz seconded, to approve the meeting summary of the February 6, 2024 Commission Meeting. MOTION CARRIED 5/0

ANNOUNCEMENTS/INTRODUCTIONS

Public Works Director Castle thanked Assistant Engineer Bezdecny for her contributions to the Environmental Commission and introduced Environmental Management Analyst Stepanian as the new Staff Liaison for the Commission.

Assistant Engineer Bezdecny shared her gratitude for the Commissioners.

ORAL COMMUNICATION- PUBLIC COMMENT

Christine Renau shared her concerns regarding the City's rodenticide resolution and the effects of rodenticides on the Community.

There were no additional public comments.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Meeting Schedule

City Staff discussed various deadlines and timelines relating to the Environmental Commission, justifying the reasoning for adopting a new meeting schedule.

Commissioners shared their concerns regarding the meeting schedule.

Chair Byrne moved, Commissioner Schwartz seconded, to adopt the proposed Environmental Commission meeting schedule with a revision, as follows: The Environmental Commission regular meetings are scheduled to occur quarterly on the First Tuesday of the month, at 6:00 p.m. in February, May, and August with the exception of November each year, which will be scheduled on the Second Tuesday of the November. MOTION CARRIED 3/0

2. Waste Management- Recycling Tips + Calendar Topic Introduction

Denise Kane, Waste Management Representative, shared a presentation on various recycling programs, such as SB 1383. She shared tips for residents to extend the life of organic food before it becomes organic waste. Residents are asked to bag food waste prior to disposing of it in the green yard waste cart. Kane also shared information regarding bin coding and which waste should be placed in each. Lastly, she shared services available for Calabasas residents, such as bulky item pickup or household hazardous waste programs. Environmental Management Analyst Stepanian discussed the 2024 Recycling Calendar Contest timeline, topic, and recycling facts.

Commissioners shared their questions regarding the recycling program and asked WM if they would be interested in hosting educational outreach for students and community members.

Commissioners discussed expanding on the existing K-8 art program, or developing a new program, to increase high school student involvement in Calabasas.

3. Updates on City Activities/Projects

a) Green Business Certification Program Update

Environmental Management Analyst Stepanian shared an update on the City's Green Business Program.

No Public Comment

Commissioners asked questions about the existing program and shared their suggestions.

b) Battery Box Subcommittee Closing Statements

City Staff thanked Commissioner Byrne and Vice Chair Schwartz for serving in the subcommittee for developing the battery boxes. The City's Battery Recycling webpage has been updated with all City-wide collection locations and the program continues growing.

No Public Comment

Commissioners shared their gratitude for the Staff who assisted in bringing this program to life.

4. Environmental Commission FY 2024-25 Priorities List

Environmental Management Analyst Stepanian provided the presentation to the Commission with feedback solicited from the Commissioners to encourage a discussion of priorities.

No Public Comment

Commissioners requested the Environmental Commission website be updated. Commissioners identified their top priorities, aside from City Council priorities of The Cool Streets Program and Calabasas Green Business Certification Program.

The 4 top priorities were identified as:

1. Student Engagement and Education
2. Native Plants/ Water Conservation
3. Collaborations with other Commissions and outside agencies
4. Business Education/ Green Business Certification

Additionally, the Commission developed subcommittees. Environmental Forum: Chair Cohan and Commissioner Feilich, Arbor Day: Vice Chair Schwartz and Commissioner Jagtiani, Earth Day: Vice Chair Schwartz and Commissioner Byrne, Pumpkin Festival: Commissioner Feilich and Commissioner Byrne, Calendar Contest: Commissioner Byrne and Commissioner Jagtiani, Green Businesses Certification Program: Vice Chair Schwartz and Commissioner Byrne, "Flora for our Future": Commissioner Byrne and Commissioner Feilich, and Student Involvement and Engagement: Chair Cohan and Commissioner Byrne.

5. Pumpkin Festival Subcommittee Update

Commissioner Feilich and Commissioner Byrne shared an update for the 2024 Calabasas Pumpkin Festival, held on Sunday, October 20, 2024. Current subcommittee members requested input from the Commissioners.

6. December 2024 Special Meeting

Commissioners discussed their interest in hosting a special meeting in December to recognize the Carl Gibbs Environmental Excellence Award Recipient and the selected K-8 artists for the Annual Recycling Calendar Contest.

Commissioners unanimously voted to approve hosting a Special Meeting in December to recognize the Carl Gibbs Environmental Excellence Award Recipient in addition to the selected K-8 artists to be included in the 2025 recycling calendar.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Cohan adjourned the meeting of the Environmental Commission at 8:35 p.m. to a **Regular Meeting of the Commission on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.**