

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF LA MESA
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
6:00 PM, CITY MANAGER'S CONFERENCE ROOM
8130 ALLISON AVENUE, LA MESA, CA 91942
TELECONFERENCE MEETING WEBINAR**

MINUTES
March 15, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER (6:03 p.m.)
2. ROLL CALL (X indicates present)

Andrea Beth Damsky, Chair	X
Ricky Williams, Vice-Chair	X
Stephen Grooms	X
Trey McDonald	X
Jean-Guillaume Lonjaret	
Mike Bourton	X
Eugenie Budnik (Youth Rep)	
Maggie Eggers (EDCO)	X
Joe Garuba (Helix Water District)	X
Joe Britton (SDG&E)	X
Vacant (La Mesa-Spring Valley School District)	
Vacant (Helix Charter High School)	

Others present: Lyn Dedmon, Senior Management Analyst; Hilary Ego, Environmental Program Manager

Public present: Mark Gracyk, Helix Water District; Wendy Mihalic, resident

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments submitted or stated.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 15, 2021

Andrea Beth Damsky had a correction under City Staff Updates
Trey McDonald had a correction under City Staff Updates

Approval of minutes from the February 15, 2021 meeting.

Action:	Motion to approve minutes by Stephen Grooms; second by Mike Bourton
Vote:	5-0
Ayes:	Bourton, McDonald, Damsky, Grooms, Williams
Noes:	None
Abstained:	None
Absent:	Lonjaret, Williams, Budnik

5. CITY STAFF UPDATES

Lyn Dedmon gave an update on the addition of the non-voting member to the ESC from San Diego Community Power ("SDCP"), the 2021 Targets for Action, and the Community Garden.

Andrea Beth Damsky asked if she needed to attend a future Council meeting where the Second Reading of the ordinance adding the SDCP non-voting member would be scheduled.

Lyn Dedmon stated that he did not think she needed to attend.

Hilary Ego gave an update on the following projects/topics:

- A recent webinar put on by I Love a Clean San Diego and EDCO about the organics recycling program that will start April 1st.
- KPBS interview with Hilary Ego about City programs and the anaerobic digester facility in Escondido
- The Urban Forest Management Plan currently under review and a community workshop in early summer
- Tree San Diego opportunity to plant fifteen trees in La Mesita Park
- SB1383 La Mesa Food Recovery Program and the internships that are assisting in this effort
- SDCP launch timelines
- EV charging stations at MacArthur Park
- Annual Report and Implementation Plan update

Joe Britton stated that SDG&E's recently adopted Sustainability Plan has a goal to plant 10,000 trees in the service territory and that a future opportunity may exist to partner in this endeavor.

Ricky Williams asked Hilary to elaborate further on what a food recovery program is.

Stephen Grooms asked if the internships that are working on the food recovery program are paid or non-paid internships.

Hilary Ego stated that the students get class credit for the work and that the internships are not paid.

Stephen Grooms asked if La Mesa is a leader in Hybrid vehicle usage and implementation in police departments.

Hilary Ego stated that La Mesa is keeping pace with other cities that are implementing hybrid and EV vehicles into their fleets.

Joe Britton stated that there was an EPA grant opportunity for diesel emissions reductions that he thought he sent her way for review.

Hilary Ego stated that she did receive the information and is reviewing it.

6. 2021 ESC WORK PLAN REVISIT AND DISCUSSION (Hilary Ego)

Hilary Ego and the Commission went through the 2021 ESC Work Plan to ensure there is a plan in place to address each item and identify the tasks and commissioners associated with each.

7. DISCUSSION ITEM – ESC PLOT AT COMMUNITY GARDEN (Andrea Beth Damsky)

Andrea Beth Damsky introduced this item to ask the ESC whether they are interested in buying and maintaining a plot at the La Mesa Community Garden in MacArthur Park.

Andrea Beth Damsky stated that there's a strong interest in pollinator gardens to address the diminishing bee population and an interest in butterfly gardens.

Ricky Williams thanked Andrea Beth for bringing this item forward and stated that he has a concern that if this item goes forward the ESC should do a good job maintaining the garden plot considering the limited number of plots available for residents and the anticipated high demand.

Lyn Dedmon stated that as of this meeting, sixteen applications have been submitted for garden plots and forty are available.

Maggie Eggers asked if they provide the soil.

Andrea Beth Damsky stated that they do provide the soil and the water.

Ricky Williams stated that this would be a good opportunity to market the garden as an ESC garden and maybe do some demonstration of growing good carbon sequestering plants.

Trey McDonald asked why we need a motion for this item.

Lyn Dedmon stated that he wanted to formalize the decision for the public record but that a motion wasn't required.

Stephen Grooms asked whether signage would be allowed on the garden plot.

Lyn Dedmon stated that staff would have to look into that and get back with the commission.

Stephen Grooms, Maggie Eggers, and Michael Bourton offered to be co-managers of the garden and sign the plot agreement with Andrea Beth Damsky.

Trey McDonald asked whether the garden plot \$100 fee can be waived and whether any funding could be available for marketing and community engagement in support of the work plan.

Lyn Dedmon stated that he would inquire about the fee waiver and the marketing funding and get back with the commission.

8. CAP SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE (Trey McDonald, Ricky Williams)

Trey McDonald stated that the CAP Subcommittee would like to put together an educational presentation for the community that could lead to more presentations and bringing forward a request to the commission either next month or the following month.

9. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Andrea Beth Damsky stated that she's getting her second COVID vaccination and that we're starting to see a light at the end of the tunnel and is hopeful

Joe Garuba stated that Helix Water is considering its budget on Wednesday and that if anyone has any questions feel free to ask. Joe mentioned that Helix Water will be delivering a presentation to the commission at the April 19th meeting to explain water the water rate structure and costs from San Diego County Water Authority and Helix Water District.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 19, 2021.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Prepared by: Lyn Dedmon, Senior Management Analyst