



DATE: October 14, 2019

AGENDA ITEM #4

TO: Environmental Commission
FROM: Callie Niday, Staff Liaison
SUBJECT: Environmental Commission Work Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and take action, as appropriate, on the 2019/20 Environmental Commission Work Plan

BACKGROUND

The Environmental Commission met in a Joint Meeting with the City Council on May 7, 2019 to review the Commission's 2018/19 Accomplishments and Draft 2019/20 Target areas and discussed issues and projects for the upcoming year. Based on this discussion, the targets were finalized, and the 2019/20 Work Plan was developed. The Targets and Work Plan are intended to focus the Commission's agenda items and will serve as a roadmap for projects and actions, as appropriate, during the 2019/20 year.

DISCUSSION

Environmental Commission Targets and resulting Work Plan for 2019/20 are:

1. Climate Action Plan
2. Water Conservation and Stormwater Management
3. Solid Waste Diversion
4. Community Outreach and Education

The Commission will review the targets, projects, and status updates at each of its monthly meetings and act appropriately.

Attachments:

- A. Solid Waste Disposal Contract Subcommittee Statement
- B. Environmental Education Fund Update
- C. 2019/20 Targets and Work Plan

October 14, 2019

To: Los Altos City Council and City Staff
From: Los Altos Environmental Commission
Subject: Mission Trails Waste System Contract

During its October 14, 2019 meeting, the Environmental Commission considered and discussed a subcommittee report that provided sustainability perspectives to City Staff during their preparation and negotiation of a draft Mission Trails Waste System (MTWS) Contract extension. The Environmental Commission voted _____ to present the following statement to City Council and City Staff on the MTWS contract extension.

We believe an overwhelming majority of the residents of Los Altos are committed to and value the recycling program currently provided by Mission Trails Waste Systems. Los Altos residents' care and value for recycling are demonstrated by the City's impressive 77% waste diversion rate, the second highest diversion rate as compared to other local jurisdictions. In addition, the results of the 2019 customer survey conducted by the City's consultant, R3 Consulting Group, show that 60% of respondents cited quality and range of services as most important to them while 20% rated cost as most important.

Based on this information, as well as the importance of minimizing our City's environmental impact through the best waste handling practices, the Commission strongly recommends that the current service of separate Garbage, Compost and Recycling collection be retained without reduction in frequency or process for the next 10 to 15 years. We urge the City to not lower the minimum diversion requirement of 65% proposed for the contract extension. We believe County, State and Federal laws will be enacted over the next few years that will improve diversion rates by requiring compostable and recyclable packaging materials, reducing food and product packaging, and limiting single use plastic items.

We recommend that the City increase participation with MTWS on education and outreach efforts. Behaviors that have been or are being learned need to be reinforced. The education and outreach efforts will ensure our community and MTWS customers ready for the time when the value of compost and recycled materials increases.

October 14, 2019

To: Environmental Commission

From: Callie Niday, Staff Liaison

Subject: Los Altos Community Foundation Environmental Education Fund

RECOMMENDATION:

Update the Commission on the Los Altos Community Foundation Environmental Education Fund EnviroThon Challenge

BACKGROUND

In November 2003, the Los Altos Community Foundation (LACF) entered into a Donor Advised Fund Agreement with the Los Altos Environmental Commission (formerly the Los Altos Environmental Committee) for the purposes of creating and maintaining an Environmental Education fund, “the Fund”. The Fund is maintained and administered by LACF and was initially created for the purpose of funding the reprinting of the *Trees of Los Altos* booklet. Upon an initial grant of \$1,000 by LACF, the fund received donations from the public to aid in the printing and distribution of the *Trees* booklet. The books were printed and distributed, though LACF reports hundreds of copies remaining in storage. The current balance of the account is \$3,528 and is to be used specifically for “environmental education”.

DISCUSSION

LACF has informed the City that the \$3,528 balance remains available for environmental education efforts. The Environmental Commission has the authority to make recommendations to LACF for disbursement of the funds.

At the January 14, 2019 meeting, the Environmental Commission discussed potential uses for the environmental education fund. The Commission determined that a brainstorming session would help determine potential uses for the funds and directed Commissioners to bring ideas to the February meeting. The Commissioners will share their ideas and begin to narrow the focus of the environmental education fund.

The Environmental Commission continued its discussion of potential uses for the environmental education fund at the February 11, 2019 meeting. Vice Chair Yuan and Commissioner Teksler formed a subcommittee to distill the February 11, 2019 discussion and develop a list of the group’s top ideas from the brainstorming session.

At the March 11, 2019 meeting, the Environmental Commission continued to discuss the potential uses for the environmental education fund. Commissioner Klein expressed interest to work with the History Museum to develop specific activities and programs to use the funding for engagement and community involvement focused on environmental education as both organizations deem fit, and bring back a generalized proposal with review and input from the Commission.

At the May 13, 2019 meeting, Commissioner Klein gave an update that the Commission is going to work with the Los Altos History Museum to host an activism workshop during the Apricot STEM

Fair on Sunday, June 30, 2019. The goal is for participants to form a team, design an environmental protection campaign, and pitch their campaign for cash funding. The pitches will be recorded, and the Commission will select the winners. The details of how the environmental education fund is being allocated is being discussed and will be presented at the June meeting.

At the June 10, 2019 meeting, Commissioner Klein updated the Commission that 12 applications representing seven schools across four cities were received for the Los Altos EnviroThon Challenge at the Apricot STEM Fair. Despite the challenge of getting the attention of teachers and students at the end of the school year and the challenge of holding the event during the summer break, a great number of students signed up for the event. Commissioner Klein informed the group that the pitch presentations will be recorded and published on the web. Once the videos are reviewed by the Commission, the winners will be selected and the amount of funding to award each team will be decided. Awards will be judged on the basis of both the feasibility of the project idea and the persuasiveness of the presentation. The grand prize-winning team will also receive a session of personalized tutoring in advance of reprising their pitch in front of an audience at the Los Altos Night of Ideas event in September.

At the July 8, 2019 meeting, Commissioner Klein announced that the EnviroThon event was a success. There were 13 participants from seven different schools across four cities. Four teams were formed, and they had only three hours to put together a presentation. The EnviroThon Challenge winners were announced including Fight Back for First Place, Field Trippers and Next Generation tied for Second Place, and Vroom Vroom for Third Place. The Commission unanimously awarded the four winners up to \$1,700 (approximately half) of the Los Altos Community Foundation Environmental Education Fund balance. The group discussed how to allocate funding appropriately. It was announced that the awards will be distributed to non-profit or educational organizations selected by the winning teams. The remaining education fund balance will go towards hosting a similar event next year.

On the August 12, 2019 meeting, Commissioner Klein gave an update that the winning team, Fight Back, has been actively involved with the City for the carbon dividend tax. The two teams focusing on education has attended a few community events and has decided to combine funds (\$800 total). One of the groups gave a presentation to the Cupertino City Council with the Youth Climate Group. Commissioner Klein will give an update on the award distribution process at the next Environmental Commission meeting on September 9, 2019.

On the September 9, 2019 meeting, Commissioner Klein gave an update on the award distributions which includes the following: \$600 for first place, \$400 for both second place winners (total of \$800), and \$300 for the final team. The Commission is requesting to receive an update from all of the winning teams at a future commission meeting. An update can be provided to the Commission during the public comment period or the Commission can add this to the agenda of a future meeting. The Commission plans on discussing the details for next year's event at a future commission meeting.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

2019/20 Targets & Work Plan

October 14, 2019

Targets	Projects	Assignments	Target Date	City Priority related to	Status
Climate Action Plan	Review and comment on Building and Electric Vehicle Reach Codes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subcommittee -Don Weiden, Laura Tekslar and Lei Yuan 	January 2020	CAP Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SVCE presentation of Building Model Reach Code language on May 29, 2019 SVCE presentation of Electric Vehicle Model Reach Code language on June 6, 2019 SVCE presentation of Reach Codes to Environmental Commission on July 8, 2019; EC made a motion to support staff development and ratification of a reach code Subcommittee met on July 15, 2019 The subcommittee will come back with recommendations to City staff by the next EC meeting The Commission will vote on a recommendation of the reach code pathways on October 14, 2019
	Update of City's CAP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subcommittee to work with staff and Subconsultant 	Monthly	CAP Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Sustainability Coordinator position was approved by the City Council for the Fiscal Year 2019-20 / 2020-21 Operating Budget on June 11, 2019; the job posting has been created (Oct. 2019) This is on hold until the new Sustainability Coordinator is on board
Water Conservation & Stormwater Management	Green Infrastructure Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist staff in development and review of Plan 	June 2019	Storm Water Regional Discharge Permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff made a presentation of their final plan to the Environmental Commission on May 13, 2019 Approved by City Council on July 9, 2019

Solid Waste Diversion	Provide review comments on Solid Waste Disposal Contract	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subcommittee Don Weiden, Laura Tekler and Chad Martin 	January 2020	Solid Waste Disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subcommittee met with staff and City Consultant on March 20, 2019 for a study session; City held a Community Meeting on May 15, 2019; staff met with subcommittee on Thursday, August 15; a Study Session was held with City Council on August 27; the contract is on the agenda (tentatively) for October 22, 2019
	Investigate initiatives on limiting single use plastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subcommittee to work with staff and Subconsultant 	Monthly	Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update to EC on June 10, 2019 The City of Los Altos is participating in the Ad Hoc Model Foodware Ordinance Committee Andrea Trese from the City's Engineering Division is the Los Altos representative
Community Outreach & Education	Develop program in collaboration with the Los Altos History Museum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Education Fund held by LACF David Klein 	June 2019	Public outreach and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination with History Museum Apricot Stem Fair EnviroThon Challenge held at the Apricot STEM Fair on June 30, 2019 Winners and awards were selected at the EC meeting of July 8, 2019
	Update environmental measures on the City web site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chad Martin 	Ongoing	Public outreach and education	
	Continue gas-powered leaf blower ban outreach and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laura Tekler 	Ongoing	Public outreach and education	
	Continue anti-idling outreach and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don Weiden 	Ongoing	Public outreach and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> June 10, 2019 Report on Los Altos HS Survey Results
	Continue to support SVCEA community outreach and education		Ongoing	Public outreach and education	
	Assist staff with various outreach and education efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Action Plan Water Conservation Storm Water Management Solid Waste Diversion Urban Forest / Trees Downtown Vision 		Public outreach and education	