

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF
THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS, HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2009 AT 7:00 P.M. AT
THE HILLVIEW COMMUNITY CENTER, ROOM 2, 97 HILLVIEW AVENUE, LOS
ALTOS, CALIFORNIA**

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Anderson, Rosewater, DeMichiel, Schink, Coombs, Chien-Hale

ABSENT: none

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Commission Minutes

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SCHINK, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ROSEWATER, to approve the minutes of the special meeting of December 15, 2008. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. GTLA Presentation

Margie Suozzo of Green Town Los Altos (GTLA) made a presentation regarding the process of the City becoming certified as a Green Business and provided examples of certified business green practices. Discussion followed the presentation. This item is continued to the March meeting for further discussion.

The Sustainable events item is also continued to the March meeting.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER DEMICHIEL, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SCHINK, to recommend that (1) the City take steps to become Green Certified, and (2) request the presenter provide information for a draft resolution and copy of the full green certification checklist. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Los Altos Community Foundation Fund

Commissioner Coombs presented the Community Foundation Environmental Education Fund report and discussion followed. Commissioner Schink was appointed to replace Commissioner Coombs whose term expires in February. Commissioner Schink will determine methods for the sale of the "Trees of Los Altos" book and will oversee the Community Foundation Environmental Education Fund.

Staff liaison will check on the status of sales of the book on the City web site.

4. Environmental Commission Web Site

Report by the Commissioners on the status and update of the web site.

5. Tours

Commissioner Rosewater reported that City staff is arranging a tour of the Palo Alto Wastewater treatment plant. A tour has been arranged to visit the Zanker Landfill and the Green Waste recycling site.

6. Finance Presentation

Finance Director Russ Morreale presented the 2008-2009 Mid-Year Budget Review and highlights, and discussed planning, economic impacts and proactive budget measures for the 2009-2010 fiscal year budget.

Finance Director Morreale asked for budget ideas from the Environmental Commission. In addition, he stated that the five year Capital Improvement Projects budget will be presented and reviewed with the Commission in March.

7. Disposable Single use Carry-out Bags

Margie Suozzo of Green Town Los Altos (GTLA) made a presentation regarding source reduction issues. Trish Mulvey presented information on single source bags and the City of Palo Alto's efforts to reduce the use of single source bags. Discussion followed the presentation. This item is continued to March 9, 2009 for further discussion.

COMMISSION REPORTS AND DIRECTION ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Anderson adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

J. Logan, STAFF LIAISON