

Environmental Committee

2019-2020
WORK PLAN



SEASIDE
CALIFORNIA

Environmental Committee

Members Appointed When Adopted

- Lacey Raak, Chair
- Kristin Molle, Vice Chair
- Kera Abraham-Panni
- Mariana Del Valle
- Jeremy Hawran
- Laura Murphy

Staff Liaison

- Beth Rocha, Planner

Mission Statement

The Environmental Committee investigates and advocates sound environmental policy and action in the areas of air quality, water quality, energy and waste management, flora and fauna protection and community planning.

General Duties

The Environmental Committee shall conduct public hearings and prepare recommendations to the City Council on matters regarding the environment to include without limitation unless otherwise noted:

- Review and comment on City ordinances, policies and programs and state mandates related to environmental regulations, risks and pollution abatement, clean water, air and energy, flora, fauna and biome protection and community planning topics expressly beyond the realm of the Planning Commission.
- Serve in advisory capacity to the City Council, commissions, committees, and boards on related issues.
- Identify strategic environmental goals for the City and estimate resources needed to accomplish these goals; investigate funding to implement programs to benefit the community.
- Develop policies and plans for increasing environmental awareness in cooperation with other public and private agencies to include school districts.

Responsibilities:

- The Environmental Committee shall meet not less than six times per year
- The Environmental Committee shall monitor the City's progress and comply with principles established in Resolution 17-47
- The Environmental Committee shall prepare an annual recommended work plan to the City Council not later than three months in advance of each fiscal year.

Historical Background

The Environmental Committee was formed in 2018 and new members joined over the year, while four members resigned due to various personal reasons. Despite these changes in the composition of the committee, the Environmental Committee achieved the following:

- Goal: The Environmental Committee will conduct outreach and provide input to the city regarding municipal code section 6.04.165: Permit Required for Bees.
- Achievement: The Environmental Committee was instrumental in the ordinance amendment to 6.04.165, which made beekeeping permitted by-right citywide. Additionally, the Environmental Committee has submitted an application to designate Seaside as a Bee City USA Affiliate and a Resolution to be considered by the City Council.
- Goal: Provide input regarding updates to Seaside Municipal Code 8.60:
- Environmentally Preferable Food Packaging Progress: The Environmental Committee has discussed this topic over the past year as adjacent cities have amended their “Plastics” code. A sub-committee was created to research and inform the proposed ordinance amendments and are collaborating with the CSUMB Service Learners (a team of seven individuals). Updating the EPP policy is a primary goal for the 2019/20 Work Plan.
- Goal: The Environmental Committee will conduct outreach and provide input to the city regarding municipal code section 8.54: Trees. Progress: The Environmental Committee provided a Tree FAQ during the 2018 Earth Day celebration and the Staff Liaison has engaged the Board of Architectural Review on changes to the tree code and will meet with the Planning Commission and Parks & Rec Committee to inform the code amendments.
- In addition, to further support policy action to address climate change at a State and National level, the Environmental Committee drafted a Memorandum to the City Council, communicating their support of Council approving a Resolution of Support generated by Citizens’ Climate Lobby regarding the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019. With City Council approval, Seaside became the first city in the county to endorse the bill (HR 763).

Fiscal 2019-2020 Work Plan

The Environmental Committee will provide comments during the review periods for the following Environmental Impact Reports:

- Main Gate addendum: originally approved in 2003 under the Main Gate Specific Plan. Rincon Consultants is developing the addendum and it is expected completion: early summer.
- Seaside 2040 General Plan Update EIR, Rincon Consultants, expected completion: early summer.
- Campus Town Specific Plan and Environmental Impact Report (EIR): Being developed by Rincon, expected completion: early summer.

Title 8, Health and Safety: The Environmental Committee will conduct community and business outreach as well as provide input to the city regarding the content of Title 8, including but not limited to the following:

- 8.28: Solid Waste
- 8.54: Trees

Climate Action Planning – The Environmental Committee will support and advocate for the development of a Climate Action Plan.

Water and Energy – The Environmental Committee will support water and energy conservation efforts within the community and encourage best practices in City operations. Address Title 17: Zoning Ordinance, including various sections limiting sustainable installations, such as rainwater capture devices, on private property.

Draft a code amendment to 8.60: Environmentally Preferable Food Packaging - In December 2018, the Committee convened a working group to review and develop text amendments to the Seaside Municipal Code regarding EPP. The working group first met in late December 2018 to begin reviewing the current code and drafting proposed amendments. For logistical reasons, including committee member turnover, the process was stalled. The working group reconvened in March, delegated roles, and created a timeline to develop the proposed amendments. This process includes consultation of existing resources within the community, and bilingual community outreach with support from a group of CSU Monterey Bay Service Learning students. The Environmental Committee intends to present the City Council with its proposal within the next several months.

Ongoing Projects

- Provide support and increase education and awareness of pollinators and their habitats as related to the expected designation of Seaside as a BEE CITY USA Affiliate.
- Work with City Staff to support the integration of environmentally sound business practices into the City of Seaside operations.
- Work collaboratively with Community partners to promote continued progress towards achieving Seaside's environmental goals and responsibilities.