City and County of San Francisco
Commission on the Environment

MEETING MINUTES FINAL

Tuesday, May 28, 2019, 5:00 P.M.
City Hall, Room 416
One Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Jr. Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

COMMISSION MEMBERS: Elmy Bermejo (President), Heather Stephenson (Vice President), Eddie Ahn, Tiffany Chu, Mike Sullivan, Johanna Wald and Sarah Wan.

ORDER OF BUSINESS
Public comment will be taken before the Commission takes action on any item.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call.

The Commission on the Environment meeting was convened at 5:03 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Bermejo (arrived at 6:00 p.m.), Wald, Ahn, Chu, Stephenson, Sullivan and Wan.

2. President’s Welcome. (Discussion)

Vice-President Stephenson welcomed attendees and discussed the agenda.

Commissioner Ahn requested at the meeting be adjoumed in memory of Marie Harrison.

There was no public comment.

3. Approval of Minutes of the March 26, 2019 Commission on the Environment Meeting. (Explanatory Documents: March 26, 2019 Draft Minutes) (Discussion and Action)

Upon a motion by Commissioner Wald and second by Commissioner Sullivan the minutes were approved without objection. (Ayes: Commissioners Wald, Ahn, Chu, Stephenson, Sullivan and Wan; Noes: None; Absent: Commissioner Bermejo)

There was no public comment.

4. General Public Comment: Members of the public may address the Commission on matters that are within the Commission’s jurisdiction and are not on today’s agenda.
There was no public comment.

PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS

5. **Presentation of a Commission on the Environment - Environmental Service Award to the San Francisco Giants.** (Discussion)

Commissioner Stephenson presenting the Environmental Service Award to the San Francisco Giants.

Shana Daum, Vice President of Public Affairs and Community Relations for the San Francisco Giants accepted the award.

Deborah Raphael, Director, discussed the work of the San Francisco Giants.

Public Comment:

Jack Macy, San Francisco Department of the Environment, discussed the zero waste work of the San Francisco Giants.

CONSENT AGENDA

6. **Approval of consent agenda.** (Action)

   a. **Vote on whether to accept the Policy Committee’s recommendation to approve the Draft 2018 Annual Buy Green Report.** Sponsor: Deborah Raphael, Director. (Explanatory Document: Draft 2018 Annual Buy Green Report)

The consent agenda was approved without objection. (Ayes: Commissioners Wald, Ahn, Chu, Stephenson, Sullivan and Wan; Noes: None; Absent: Commissioner Bermejo)

REGULAR AGENDA

7. **Review and vote on approval of Resolution File No. 2019-02-COE regarding a checkout bag charge and requirements for recyclable paper or compostable pre-checkout bags.** Sponsor: Deborah Raphael, Director; Speaker: Juan Carlos Cancino, Legislative Aide, Office of Supervisor Vallie Brown and Alexa Kiely, Zero Waste Specialist (Explanatory Document: Resolution File No. 2019-02-COE) (Discussion and Action)

Deborah Raphael, Director, introduced the item.

Juan Carlos Cancino discussed Supervisor Vallie Brown’s commitment to sustainability issues, changing the culture of convenience and consumption and the number of bags that are used in San Francisco.

Alexa Kiely, Zero Waste Specialist, discussed plastic pollution, San Francisco’s leadership in plastics reduction, California state law, the return of thick plastic bags, survey data, the checkout bag ordinance, behavior change, prohibiting plastic pre-checkout bags, recyclable paper or compostable pre-checkout bags, capturing more food scraps, outreach and education and refusing what is not needed.
Commissioner Chu asked where the funds for the pricing of the bags go.

Commissioner Sullivan asked about a way to measure the number of bags that are being used by San Franciscans.

Commissioner Ahn discussed the equity component of making sure low income communities without reusable bags are not impacted.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Ahn and second by Commissioner Wald Resolution File No. 2019-02-COE was approved without objection. (Ayes: Commissioners Wald, Ahn, Chu, Stephenson, Sullivan and Wan; Noes: None; Absent: Commissioner Bermejo)

There was no public comment.


Alexa Kielty, Zero Waste Specialist, discussed the Zero Waste Grants including the program’s history, funding source and funding recommendations.

Commissioner Wan asked if the Zero Waste Grant fund has increased from years past.

Commissioner Sullivan asked about the UCSF tracking of zero waste and if the program can be brought city-wide.

Deborah Raphael, Director, invited proposed grantees

Tom Beaver discussed the work of the Groceries for Seniors program.

Debbie Gorman discussed the work of the San Francisco Conservation Corps program.

Adam Schnirel discussed the work of the University of California, San Francisco.

Connie Lasowitz discussed the work of San Francisco State University.

Kenneth Hill discussed the work of Hunters Point Family.

Miriam Gordon discussed the work of Up Stream.

Anita Green discussed the work of the Tsu Chi Buddhist Foundation.

Lauren Human discussed the work of the San Francisco Unified School District Sustainability Program.

Jen discussed the work of Repeat.

Shinquell Green discussed the work of Tech Exchange.

Commissioner Wald thanked all the prospective grantees for their work.
Upon a motion by Commissioner Wald and second by Commissioner Wan Resolution File No. 2019-03-COE was approved without objection. (Ayes: Commissioners Wald, Ahn, Chu, Stephenson, Sullivan and Wan; Noes: None; Absent: Commissioner Bermejo)

There was no public comment.

9. **Presentation on an outreach initiative to promote sustainable transportation options to new San Francisco residents.** Sponsor: Deborah Raphael, Director; Speaker: Becca Raybin, Marketing and Communications Associate (Discussion)

Becca Raybin, Marketing and Communications Associate, discussed an outreach to promote sustainable transportation by new San Francisco residents including waves of new residents, new resident audience, engaging our audience, postcards, a unique initiative, minimal waste, ensuring information is up to date, postcard design, messaging for peer-to-peer sharing, social norming, positive framing, connection to place, imagery, delivery and key takeaways from a survey of postcard recipients.

Commissioner Sullivan asked if there were any additional resources sent out and if traffic was recorded.

Commissioner Chu congratulated the Department for their work.

Commissioner Sullivan discussed Clipper Card usage.

Commissioner Bermejo asked about access to the report summarizing findings of the initiative survey.

There was no public comment.

10. **Director's Report.** Speaker: Deborah Raphael, Director. (Explanatory Document: Director's Report) (Discussion)

Deborah Raphael, Director, discussed Earth Month activities including commissioner attendance, the Mayor’s Earth Day reception, press and policy announcements during Earth Month, foreign delegations to the San Francisco Department of the Environment, a grant from CalRecycle, budget hearings before the Board of Supervisors and an event honoring the memory of the late Mayor Ed Lee.

There was no public comment.

11. **Committee Reports.** (Discussion)

Commissioner Stephenson announced an Operations Committee meeting on Thursday, May 30th at 5 p.m. in City Hall Room 421. To be discussed are implementation of the Financial Service Project implementation of green purchasing and the implementation of Salesforce CRM.

Commissioner Ahn discussed the April 10, 2019 Policy Committee meeting including presentations on the Refuse Separation Compliance Ordinance and the Green Business program. In May 13, 2019, the Committee discussed the checkout and pre-checkout back ordinance, the 2018 Annual Buy Green Report and discussed the Better at the Bin program.
Commissioner Stephenson asked if the Policy Committee would do a deeper dive on zero waste at the Committee’s June meeting.

There was no public comment.

12. Announcements. (Discussion)

There were no announcements.

There was no public comment.

13. New Business/Future Agenda Items. Speaker: Charles Sheehan, Chief Policy and Public Information Officer (Discussion and Possible Action)

Charles Sheehan, Chief Policy and Public Information Officer, discussed the July Commission meeting which will be a retreat and the impending approval process of the Reduced Risk Pesticide List.

Anthony Valdez, Commission Secretary, discussed a July retreat

Commissioner Wald discussed a potential site visit to Oracle Park to see the San Francisco Giants recycling operations.

Commissioner Stephenson discussed an assessment or evaluation on how technology companies are doing on zero waste.

There was no public comment.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned in memory of Marie Harrison at 6:46 p.m.

The next meeting of the Commission on the Environment is scheduled for Tuesday, July 23, 2019, 5:00 p.m. at City Hall, Room 416.

** Copies of explanatory documents are available at (1) the Commission’s office, 1455 Market Street, Suite 1200, San Francisco, California, 94103 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Photo identification is required for entry to the building. (2) on the Commission’s website http://www.sfenvironment.org/commission; (3) upon request to the Commission Affairs Manager, at telephone number 415-355-3709, or via e-mail at Anthony.E.Valdez@sfgov.org. If any materials related to an item on this agenda have been distributed to the Committee after distribution of the agenda packet, those materials are available for public inspection at the Department of the Environment, 1455 Market Street, Suite 1200, San Francisco, CA 94103 during normal office hours or will be made available on the Commission’s website http://www.sfenvironment.org/commission as attachments to the agenda or meeting minutes.

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