

CITY OF SAN MATEO
Sustainability & Infrastructure
Commission
November 9, 2022
7:00 PM



COMMISSION MEMBERS
Clifford Robbins, Chair
Susan Rowinski, Vice Chair
Adam Loraine
Kimiko Narita
Sigalle Michael

City Hall Council Chamber
330 W. 20th Avenue
San Mateo CA 94403

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER – This meeting is being held pursuant to the Governor’s Executive Orders which suspend certain requirements of the Brown Act.

This meeting was held pursuant to authorization from Government Code 54943(b)(3) / AB361 (2021) in which Brown Act regulations are relaxed to allow members to participate virtually due to the Covid-19 health emergency. The meeting was open to in person and remote attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Present: Chair Robbins, Vice Chair Rowinski, Commissioners Loraine, Michael, and Narita.
Absent: None

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Sustainability and Infrastructure Commission Minutes - Approval

Motion made to approve the minutes of October 12, 2022. Motion passed 5-0

Moved: Robbins, Seconded: Rowinski

Ayes: Narita, Loraine, Robbins, Rowinski, and Michael

Noes: None

PUBLIC COMMENT – Sean Lacson commented on alternate bike parking options in the downtown with the recent removal of parking meters on the closed section of South B. *Assistant City Manager Kleinbaum commented that bicycle racks will be installed.*

NEW BUSINESS

2. Leaf Blower Regulations

Andrea Chow, Sustainability Analyst, provided a presentation to the Commission asking for feedback and direction on potential leaf blower regulations.

Commissioners asked questions of staff.

Public Comment. The following spoke to the item: Christine G., Carol Steinfeld, 1415***239, Michelle Hudson, Mike Swire, Pam Rittelmeyer, Carol Wilhelmy, and Bill Schildknecht.

Feedback from commissioners included: prioritize outreach to landscapers and stakeholders; reach out to cities with gas leaf blower bans to identify best practices and to understand enforcement challenges; update the website and educational material to include new CARB rebates for electric equipment; analyze the long-term costs of gas versus electric blowers; and analyze the health impacts of gas leaf blower use.

Commissioners Robbins, Narita, Loraine, and Michael favor a gas leaf blower ban and continuing rebates for electric leaf blower equipment to ease the transition for commercial landscapers. The Commissioners also recommended having a delayed effective date to allow time for the landscapers to transition. Commissioner Rowinski is not comfortable with gas or electric leaf blower ban emphasizing concerns about the impact of the policy for commercial landscapers.

To address leaf blower noise, Commissioners also recommended exploring a neighborhood zone approach to restrict leaf blower use to specific days of the week (an approach employed by the City of Burlingame).

3. Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects Update

Sue-Ellen Atkinson, Principal Transportation Planner, provided a presentation to the Commission with updates on bicycle and pedestrian projects.

Commissioners asked questions of staff.

Public Comment. The following spoke to the item: Mike Swire and Sean Lacson.

Regarding the public comment on San Mateo High School pedestrian crosswalk and left turn into the school driveway, Director Mitch informed the Commission that she will follow-up with the school district.

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENT FROM COMMISSIONER AND STAFF

- Rowinski stated that a presentation was made at the last Council meeting to certify San Mateo as an age friendly city and one item had to do with sidewalks as it relates to seniors. Rowinski asked if this might be a potential agenda item. *Director Mitch commented that this report is part of the ADA database and Public Works has integrated the recommendation into our Capital Improvement Plan.*

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn: 9:20pm

Agendas and background material are posted on the City's website www.cityofsanmateo.org at least 72 hours preceding each Commission meeting. Any supplemental material distributed to Commissioners after the posting of the agenda will be available for public review at City Hall, City Manager's office. 330 W. 20th Avenue, San Mateo.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those with disabilities requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting may contact the Public Works Department at (650) 522-7300. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the city to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.