



**A Meeting Of The IPM Task Force
Minutes
Thursday, July 5, 2007
Albany Senior Center
846 Masonic Ave.
7:00 p.m.**

- 1. Call to Order:** 7:10 p.m. Task Force Members present: Chair Wishner, Linden, Piller, Mattson, Thomas, Glasner, Fabian and Carlsen.

Staff present: Richard Cunningham and Robin Mariona

- 2. Review of Minutes: May 23, 2007:**

Motion:

Approval of the minutes of May 23 as corrected, by Member Mattson and seconded by Member Linden. Motion carried all in favor.

- 3. Public Comment:** Albany resident, former Mayor and City Council Member Allan Maris stated that implementation of new IPM guidelines may require additional funding from the City for costs in landscape improvement, maintenance labor and materials, and this should be included in the staff report to Council.

Member Fabian stated that there had not been much discussion in the Task Force with regard to the costs of an IPM program. Chair Wishner stated that Steve Ash had given the Task Force a ballpark estimate for the IPM advisor and former Director Chinn had given some estimates in terms of the oversight committee and additional jobs for staff. Chair Wishner further stated that some costs would likely be more in the first two years of the program, but in the long run costs would be less than traditional strategies.

Member Carlsen stated that the notion that IPM would incur start up costs made sense, but Albany had barely maintained landscapes at all in the past due to budget and personnel restraints and as a result there would be new costs as standards of care were determined. Manager Cunningham stated that there would likely be public debate and discussion as standards of care needed to match usage damage and appearance expectations.

Member Carlsen stated that Manager Cunningham and the Public Works Department would need money for personnel and maintenance, and the cost could be significant. Member Mattson stated that Mr. Ash should be prepared to answer questions on cost estimates for the City Council and close attention should be paid to design plans that were consistent with IPM which would create saving in the long and short run. Member Linden stated that Albany should be looking at taking better care of the landscape, be it new or old landscaping.

Chair Wishner stated that Bay Friendly landscaping had been incorporated into the designs that were already in play. Manager Cunningham stated that the designs were solid; it was maintaining the aesthetics and the cost of labor that would be an addition to present costs. Member Mattson questioned if Bay Friendly designs took cost into consideration. Manager Cunningham stated that they did not. Chair Wishner stated the Task Force needed to talk to Steve Ash about the costs.

4. Announcements/Communication: Manager Cunningham stated that Penelope Leach, who was currently the Director of Recreation in Moraga, had been chosen as the new Director for Albany and she would be starting on July 23rd. Chair Wishner stated that Chelle Putzer would be the interim Director until Director Leach began.

5. Discussion and possible action on matters related to the following items, which could include reports and/or proposed resolutions if any:

5.1 Latest Draft of the IPM policy and related correspondence from IPM consultant Steven Ash with focus on reviewing revisions to Sections 4 through the end of the document. Chair Wishner stated that it was her hope that the Task Force could agree on language and sign off on the remaining sections at this meeting, to prepare for working with Ann Chaney in the month of August on the ordinance and complete the Task Force charge in September.

The Task Force agreed that section 4 was complete. The Task Force then discussed section 5, the services of an IPM advisor. Member Piller suggested changing some language to keep the document from being redundant with regard to defining and qualifying IPM in too many places, including section 5. Member Carlsen stated that the definition of IPM should be in section 2, and be precise enough to not require defining again. Member Piller stated that defining IPM in one place would eliminate the creation of a document with extra wording, that was repetitious and would be user friendly for the public.

Member Linden stated that it was important to keep an emphasis on an advisor that was experienced in natural and organic methods. Chair Wishner stated that the definition of IPM in section 2 would include natural and organic and the definition of advisor as having demonstrated success in IPM. Member Carlsen stated that the drafting committee should work on the advisor definition.

Chair Wishner asked if the Task Force was in sufficient enough agreement on the language in section 5 for the drafting committee to take the document to Ann Chaney in August. Manager Cunningham stated that when contracting professional services, it was not necessary to overstate the definition of the advisor in the document and it could take place in the RFQ/RFP. The Task Force stated provisional agreement on section 5.

Chair Wishner questioned Manager Cunningham with regard to the number of times per year the City IPM Team would meet as stated in section 6. Member Fabian suggested that seasonally 4 times per year would be adequate. Chair Wishner stated that Steve Ash had recommended 6 times per year for the first two years. Members Thomas and Mattson stated that the Team should adhere to Mr. Ash's recommendations. Member Carlsen stated that Manager Cunningham and the IPM team should meet as often as he deemed necessary. After changing some language as recommended by Member Glasner, the Task Force agreed to leave the meetings at a minimum of 6 times in the first 2 years and quarterly thereafter.

Chair Wishner stated the intention of adding fertilizers to section 7 and to the rest of the document. Member Carlsen stated that the size of the IPM Oversight Committee needed to be larger and Member Mattson agreed. The Task Force agreed that the Committee should be composed of 2 Park and Recreation Commissioners and 5 members of the public.

The Task Force agreed that section 8 on Education and Training was adequate as written and section 9 would be taken up with Steven Ash at the next meeting on July 18th.

Chair Wishner stated that Section 10 contained the modified language from the last meeting. Manager Cunningham suggested deferring permanent signage in section 10, as it would raise a red flag for a condition that didn't exist. It was decided that the Task Force would bring up issues from section 10 with Mr. Ash at the next meeting.

Manager Cunningham questioned part C in section 11, with regards to reporting to the Department of Agriculture as Steve Ash had recommended and it was decided to talk to him about it at the next meeting. Member Glasner suggested changing some language on thresholds, which was agreed upon. Manager Cunningham stated that thresholds should be established when circumstances determined the necessity for them. It was agreed that section 11 was adequate as corrected and Manager Cunningham would talk to Mr. Ash at the next meeting.

Member Piller questioned Manager Cunningham as to objections he might have in section 12. He stated that he did not have objections, but there could be occurrences where the County would step in and they may stipulate that IPM would not be effective in some circumstances.

Chair Wishner stated that there had been some minor changes to language in section 13. Member Mattson suggested adding, listing all ingredients in A4 and Member Glasner suggested a reference to the EPA website for full labeling and ingredient information.

Section 14 was deferred until the next meeting.

Chair Wishner stated that Mr. Ash had sent some recommendations to section 15 on exemptions. There were some changes to wording otherwise the section was acceptable.

The Task Force questioned Manager Cunningham as to section 16 and 17 and he agreed that they were acceptable.

Chair Wishner stated that some points from Green Building/ Bay Friendly Landscaping had been added to section 18 and Ann Chaney would help with the wording. Manager Cunningham stated that Bay Friendly didn't always apply and section 18 should be a context statement and not to make it a design control document. Member Carlsen stated having a problem with mandating biodegradable and wording was changed to "add priority to" instead.

The task Force agreed that section 19 needed no changes.

6. Adjournment: 9:18pm

