



A Meeting Of The IPM Task Force
Minutes
Wednesday June 13, 2007
Albany Senior Center
846 Masonic Ave.
7:30 p.m.

1. **Call to Order:** 7:39 p.m. Task Force Members present: Chair Wishner, Linden, Mattson, Thomas, Piller, Carlsen and Fabian. Member Glasner excused.

Staff present: Richard Cunningham

2. **Review of Minutes: May 9, 2007:**

Motion:

Approval of the minutes of May 9th made by Member Mattson and seconded by Member Thomas. Motion carried all in favor

3. **Public Comment:** None

4. **Announcements/Communication:**

Chair Wishner stated that Ruth Meniketti had been killed crossing Marin Ave. the previous week. She stated that Mrs. Meniketti had been an active participant in Albany government and activities for many years and asked that the Task Force observe a moment of silence in recognition of her service and that she would be missed at the City meetings she often attended.

Chair Wishner stated that there was a public meeting scheduled in the Albany Veteran's Memorial Building on Sat. June 23rd. from 9am-12 noon. It was to be the first of the public workshops designed to determine public interest in acquiring the building for City and recreation purposes. Director Dennis Smith had sent extra fliers to the IPM meeting to encourage members to post them in their neighborhoods.

Manager Cunningham stated that interviews for the Director of Recreation and Community Services had been held on Fri June 8th, and the group had been narrowed down to eight.

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 IPM policy & related correspondence from IPM consultant Steven Ash. Chair Wishner stated that the latest draft of the policy was dated May 17th. The main orders of business for the evening were to insert sections on fertilizers and lists of approved products titled 9A and 14A by the drafting committee, to review the comments by Steven Ash on the draft and fertilizer language.

Chair Wishner suggested that the Task Force begin with sections 9A and 14A. Member Mattson questioned if neuro-toxins and endocrine disruptors were relevant to fertilizers. Chair Wishner stated that she would question Steven Ash as to whether they were relevant. Member Linden asked about Prop. 65 and Chair Wishner stated that she would check with Mr. Ash as to whether they should reference it.

Motion:

Motion to accept the changes to section 9A made by Member Mattson and seconded by_____. Motion carried all in favor.

Manager Cunningham stated that with reference to 14A, the Public Works Dept. currently fertilized twice a year and that turfed areas were the only areas that were being fertilized by the City though the renovated parks would require more care. He questioned the timeline of the ordinance with regard to transitioning to a preferred fertilizer list. Member Carlsen suggested striking some language in 14A with regard to the transition timeline. Chair Wishner stated that there would be one year for the City and Public Works to adopt a preferred list and practices for the second year of the IPM program.

Member Linden questioned if there would be an exemption process for fertilizers during the year that the City was adopting the program. Chair Wishner stated that there would not be an exemption process in place, but Member Carlson stated that there would be a good will agreement that would most likely be sufficient for stopping any procedure that violated IPM intentions. Member Linden asked that language be added to that intent. Chair Wishner suggested inserting the language in section 3, and wrote down a question to Steven Ash with regard to it. Chair Wishner also asked Manager Cunningham to provide an ingredient list for the fertilizer products currently being used.

Member Carlsen stated that the level of nutritional care for soil and plant health needed to be raised, and Chair Wishner stated that Steven Ash had suggested some benchmarks for evaluation. Manager Cunningham stated that implementing the benchmarks could be a significant cost to the City. Chair Wishner suggested questioning Mr. Ash as to the scope and cost of benchmarks he had suggested, including soil testing and plant evaluation. She further suggested deferring the question of what kind of fertilizer needs the City had to the policy document, rather than dealing with it in 14A.

Manager Cunningham stated that the current standard of care was being redefined, and it was important to keep the implementation costs in mind when presenting the IPM policy to the Council. Chair Wishner suggested that Member Carlsen and Manager Cunningham formulate a question with regard to levels of care and cost for Mr. Ash.

Public Comment: Mark Bowman questioned whether there would need to be analysis done on all plants that appeared to not be doing well. Chair Wishner stated that it would be dealt with in the implementation manual.

The Task Force adjusted some language and grammar in 14A for clarification. Manager Cunningham asked the Task Force to keep in mind that areas might have to be fenced off from the public as they were being fertilized, that this practice would be substantially different from the current practice and potentially could be problematic if park areas could not be used for many days at a time. Chair Wishner stated that it was not clear that it would be necessary for those measures to be taken and it was important to gather more information from Mr. Ash.

Member Carlson suggested that Mr. Ash should attend a Task Force meeting soon to clarify some of the questions. Member Linden stated that it was important that the oversight committee be aware of new scientific research. Member Carlsen stated that the oversight committee had a lot of responsibility, possibly needed to have more members and that any changes that they made needed to be reviewed by

the Parks and Recreation Commission during the course of a year not just at a yearly review meeting which could possibly eliminate the need for an appeal process.

Member Piller stated that there would likely have to be a charter amendment to give the Park and Recreation Commission more authority to take action in the appeal process and Ann Chaney should be consulted as to whether this was necessary. Member Linden stated that the process needed to be clear in terms of the chain of procedure for public awareness.

Motion

Motion by Member Piller to approve the changes to 14A as discussed by the Task Force and seconded by Member Linden. Motion carried all in favor.

Chair Wishner questioned as to whether everyone was in agreement with the change in timeline in section 3 with regard to fertilizers being added to pesticides. All agreed. Chair Wishner stated that the primary business for the next meeting would be sections 1 and 3. The next meeting dates were planned for June 25, June 27, July 9, July 11^b or July 18th depending on when Mr. Ash was available.

6. Future Agenda Items

7. Adjournment: 9:44pm