

Kim Shirley's Council Report for Tuesday, November 15, 2022

Friday, October 21st- ReGen Monterey Board Meeting- After the consent portion of our agenda, we gratefully recognized 4 employees for either 20 years or 25 years of service to the district. It's really these dedicated employees whom we have to thank for making our operation run so smoothly. Afterwards we had several discussion items, many of which were covered in our finance committing meeting at the beginning of October and in the end, were all approved. We did have a further discussion regarding transparency and items that can be placed on our website. My point of view is that as long as it doesn't take an inordinate amount of staff time to manage, then the more items that can be placed, such as policies and videos, then the better it is for the public (as long as it's well organized). The meeting ended with staff reports and a closed session.

Tuesday, October 25th- City Council Meeting- This month's meeting included many important proclamations and a presentation on the Police Department Strategic Plan. I enjoyed hearing more about the plan and how the strategic objectives demonstrate the vision and values of our police department. There is so much they are doing, but I especially appreciated the emphasis on increased training for the officers as well as the technology efficiencies that are being implemented in the department. Big thanks to Chief Hoyne and Commander Bourquin for their dedication to detail and perseverance in all areas of this work. Next was the consent agenda, which I pulled the strategic grid for further discussion. Since the Effectiveness and Efficiency goal had not been updated, I wanted the latest update and I also wanted the opportunity for Chief Hoyne to share the update on the Core Values definitions. Our only item of discussion was to consider a reimbursement agreement with Monterey Peninsula Engineering for the environmental review phase for their proposed pavement recycling facility project on our property in the former Fort Ord. In our discussion there was concern about exactly where this area would be located, in relation to the proposed route of FORTAG. I do think we need to keep this in mind anytime we think about land use in that area, so I appreciated Drs. Waltz and Watson for bringing this to our attention. In the end, we approved this item and I look forward to seeing this environmental review.

Wednesday, October 26th- Multijurisdictional Climate Action Meeting- This was a meeting run by Ashley Paulsworth who's the Sustainability Manager for Monterey County. She brings together representatives from surrounding jurisdictions to talk about climate action steps that everyone is taking. A couple of items that were good reminders are that jurisdictions are looking at "clean fleet" policies where they are looking to only purchase electric vehicles in the future. There is also lots of talk about looking at areas where public EV charging can be done, which also reminded me that our city needs to adopt the streamlining of EV charging permits for residents and commercial (this is the law and we are out of compliance). In addition to the updates, we heard a presentation from Amaury Berteaud from AMBAG who presented on Climate Adaptation funding opportunities. One of those opportunities is from the Governor's Office of Planning and Research which I've asked City Manager Guertin to look into as I think it may be an opportunity to fund our Safety element of our General Plan, which needs to address

climate change (although required, we currently do not have a Safety element, so I'd like to see this as a priority for the city). The other presentation was talking about how the county will be moving forward with reach codes (building codes that "reach" beyond the typical codes). In this instance, they are looking at going all electric with new construction as well as making buildings ready for EV charging. I'm very interested in going this route within our city and I'm happy to see the county taking the lead, as it will only make it easier for the rest of us. In response to this, I have forwarded City Manager Guertin an email about their next steps, which included a survey that will help the county understand more about where jurisdictions are in this planning.

Friday, October 28th- Judged the ReGen Monterey Halloween tables- What a fun morning! In the spirit of Halloween, ReGen Monterey had different employee groups decorate tables and then everyone came together for voting and sharing of a meal. I was invited as one of the judges and had a great time viewing such creativity. The clear winner for the day was from the staff who run the MRF (Materials Recovery Facility...think about all the people who are sorting trash and recycling, such important work!). They very much put the macabre spin on their work as they created a table display that replicated the conveyor belts and machinery of the MRF, but instead of sorting recycling, they were sorting body parts—picture small toy figurines, with bloodied body parts missing. It was an entire scene with great attention to detail, all done in good fun. Honestly, it showed me how attentive and hard working they must be! I greatly enjoyed interacting with fellow board members and ReGen staff in this less formal manner and lunch was delicious, so big thanks to ReGen for including me in this spirited gathering!

Saturday, October 29th- Butterfly Garden Workday- Wow, am I grateful for the caring residents and volunteers who help to support the work of our Butterfly Garden! This day we came together to move our large compost pile into the yard waste container at the City's corp. yard. Many, many thanks goes to Kimberle Herring who brought her truck, good ideas, and lots of muscle and determination as we moved organic material onto tarps, then loaded them into her truck, and then drove them over to be dumped into the container. It was a ton of work, but we got it done! Big thanks also to Kevin, Claire, and Jacob for their hard work. We couldn't have done it without them! Thanks also to Karen Harris and Annie Auburn for the additional garden maintenance that day and to Carol Kaplan for all of her guidance and work that she consistently puts towards keeping the garden in great shape.

Wednesday, November 2nd- ReGen Monterey Finance Committee Mtg- Today's meeting, we talked about further reviewing the white paper that analyzes incoming and outgoing waste from the district. Although we reviewed it last month, we were all encouraged to read through it again and send our comments to staff for further editing. It's vital that all points of interests are brought up as this topic is important for how we move forward into the future. Another item discussed was the need for potable water at the district. Right now, we have two wells that supply water but that is only useful for fire suppression since the water is contaminated by nitrates. Onsite treatment is one option as well bringing bottled water onsite. The third option is a discussion with Marina Coast Water District (MCWD) which could provide potable water to both our site as well as M1W. After a thoughtful discussion we encouraged staff to pursue this option as it may be the most economically feasible and may provide an opportunity to partner

with MCWD and provide them with needed renewable energy. Our next item was a review of the draft audit for FY21/22, which was given the highest marks, thanks to our very competent and hardworking financial team at the district. And lastly, we discussed paperless board packets and how to move forward with providing the tech needed for this move, which I support 100%. Many of us have our own tablets so it's looking like the district would need to purchase a few and then provide the necessary training. I'm happy we're moving in this more sustainable direction!

Reminder: there will be a lithium-ion battery collection event at MPC on November 12th from 9am-1pm. No need to remove the batteries, just bring the device (electric toothbrushes, wireless headphones, etc.).