

Minutes of the September 22, 2020, ECOS Board Meeting

President Ralph Propper called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Present: ECOS Board Members: Ralph Propper, Robert Meagher, Janet Koster, Jon Ellison, Chris Brown, Laurie Heller, Earl Withycombe, John Deeter, Ron Maertz, Susan Herre, Chelsea Kelly-Reif, Sean Wirth, Nancy Hughett, Michael O'Sullivan, Brandon Rose, Lynne Goldsmith, Betsy Weiland, Andy Sawyer.

Guests: Julia Burrows, Heather Fargo, Jacob Bytel, Muriel Strand, FD Graham, Gloria Kim, Jeanie Mascia, Don Lockhart, Angela Herring, Molly Wright, Sue Teranishi, Rosanna Herber, Katie Valenzuela, Sandra Hall.

ECOS Staff: Alexandra Reagan.

I. Agenda and Minutes

Motion (Withycombe, seconded by Maertz): that the minutes of the July 28, 2020, ECOS board meeting, as amended, and the agenda of the September 22, 2020, ECOS board meeting, as amended, be approved. Approved unanimously.

II. Strong Mayor, Ballot Measure A

Julia Burrows, Senior Policy Advisor to Sacramento Mayor Darrel Steinberg but speaking on her own time, made a presentation in support of Measure A. Ms. Burrows argued that for most small and medium cities, a council/city manager form of government is best, but a strong mayor form of government provides greater accountability for elected officials more suitable for present day Sacramento. Ms. Burrows emphasized the need for prompt action in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and to deal with homelessness, housing and climate change.

Former Sacramento Mayor Heather Fargo who chairs the No Way Measure A campaign, argued that there has not been adequate time for public consideration and involvement for the change. Ms. Fargo also pointed out that a strong mayor form of government is the exception for California cities, and argued that a strong mayor system lacks checks and balances.

III. Reports

A. Organizational Development

Nancy Hughett reported that the Organizational Development Committee has been involved in fundraising. A mail and email solicitation help recover much of the funding lost as a result of cancellation of the 2020 Earth Day event.

B. Treasurer

Earl Withycombe distributed by email a Treasurer's report for January through August 2020. ECOS's cash position is good. The California Endowment has continued its grant for another year. Earl reported that ECOS has received a \$5000 grant from the City of Sacramento, subject to requirements to develop a business plan and not layoff our employees.

C. Land Use

Robert Meagher reported that at its August meeting the Land Use Committee discussed affordable housing and the housing element for Elk Grove. In September the committee

reviewed specific development projects. These included Aggie Square and U.C. Davis hospital development, a project in Rancho Cordova that includes land in the American River floodplain, the NewBridge Project and the Upper West Side Project.

D. Transportation, Air Quality and Climate Change

John Deeter reported that at its September meeting the Transportation, Air Quality and Climate Committee the focused on the Placer/Sacramento gateway plan. The committee also heard a report on Sacramento Regional Transit's efforts to recover from the recent downturn in ridership. The committee also discussed the Capital City Freeway project. At its October meeting the committee will hear a presentation by Earl Withycombe on air quality.

E. Habitat 2020

Sean Wirth reported that Habitat 2020 is working on the California Northstate University Medical Center project near the Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge and the Upper West Side project. The committee has also provided input on the terrestrial impacts of the Delta Conveyance Project and been involved in climate action plan issues.

F. Board and Officer Nominations

Jon Ellison reported on the need for nominating committees for at large directors and ECOS officers. Jon, Susan Herre, Nancy Hughett will serve as nominating committee for at large board members. Michael O'Sullivan, Betsy Weiland and Brandon Rose volunteered for nominating committee for ECOS officers, and were appointed by Ralph Propper.

G. President

Ralph Propper reported that there will not be an Environmentalist of the Year even this fall, but there will be a virtual event, with short videos for each of the award recipients, in the winter. Michael O'Sullivan requested nominations for environmentalist of the year and other awards.

Ralph reported that ECOS is making some headway on moving ahead with the California Development Action Team. ECOS has met with City Council members Jay Schenirer and Eric Guerra to work on a community benefits agreement that will include affordable housing.

IV. Announcements

The California Native Plant Society online native plant sale will be on September 23.
<https://www.sacvalleycnps.org/native-plant-gardening/plant-sales>

A Sacramento Municipal Utility District report on rooftop solar is available at
<https://www.smud.org/fairsolar>

The board discussed suggestions for inclusion in the Sacramento County Climate Action Plan.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.