

# APEX ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

## MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date:  
February 27, 2020  
6:00 p.m.



Apex Public Works  
Administration Building  
Conference Room  
105-B Upchurch St.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS:**

Hal Langenbach, Chair  
Katie Schaaf, Vice-Chair  
Laura Duggan  
John Garrison

Michael Rusher  
Marilee Szczerbala  
Jessica Wilkerson  
Ted Williams

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The rescheduled Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) was called to order by Chair Hal Langenbach at 6:00pm. Members present were Chair Langenbach, Vice-Chair Katie Schaaf, Board Members Laura Duggan, John Garrison, Michael Rusher, and Marilee Szczerbala. Board members Jessica Wilkerson and Ted Williams were absent.

Councilman Brett Gantt was in attendance and Town staff members present were Assistant Town Attorney Chris Welch, Planner II Shelly Mayo, and Senior Engineer and non-voting secretary to the EAB Jessica Bolin.

A motion was made by Member John Garrison to approve the minutes from the January 30, 2020 meeting and the motion passed unanimously and the minutes were signed by Chair Langenbach.

The draft Rules of Procedure for the Board were discussed and Assistant Town Attorney Chris Welch was present to answer questions before official adoption. Chair Langenbach mentioned that due to the nature of his work in local engineering he may have to recuse himself from any future votes that involve his company. Assistant Attorney Welch agreed and also clarified some Rules where there may have been some confusion and answered questions from board members. After these clarifications were made and since there were no resulting changes to the document, Vice-Chair Schaaf made a motion to adopt the Rules of Procedure and the motion passed unanimously. Chair Langenbach signed and dated the Rules and Assistant Attorney Welch then excused himself from the meeting.

Chair Langenbach opened the discussion of environmental areas of interest and the potential for subcommittees to the EAB. Staff is going to check with Town Attorneys if these potential subcommittees would be considered public bodies and thus subject to open meetings law. The Board's intent would be for these smaller groups to not make decisions but rather research and report findings back to the larger group. Chair Langenbach suggested the idea of subcommittees be tabled at this point until a determination could be made on the legality of conducting such subcommittee meetings and even if those meetings would be beneficial to the Board at this time.

A general stormwater discussion of Section 6.1 of the Town's UDO followed. Topics discussed included design storm events, stream buffers, Town rules on peak flow attenuation and how those rules vary by basin, Stormwater Control Measures (SCMs), potential for using wet ponds for irrigation, low impact

development (including permeable pavement), street trees, landscaping and native species, manmade ponds, and the draining of existing ponds. Chair Langenbach closed the discussion by asking board members to email any further stormwater thoughts or questions to Jessica Bolin for potential discussion at further meetings.

Chair Langenbach thanked board members for their attendance at the rescheduled meeting and mentioned that such a rescheduling should not occur often. He also confirmed that all Town email addresses are working properly and reminded members to review the Town's email retention policy.

Potential UDO topics of discussion for the March 19, 2020 EAB meeting were discussed and included landscaping, buffering, screening, street trees, and green / open space. Current Planning Manager Amanda Bunce will be present at the March meeting and will be available to answer questions on those topics.

Councilman Brett Gantt thanked everyone for their presence on the Board and for already digging into Town environmental policies. Councilman Gantt reminded members that the Town Council is not impatient in waiting for any recommendations from the EAB.

Member Marilee Szczerbala made a motion to adjourn the meeting and the meeting was adjourned at 7:28pm.

  
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Jessica Bolin, non-voting staff secretary

ATTEST:

  
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Hal Langenbach, Chair