BERKELEY ROTARY CLUB CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE: RCAC

MINUTES

December 17, 2020 5:30 ZOOM MEETING

Present: Ignacio Franco, Ed Church, John Pardee, Tina Etcheverry, Anne Pardee, Steve Beckendorf, and Cal Rotaractor Karthik Sreedhar

**Discussion prior to the meeting**:

-One can now make a donation to RI and specify PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

-John said ESRAG members now number 900 previously 400. Big West is the largest ESRAG Chapter with 216 members.

**Meeting called to order** at 5:30 by Chairman, Ignacio Franco

**\*=Action Items**

1. **Minutes of December 3, 2020**, were approved as submitted with one correction: 3b. Anne attended the BARSHEEP meeting, not Ed.

2. **Update on communication with Rotary District Governor, Mark Roberts**

a. Letter signed by Roberts has gone out to all the Presidents of District 5160 supporting the creation of a task force to support the environment.

b. John has received 3 responses from Rotarians volunteering to be on the what is now referred to as a Task Force (to later become a Committee) – one from the Walnut Creek Rotary Club President, one from the AG to Yolo County’s RCs and one from an e-club in NorCal. Tina and Ed will also join the discussion. John is expecting Karthik will also volunteer. Hopefully, D.G. Roberts will also attend as well as a member from each BARSHEEP Club.

c. **\***Tina will contact about 22 people from her year as BRC President (2017-18). It was suggested we also check the ESRAG Bulletin for possible contacts. Anne mentioned the R.I. Newsletter: **ESRAG – Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group** which was emailed to all Rotarians. It includes a quote from Ed regarding the feral Freon collection. There’s also a myriad of suggestions for projects and gifts that sustain the planet.

d. John reiterated that this Task Force will follow along the goals of BRCAC – to educate & inform, to offer speakers. He suggests there should be links to BRCAC Minutes.

3. **The Climate Safe California campaign with the Local Government Commission**

a. See below: **An Open Letter to Local Elected Officials on Climate Leadership**

Ed said that if a non-governmental body like Rotary were to endorse them, it would give elected officials a sense of community and put pressure on State officials.

b. **\***Ed to talk to Chris to get Board of Directors approval.

4. **Update on Board Meeting**

a. Connection Grants were endorsed by BOD. Presentation to the membership at large will occur in January. **\***Chris to send letter out announcing Connection Grants to all Committee Chairs. **\***Tina to write proposal up for e-Rev.

1. Timeline is really fast – Proposals would need to answer the 4 questions (see December 3rd Minutes) in an Abstract due in February. It will then be eviewed by the Grants Committee (Grier Graff & Kurt Hauch) with selection by April.

2. Tina reminded us that some of the grant proposals we are considering, might be covered by a Club Grant for $5000 or a District Grant for $20,000. She is particularly partial to the idea of e-charging stations which could partner with UC Berkeley and expand to city streets. They could even piggy back with a non-profit (such as Rotary) and expand to low income areas in Berkeley or the BART Stations. As a side note, Ed mentioned that “as electric cars come of age and gas cars are phased out, some e-charging stations might actually make money”.

3. Discussion of possible partners:

-Anne brought to the Committee’s attention the recent newsletter from the **Greenbelt Alliance**: **Climate SMART Update on Housing (https://www.greenbelt.org/climate-smart-development-endorsement-program/)** which addresses the 2 crises of housing and climate.

-John said that the **Pollinator Gardens** have already existing partners with the City, the University and the non-profit, **Transition Berkeley**,

(<https://www.transitionberkeley.org>)

- Steve mentioned another possible partner: **Friends of the Earth** who have a campaign to urge major supermarkets to stop purchasing produce from suppliers who use toxic pesticides.

b. Action Items:

1. **\*Ignacio would like “light abstracts” for Connection Grants for our next meeting- January 7th**

2. The Committee will discuss the abstracts and Ignacio will hold a Google Pole so that we can take a proposal to the BOD by the end of January.

a. Ignacio will work on e-v Charging Stations

b. Ed to research Urban Forests

c. Anne to look at housing possibilities

d. Maxim may find Climate Change and Social Justice connections

c. John to present Pollinator Gardens

3. BARSHEEP meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month – (possibility of presenting our abstract by January 12th?)

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, January 7th, 2021 5:30 ZOOM invitation and Agenda to be sent by Chairman Ignacio Franco**

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Pardee

Berkeley Rotary Climate Action Committee

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But these are not normal times.    With over 4 million acres burned by wildfires this year, toxic smoke smothering the state, and eerie orange skies, every Californian was impacted. At least 35 people died directly from our state’s wildfires since mid-August and a recent analysis from Stanford estimates that more than 1200 Californians lost their lives prematurely due to wildfire smoke.    The impact on government services that emergencies exact, from the loss of property to other economic losses due to fire damage and disruption, is enormous. One estimate of these losses for the 2019 fire season is at $80 billion (and that’s at a fraction of the acres we’ve lost this year— 259,823acres burned). Another study shows that $80 billion invested in climate measures in California would generate 727,000 new jobs. Investments in clean energy generate more than two times the yield of a similar investment in fossil fuels. Inaction is significantly more costly than action.    The sad truth is that fire seasons will only get worse going forward as climate change marches forward if we don’t act soon. With nine of 15 global climate tipping points already activated and new science documenting climate impacts worsening more quickly than anticipated, we must do much more, much sooner.    Scientists and economists are clear. We must dramatically cut emissions and remove warming pollutants we’ve already put into the atmosphere to secure a climate-safe future. To avoid runaway climate change, we must accelerate climate policy timelines and invest now to avoid significantly greater costs in terms of lives and dollars later.    The times demand that local governments join others in actively working for bolder climate policy from the state.    Building on the success of other climate and economic development initiatives such as Community Choice Energy (now providing 88% greenhouse gas-free electricity to over 11 million Californians)[**The Climate Center,**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001kU2PBrxqXlfmlCQtY4zkuUcj0TCGXZ7CuBN1Lq_iCGEBHb0j553E7IAt9SUxYYwax9DtZOnItmdsDvzfog8LQPdvuryKNUcL55zKTX0QxFpPYeJnagxnabXszyJ_Muiv38oI1dcpDYlA_53d__gq5w==&c=_QNRduMgGjm-YsCMtlxZElkp9WaZYpE7o1U0iBNO1gkmfanzW8Graw==&ch=KKIfHzZ4l0kFC9t7VigfgXPHaoxFtHOBK0LK5ffq_bVrpJF3ETpGog==) in collaboration with the Local Government Commission and others, is now leading the ambitious [**Climate-Safe California**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001kU2PBrxqXlfmlCQtY4zkuUcj0TCGXZ7CuBN1Lq_iCGEBHb0j553E7IAt9SUxYYwaBhm4FXMgUdd2Z80rXzSNmood2Oit6FLtAQlf1JFOUeABW-PEZsjUK43NkztuOXlJ2i7CjqAw2ICQaC-7xenT5izEGP6HYt0eB1eOMG1Puvc=&c=_QNRduMgGjm-YsCMtlxZElkp9WaZYpE7o1U0iBNO1gkmfanzW8Graw==&ch=KKIfHzZ4l0kFC9t7VigfgXPHaoxFtHOBK0LK5ffq_bVrpJF3ETpGog==) campaign that offers targets and solutions commensurate with recent science. With over 650 endorsements to date from business, elected officials, nonprofit leaders and others, we are reaching out to you to join us in [**endorsing**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001kU2PBrxqXlfmlCQtY4zkuUcj0TCGXZ7CuBN1Lq_iCGEBHb0j553E7IAt9SUxYYwaBhm4FXMgUdd2Z80rXzSNmood2Oit6FLtAQlf1JFOUeABW-PEZsjUK43NkztuOXlJ2i7CjqAw2ICQaC-7xenT5izEGP6HYt0eB1eOMG1Puvc=&c=_QNRduMgGjm-YsCMtlxZElkp9WaZYpE7o1U0iBNO1gkmfanzW8Graw==&ch=KKIfHzZ4l0kFC9t7VigfgXPHaoxFtHOBK0LK5ffq_bVrpJF3ETpGog==)this urgent effort to let the Governor and state legislature know that local elected officials demand more. California must lead and climate action starts locally.    Since we at the local level are the ones feeling the brunt of the effects and will be the one’s implementing the changes required to address this crisis, we must make our voices heard, especially at this critical pivot point as we plan for post-COVID recovery.    Please join us in supporting[**Climate-Safe California**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001kU2PBrxqXlfmlCQtY4zkuUcj0TCGXZ7CuBN1Lq_iCGEBHb0j553E7IAt9SUxYYwaBhm4FXMgUdd2Z80rXzSNmood2Oit6FLtAQlf1JFOUeABW-PEZsjUK43NkztuOXlJ2i7CjqAw2ICQaC-7xenT5izEGP6HYt0eB1eOMG1Puvc=&c=_QNRduMgGjm-YsCMtlxZElkp9WaZYpE7o1U0iBNO1gkmfanzW8Graw==&ch=KKIfHzZ4l0kFC9t7VigfgXPHaoxFtHOBK0LK5ffq_bVrpJF3ETpGog==)today.    Thank you very much. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [[Facebook](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001kU2PBrxqXlfmlCQtY4zkuUcj0TCGXZ7CuBN1Lq_iCGEBHb0j553E7GesnjwPSLX4sCGH0NWXc7wq0KrOTL9_uUZ-uUpvdzLTwyhiplCxR1F-xQ_cXLJ0snyzlVzfUweXNMsyV7Zux_IQ5tiKvsFGjthZ7uWPho1wQBllLEQjXCGpAQ04eQ00Yw==&c=_QNRduMgGjm-YsCMtlxZElkp9WaZYpE7o1U0iBNO1gkmfanzW8Graw==&ch=KKIfHzZ4l0kFC9t7VigfgXPHaoxFtHOBK0LK5ffq_bVrpJF3ETpGog==) ‌](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001kU2PBrxqXlfmlCQtY4zkuUcj0TCGXZ7CuBN1Lq_iCGEBHb0j553E7GesnjwPSLX4sCGH0NWXc7wq0KrOTL9_uUZ-uUpvdzLTwyhiplCxR1F-xQ_cXLJ0snyzlVzfUweXNMsyV7Zux_IQ5tiKvsFGjthZ7uWPho1wQBllLEQjXCGpAQ04eQ00Yw==&c=_QNRduMgGjm-YsCMtlxZElkp9WaZYpE7o1U0iBNO1gkmfanzW8Graw==&ch=KKIfHzZ4l0kFC9t7VigfgXPHaoxFtHOBK0LK5ffq_bVrpJF3ETpGog==) [[Twitter](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001kU2PBrxqXlfmlCQtY4zkuUcj0TCGXZ7CuBN1Lq_iCGEBHb0j553E7GSCTenPSd55YFcoXfB2s5WnDtzLJjd7LyrNfX8-gA-pHPvqXf_ROCSJu-ns6-y3nbNPXxZFar3Bou4PaiA3rJgGhV-jR34rmg==&c=_QNRduMgGjm-YsCMtlxZElkp9WaZYpE7o1U0iBNO1gkmfanzW8Graw==&ch=KKIfHzZ4l0kFC9t7VigfgXPHaoxFtHOBK0LK5ffq_bVrpJF3ETpGog==) ‌](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001kU2PBrxqXlfmlCQtY4zkuUcj0TCGXZ7CuBN1Lq_iCGEBHb0j553E7GSCTenPSd55YFcoXfB2s5WnDtzLJjd7LyrNfX8-gA-pHPvqXf_ROCSJu-ns6-y3nbNPXxZFar3Bou4PaiA3rJgGhV-jR34rmg==&c=_QNRduMgGjm-YsCMtlxZElkp9WaZYpE7o1U0iBNO1gkmfanzW8Graw==&ch=KKIfHzZ4l0kFC9t7VigfgXPHaoxFtHOBK0LK5ffq_bVrpJF3ETpGog==) [[LinkedIn](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001kU2PBrxqXlfmlCQtY4zkuUcj0TCGXZ7CuBN1Lq_iCGEBHb0j553E7KH_XLuurhykkGrIoMuSIHpo87nzQM1n8o-Um9ya8yDXKcsVPhAYvbGeHZa4ZfvXxTcck9w84bB3vuXKmM6nKQXKMVgQYi1C9U5NiA2LFUVG4D6nnWyafORungwSXdoqPeV7ztcxAZj3EB4CPrSKte8=&c=_QNRduMgGjm-YsCMtlxZElkp9WaZYpE7o1U0iBNO1gkmfanzW8Graw==&ch=KKIfHzZ4l0kFC9t7VigfgXPHaoxFtHOBK0LK5ffq_bVrpJF3ETpGog==) ‌](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001kU2PBrxqXlfmlCQtY4zkuUcj0TCGXZ7CuBN1Lq_iCGEBHb0j553E7KH_XLuurhykkGrIoMuSIHpo87nzQM1n8o-Um9ya8yDXKcsVPhAYvbGeHZa4ZfvXxTcck9w84bB3vuXKmM6nKQXKMVgQYi1C9U5NiA2LFUVG4D6nnWyafORungwSXdoqPeV7ztcxAZj3EB4CPrSKte8=&c=_QNRduMgGjm-YsCMtlxZElkp9WaZYpE7o1U0iBNO1gkmfanzW8Graw==&ch=KKIfHzZ4l0kFC9t7VigfgXPHaoxFtHOBK0LK5ffq_bVrpJF3ETpGog==) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | | | | | |
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