

Los Gatos Town Council votes to support county shopping bag ban

By Judy Peterson
Los Gatos Weekly-Times

Posted: 12/09/2008 03:24:12 PM PST



The Los Gatos Town Council has unanimously approved a resolution supporting a countywide ordinance to eliminate disposable, single-use shopping bags.

The effort is being spearheaded by the Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission, which is holding a hearing on the issue on Dec. 10. The hearing is at 4:15 p.m. in the auditorium of building 2 at 1555 Berger Drive in San Jose.

The council-approved resolution supports taking a regional approach to control single-use bags so that the policy is applied uniformly throughout the county.

In its current form, the proposed ordinance would require retailers to charge consumers for both paper and plastic bags. An ordinance could be in place as early as April.

Between now and then, Councilman Joe Pirzynski suggested that the town continue to educate people about the need to recycle or use environmentally friendly bags. "We can, right away, continue to raise

the awareness of the need to re-use," he said, "and to encourage those commercial sectors that are currently beginning to become more conscious of the need to stay the course and to actually improve the kinds of things that they're doing to help the environment."

The council also appointed a number of individuals to town boards and commissions.

However, it did not reappoint Planning Commission chairman Michael Kane to another four-year term, so that opening will have to be re-advertised.

Those who did get approved, though, include Shawn Charnaw and Colleen Wilcox, who were appointed to the arts commission. Incumbents Mary Curtis and David Stonesifer were also reappointed.

Victor Nemechek was reappointed to the art selection panel and Rita Baum and Mary King will remain on the library board.

New parks commissioners are Brant Corensen and Barbara Holden.

Linda Dolan joins the personnel board, while William Kraus and Gerry Mirassou were reappointed to the rent advisory committee.

Edward Stahl will be joined by Chris Tanimoto on the transportation and parking commission.

The Dec. 1 meeting was the last for Councilman Steve Glickman, who did not run for re-election. "It's the end of a long journey for me," Glickman said.

Glickman moved to town in 1988 and was elected to the Los Gatos Union School District board in 1990. He was elected to the town council in 2000.

"It's been a fascinating, wonderful experience and

the best part has been all the people that I've met," Glickman said. "For me, the best part of being an elected official has always been precinct walking — just going out and knocking on doors, shaking people's hands and meeting the voters.

"The vast majority of the people that I've met have been friendly and kind and with a real desire to see good government in Los Gatos."

During his eight years on the council, Glickman served as mayor in 2003-04. That is when he established the youth commission.

His focus on youth led to the Measure D campaign to build a skateboard park on Miles Avenue. Voters vetoed the initiative.

Glickman was also a familiar face at the Venue teen center where he supported the Safe Rides program.