

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND
ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission convened in a regular session at 7:02 p.m. on Thursday, February 2, 2012 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners Chim, Gobble, Reilly,
Robbins, Watson, and Chairperson Griffiths.

Absent: Commissioner Cunningham.

Also Present: Deputy Community Development Director Cessna and
Senior Environmental Quality Officer Jones.

MOTION: Commissioner Chim moved to grant Commissioner Cunningham an excused absence for the February 2, 1012 Commission meeting. Commissioner Gobble seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

It was noted that Commissioner Reilly was previously granted an excused absence for this meeting but was able to be present.

3. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Gobble led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. POSTING OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Robbins, seconded by Commissioner Watson, moved to accept and file the report of the secretary on the posting of the agenda for this meeting; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

6A. MINUTES OF DECEMBER 1, 2011

MOTION: Commissioner Reilly moved for the approval of the December 1, 2011 meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Gobble seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Cunningham).

7. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

7B. DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL FAIR

This item was taken out of order.

Deputy Director Cessna provided an update on plans for the June 9, 2012 Environmental Fair that will be held in conjunction with the City Yard Open House and Disaster Preparedness Expo. She reported that the Environmental Fair section will be located in the left parking area as you enter the City Yard and that they should be able to accommodate as many vendors as at Madrona Marsh. She stated that initial "Save the Date" letters have been sent out to previous vendors, noting that three to four times as many visitors attend the City Yard event. She recommended that they do not have speakers this year and suggested providing grocery bags, ladybugs, and previous food vendors again. She requested that Commissioners suggest any new vendors or exhibits they would like to include in this year's event.

Commissioner Watson offered to arrange speakers for a supplemental environmental program with Library staff for this summer and Deputy Director Cessna indicated that the Open House would be a good opportunity to publicize it. She also volunteered to look into having Surfrider participate at the Fair.

In response to Commissioner Watson's inquiries, Deputy Director Cessna stated that the City Yard is planning to place a central order for tables and chairs and that she hopes to use Lions Club volunteers again.

Commissioner Robbins expressed concern that "green" vehicles do not speak to the masses and suggested offering more basic information about recycling and composting to target the younger generation.

Deputy Director Cessna advised that Recycling Coordinator Sherman, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich, and NPDS are participating in the event. She added that an electronics and hazardous waste drop off is also being planned.

Commissioner Gobble suggested having a banner in the Environmental area and displaying not only electric vehicles but also natural gas, hybrid, and hydrogen vehicles. He further suggested displaying energy efficient appliances, having several solar vendors, and showcasing what the City is going to be doing with LED lights.

The Commission was in recess from 7:25 to 7:33 p.m.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

This item was taken out of order.

Deputy Director Cessna reported that the City has received the Honda Fit electric vehicle and that a dual head charger has been installed at City Hall. She stated that Building Inspectors are driving the Fit right now, and that its use will rotate within the Department. She advised that Dave from Honda and Senior Planning Associate Santana are scheduled to provide updates at the March 1, 2012 Commission meeting, with the joint meeting with City Council planned for April or May 2012.

9. ORAL COMMUNICATION

9A. Commissioner Gobble described his test drive of a Chevy Volt, noting that it had excellent range.

9B. Commissioner Reilly stated that she and Commissioner Cunningham attended the Green Task Force meeting in Manhattan Beach on January 19, 2012. She enjoyed speaker Yvonne Hunter from the Institute for Climate Change who spoke on Local Leadership on Sustainability and the Beacon Award. She mentioned that she learned that Enterprise in Torrance has a Nissan Leaf to rent.

9C. Commissioner Reilly announced an open house at Robert Fortunato's "green" home in Hermosa Beach on February 11, 2012.

9D. Commissioner Reilly stated that the January 2012 West Basin Municipal Water District 2011 Year in Review luncheon was interesting.

9E. Commissioner Robbins stated that Los Angeles County Metro bus service no longer has any diesel vehicles and all run on alternative fuels.

9F. Commissioner Watson discussed Michael Steinbech's presentation to Old Torrance Neighborhood Association and suggested that he be invited to speak at a future Commission meeting.

9G. Commissioner Gobble stated that his neighborhood did not have street sweeping service for three weeks in December because of holiday scheduling and expressed concern about all the pollution that went into storm drains.

Deputy Director Cessna offered to check into his concern with Public Works.

9H. In response to Chairperson Griffiths' inquiry, Deputy Director Cessna stated that the issue of leaf blowers is a project in the Strategic Plan and will be coming forward in nine to 12 months.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

7A. GREEN PRIDE IN TORRANCE AWARD – THE FURMAN FAMILY, 3503 CRICKLEWOOD STREET

Staff and Commissioners welcomed Vince and Jozette Furman who recently installed 49 solar panels at their 2,200 square foot home on 3503 Cricklewood Street and drive electric vehicles. It was noted that Chairperson Griffiths lives on the same street and approached the family when he saw the improvements.

Mr. Furman discussed the decision to install solar panels from an economic and "green" standpoint. He stated that purchasing the panels, installation, and obtaining permits was not a problem; however, getting the reader from Southern California Edison in place took several months. He stated that the system is 11.2 kilowatts and produces a lot of power, with the intent that his wife and he would both drive electric vehicles.

Mrs. Furman stated that their home was part of a solar home tour arranged through the City of Palos Verdes and noted that open houses such as this are beneficial and enlightening to residents, schools, and businesses.

In response to Commissioner Reilly's inquiry, Mr. Furman stated that they chose to purchase the panels up front rather than leasing them. He added that the decision to buy or lease depends on how much power a resident consumes, noting that for them it is an eight to 12 year return on investment.

Responding to Commissioner Gobble's inquiries, Mr. Furman stated that his home was re-roofed in 2004, that he has full sun, and that in the winter months they produce approximately 31 kilowatts per day.

Staff presented the Furman family with a Green Pride in Torrance award for "living green" and the Commission was in recess from 8:16 to 8:30 p.m. for a photo opportunity.

7C. NISSAN LEAF DEMONSTRATION – TORRANCE RESIDENT TIM GOODRICH

Commissioners and staff welcomed Tim Goodrich, first Torrance Leaf owner.

Mr. Goodrich presented information regarding his electric Nissan Leaf purchased in April 2011. He discussed benefits of having an electric car: environmental, economic, and national security. He stated that fossil fuel addiction is not beneficial for our planet and contributes to adverse health effects, adding that electric cars are much more efficient than gasoline powered vehicles. He stated that in terms of economic benefits, the billions that are sent to overseas countries could instead be used to employ people, build a smart grid, and build electrical infrastructure. Referring to national security, he stated that dependence on foreign oil is fueling instability in our world and that about half of the trade deficit is due to imported crude petroleum.

He stated that the range of his Leaf is 100 miles, that the batteries come with an eight-year, 100,000 mile warranty, and that 99% of the lithium batteries are recyclable. He noted that use as a back-up power source for homes is being explored. He stated that he used to pay \$150 a month for gas and now pays zero and that some auto insurance companies offer incentives. He stated that he would like to see more charging stations in Torrance and distributed a handout of a commentary he wrote for KCET.

Responding to Commissioner Reilly's inquiry, he discussed 110 (17 hours), 240 (6 hours), and 480 volt (30 minutes) chargers.

Commissioner Gobble inquired about change in range and Mr. Goodrich responded that he gets 75-80 miles while driving on the freeway.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:57 p.m., Commissioner Gobble moved to adjourn the meeting to March 1, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room. Commissioner Robbins seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Griffiths so ordered.

Approved as Submitted March 1, 2012 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
