

**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, July 7, 2016 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners Deemer, Endo-Roberts, Martin, Montgomery, Stecker, Wright, and Chairperson DeWitt.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Deputy Community Development Director Cessna
Environmental Quality Officer McCrea, and
Permit Technician DeWitt.

3. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Wright led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. POSTING OF THE AGENDA

Deputy Community Development Director Cessna reported that the agenda for this meeting was properly posted.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JUNE 2, 2016

MOTION: Commissioner Endo-Roberts moved to approve the Commission meeting minutes of June 2, 2016 as presented. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion; the motion passed on a 6-0 roll call vote (with Commissioner Montgomery abstaining).

7. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

7A. ENVIRONMENTAL FAIR REVIEW

Commissioners and staff discussed the June 4, 2016 Environmental Fair at the City Yard. Deputy Community Development Director Cessna stated that that the Fair

was well received and read a letter from Janet Payne, Old Torrance Neighborhood Association.

Permit Technician DeWitt stated that he was responsible for tabulating public comments from the idea board. He noted that the public was most interested in Green Building, and more specifically in Drought Tolerant Landscaping. He stated that a close second was Climate Action, followed by Renewable Energy, Rooftop Solar, and Air Quality. He called attention to the individual ideas listed in the material of record that include more bike racks, paths, and lanes.

Commissioner Montgomery suggested putting the statistics and status of suggestions in Torrance Seasons. In response to his inquiry, Deputy Community Development Director Cessna stated that the City is already working on some of the ideas or are aware of them.

Commissioner Stecker stated that it was a fun event and distributed photographs. He added that he liked the variety but noted that the lines were long at the food trucks.

Commissioner Endo-Roberts stated that the Fair was well run, that she liked the idea board, and enjoyed wrangling ladybugs.

Commissioner Deemer suggested adding more explanation to the different categories on the idea board, and Commissioner Montgomery offered his observation that the level of interest and knowledge is growing.

Chairperson DeWitt stated that this is a great step between the voice of the residents and what the Department is doing, and he suggested sharing the data with City Council at a joint meeting. He suggested placing the electric vehicles in a better location.

Janet Payne stated that she enjoyed participating in "Let's Talk Trash" at the Fair and that the parklet was an interesting addition. She mentioned that Old Torrance Neighborhood Association cleans up trash five or six times a year.

Environmental Quality Officer McCrea stated that the parklet idea originated from Parking Day that is taking place nationwide.

Jack Walser stated that the Environmental Fair was the best ever and suggested finding a way to draw more attention to the electric vehicles.

7B. GREEN PRIDE IN TORRANCE AWARD: RUSSELL AKIYAMA, SUNFLOWER FARMS NURSERY

Environmental Quality Officer McCrea recognized Russell Akiyama of Sunflower Farms Nursery for loaning 12 plants for the parklet at the Environmental Fair. His mother Wendy accepted a Green Pride in Torrance Award, hat, and mug on his behalf, and the Commission was in brief recess for a photo opportunity.

Susan Swinburne, Leadership Torrance, commended Sunflower Farms Nursery for its generosity and active involvement with Leadership Torrance and other City non-profit organizations.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8A. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Commissioner Stecker nominated Commissioner Montgomery for Chairperson of the Commission; Commissioner Montgomery nominated Chairperson DeWitt for Chairperson of the Commission. There were no further nominations and Chairperson DeWitt was elected Chairperson on a 4-3 roll call vote.

Commissioner Endo-Roberts nominated Commissioner Montgomery for Vice-Chairperson of the Commission. There were no further nominations and Commissioner Montgomery was elected Vice-Chairperson on a unanimous roll call vote.

8B. INFORMATION REGARDING AUGUST 2 BMW EV EVENT

Deputy Community Development Director Cessna presented information about a Charge the Workday event on August 2 at the Cultural Arts Roundabout. She stated that BMW is bringing a full line of BMW electric vehicles for test drives. She noted that the event would be open to the public, Courthouse employees, and surrounding business park occupants, and that employees would be eligible for BMW's corporate incentive discount program. She added that staff would be present to promote the City's chargers and that the City would receive a free dual port charger for hosting the event.

9. ORAL COMMUNICATION

9A. Deputy Community Development Director Cessna stated that at the next meeting there would be a presentation on the usage of City charging stations. She suggested scheduling the joint meeting with City Council in late September or early October.

9B. Commissioner Wright expressed interest in hearing an update regarding water treatment.

9C. Commissioner Endo-Roberts suggested inviting Solar City to give a presentation at a future Commission meeting.

9D. Commissioners Deemer, Martin, Montgomery, and Chairperson DeWitt spoke.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:11 p.m., Commissioner Wright moved to adjourn the meeting to August 4, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room. Commissioner Stecker seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson DeWitt so ordered.

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Approved as submitted August 4, 2016 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk

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Deborah Schaffer
Recording Secretary

Environmental Quality and Energy
Conservation Commission
July 7, 2016