

**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, December 3, 2015 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: None.

Also Present: Senior Environmental Quality Officer Jones, Senior Environmental Quality Officer Duncan, and Environmental Quality Officer McCrea.

3. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Wright led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. POSTING OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Wright, with a second by Commissioner Deemer, moved to accept and file the report of the secretary on the posting of the agenda for this meeting; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Chairperson DeWitt explained the policies and procedures of the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission, including the right to appeal decisions to City Council.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 5, 2015

MOTION: Commissioner Gobble moved to approve the Commission meeting minutes of November 5, 2015 as presented. Commissioner Endo-Roberts seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

7A. GREEN PRIDE IN TORRANCE AWARDS

Senior Environmental Quality Officer Jones provided a slide presentation on the five 2015 Green Pride in Torrance award recipients: The Meier Family, South Bay Junior Academy, West High Environmental Club, Partner Engineering and Science, and Cabrillo Family Apartments. She stated that staff had the opportunity to visit each location and take photographs.

With the aid of slides, she presented information about the first awardee, Claudio and Brigitte Meier, 100 Via Estrellita, who remodeled their residence to have a European flare and that has an open floor plan, large windows and skylights, garden roof, and solar panels.

Environmental Quality Officer McCrea added that the green roof acts as a reflective surface in the summer and as a retention basin when it rains, with the soil being insulating in the winter.

Claudio Meier accepted the Green Pride in Torrance award and stated that with European standards they are able to collect energy from mother Earth.

Senior Environmental Quality Officer Jones reported that the next award recipient, South Bay Junior Academy, 4400 Del Amo Boulevard, has a multi-use sustainable vegetable and fruit garden that uses vertical tower gardening techniques and an aeroponic garden system. She stated that the Academy's goal is to allow the garden to be a teaching tool to learn how to utilize water saving methods for home gardens. She added that the Academy also has plans for housing chickens in the garden.

Environmental Quality Officer McCrea explained how tower planters allow produce to grow quickly without soil and how plants in aeroponic gardens pull water through roots with little evaporation.

Susan Vlach, Principal; Janet Barnhill, School Board Chair; Francey Marzicola, Director of Development; and Mike Garcia, owner of Enviroscape L.A., accepted the Green Pride in Torrance award.

Senior Environmental Quality Officer Jones described the West High Environmental Club's on-going projects that include school-wide recycling, a garden with raised planter beds, composting that includes cafeteria waste, and an e-waste recycling event on January 16, 2016 at West High School, 20401 Victor Street.

Ann Cortina and six members of the West High Environmental Club were presented with a Green Pride in Torrance award.

Senior Environmental Quality Officer Jones presented information about the fourth award recipient, Partner Engineering and Science, 2154 Torrance Boulevard. She stated that in 2011 Partner took over an abandoned building and turned it into a modern office space housing 80-90 employees, receiving LEED and Energy Star certifications. She noted that the office uses 26% less energy than a typical office, and

has solar tube lighting, solar panels, automatic lighting and heating controls, and daylight sensors near the windows.

Lance Collins, Director of Sustainability, and Jason Bates, Principal of Partner Engineering and Science, accepted the Green Pride in Torrance award.

Senior Environmental Quality Officer Jones presented the final award to Cabrillo Family Apartments, 1640 Cabrillo Avenue. She stated that the Apartments are a mixed-use commercial and multi-family residential project subsidized by the City. She noted that the project earned a Build It Green gold rating with 135 points. She stated that the development is beautifully landscaped, and has solar panels, a computer room, and underground parking.

Environmental Quality Officer McCrea described the landscape screens, patio with BBQ and fireplace, and play area.

Bernadette Baskerville, Property Manager, and Tom Bleech, Y&M Architects, were presented with a Green Pride in Torrance award.

The Commission was in recess from 7:35 to 7:50 p.m. for a photo opportunity.

8. NEW BUSINESS – Combined with 9. Oral Communication.

9. ORAL COMMUNICATION

Senior Environmental Quality Officer Jones relayed Deputy Director Cessna's happy holiday wishes and reminded Commissioners that the Commission would be dark in January 2016.

Commissioners Endo-Roberts, Gobble, Wright, and DeWitt spoke.
Claudio Meier spoke.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:17 p.m., Commissioner Endo-Roberts moved to adjourn the meeting, in memory of the victims of the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino, to February 4, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room. Commissioner Wright seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson DeWitt so ordered.

###

| |
|---|
| Approved as submitted February 4, 2016 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk |
|---|