

**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 at 5:30 p.m. on June 2, 2005, for a tour of the Toyota campus at 19901 Western Avenue and reconvened in regular session at 7:10 p.m. in the West Annex Meeting Room at Torrance City Hall.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Basile, Minter, Watson and  
Chairperson McCabe.

Absent: Commissioners Chim, Persaud and Reilly.

Also Present: Sr. Environmental Quality Officer Jones and  
Environmental Division Administrator Cessna.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Watson, seconded by Commissioner Basile, moved to grant Commissioners Chim, Persaud and Reilly excused absences from this meeting; voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**3. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Minter.

**4. POSTING OF THE AGENDA**

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

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

None.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**6A. PRIDE IN TORRANCE EXCELLENCE AWARD – SOUTH BAY ADVENTIST  
CHURCH**

Sr. Environmental Quality Officer Jones reported that the Pride in Torrance Excellence Award was being presented to Pastor John Jensen and the South Bay Adventist Church in recognition of their work at 16411 Wilton Place. She explained that Pastor Jensen called the Environmental Division office to inquire about hanging a banner to advertise an event and, in the process, expressed an interest in doing a

community service project. Pastor Jensen was directed to the property at 16411 Wilton Place, which had a rear yard that was grossly overgrown with vegetation and was owned by a senior citizen, who was unable to take care of the property due to health problems and financial issues. Pastor Jensen and church members subsequently spent the weekend of May 21 and 22 chopping down trees, mowing the lawn and clearing the yard of debris and returned the following weekend to complete the project. She noted that the church intends to install an irrigation system in the near future and shared before and after photographs of the property.

Rocky Saviano and Don, Kirsten and Keith Born accepted the award on behalf South Bay Adventist Church.

Administrator Cessna noted that a cleaning service estimated that it would cost approximately \$1400 to clean up this yard and expressed the hope that the project would inspire other organizations to take on similar projects.

Commissioners found this to be a very worthwhile project and noted that there are likely other seniors in Torrance, who can no longer care for their yards or afford to pay someone to do it for them. It was suggested that the City might be able to help match up volunteers with seniors in need.

Administrator Cessna reported that she had already mentioned this to the City's Volunteer Coordinator, Olivia Lopez, who thought it was a good idea.

#### **6B. PRIDE IN TORRANCE EXCELLENCE AWARD – THOMAS ROCHFORD**

Sr. Environmental Quality Officer Jones reported that Thomas Rochford was being honored with a Pride in Torrance Excellence Award for upgrading the landscaping and exterior of his home at 21301 Evalyn Avenue. She indicated that the award would be presented to Mr. Rochford at a later date.

#### **7. INFORMATION ITEMS**

Commissioner Minter announced the City Yard Open House on Saturday, June 4, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., relating his experience that children really enjoy this event.

Administrator Cessna noted that the Open House will include an antique car show, recycling information, and a General Plan exhibit with opportunities for the public to provide input on the General Plan update.

Commissioner Watson reported that she should have information about recycled asphalt sidewalks at an upcoming meeting.

#### **8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

**8A.** Commissioner Basile announced that the Torrance Historical Society will hold a movie night on Thursday, June 16, explaining that the movie will be shown on the outside wall of the building so it can be viewed while sitting on the lawn.

**8B.** In response to Chairperson McCabe's inquiry, Administrator Cessna advised that staff training for the City's new website is scheduled for next week, however, she did not know when the website would be up and running.

**8C.** Chairperson McCabe suggested the possibility of incorporating environment friendly materials seen during the tour of the green building on the Toyota campus, i.e. recycled carpet and low VOC paints, into City building projects.

Administrator Cessna cautioned that it will take some time before this relatively new concept can be implemented due to budget constraints, the demand on staff time, and the natural resistance to change.

Chairperson McCabe shared a schedule of local festivals/ seminars that City staff could attend to become better informed on environmental issues.

Commissioner Watson suggested the possibility of designing an inexpensive three-fold brochure listing resources/referrals where people can learn more about environment friendly/energy conserving products and make it available at the libraries and other City venues. Commissioners voiced support for this idea and Administrator Cessna agreed that educating the public would be a good starting point for the Commission.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Watson moved to form a subcommittee to design a brochure listing available resources. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Minter and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Commissioners Chim, Persaud and Reilly).

Commissioners Watson and Basile agreed to serve on the subcommittee.

**8D.** Commissioners briefly discussed possible outreach efforts, including staffing a booth at community events and serving as judges at environmental fairs at Torrance schools.

Chairperson McCabe requested that an item be included on next month's agenda to develop an action plan for public outreach and asked that commissioners be provided with a master calendar of City events and a timeline for the General Plan update for scheduling purposes.

Administrator Cessna noted that the Commission will be considering a draft ordinance for carports, canopies and encroachments at the next meeting and the discussion could be lengthy.

**8E.** Commissioner McCabe suggested the possibility of taking more field trips like the visit to the Toyota facility earlier this evening.

Administrator Cessna advised that off-site meetings must go through an approval process and there are certain limitations.

Commissioner Watson reported that when she served on the Library Commission, meetings were held at different branch libraries and commissioners

attended State association meetings and training sessions, in addition to regularly scheduled commission meetings.

Chairperson McCabe clarified that he was suggesting only occasional field trips planned far in advance to be incorporated into the Commission's schedule along with outreach efforts.

**8F.** Chairperson McCabe questioned whether there were any City funds available to provide incentives for the purchase of energy conserving/environment friendly products, i.e. rebates for replacing gas lawnmowers with electric mowers. He requested that an item be included on a future agenda to discuss ways the Commission could encourage people to replace gas-powered garden equipment in order to reduce air pollution.

Administrator Cessna reported that no City funds have been budgeted for this purpose.

**8G.** Commissioner Watson asked about funding for commissioners to attend seminars, and Administrator Cessna offered to check into this matter.

**8H.** Administrator Cessna announced that public hearings/workshops for the City's 2005-07 Operating Budget are scheduled for June 7 and June 14.

**8I.** The Commission and City staff briefly shared their impressions of the tour of the Toyota facility. Everyone agreed that the tour was very informative and they were impressed by Toyota's common sense approach and the practical aspects of the green building concept.

Chairperson McCabe thanked staff for organizing the tour and for their willingness to embrace new ideas despite the challenges they present.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:28 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Thursday, July 7, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.

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| Approved as Written<br>July 7, 2005<br>s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk |
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