

September 1, 2005

**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 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 1, 2005 in the West Annex Meeting Room at Torrance City Hall.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

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

Absent: Commissioner Reilly.

Also Present: Senior Environmental Quality Officer Richards and Senior Environmental Quality Officer Jones.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Chim moved to grant an excused absence to Commissioner Reilly for the September 1, 2005 Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission meeting. Commissioner Persaud seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**3. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairperson McCabe.

**4. POSTING OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Minter, seconded by Commissioner Persaud, 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 (absent Commissioner Reilly).

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**5A. JULY 7, 2005**

The following typographical error was noted on Page Three, Item 6B:

**“SNP05-00005: SUNBELT BUSINESS SALES AND ACQUISITIONS”**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Basile moved for the approval of the July 7, 2005 meeting minutes from the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission meeting as corrected. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Watson and a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Reilly).

**5B. AUGUST 4, 2005**

Minutes were not available.

**6. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

**6A. DISCUSSION ON LEAF BLOWERS**

Senior Environmental Quality Officer Richards distributed information on leaf blowers provided by the City Manager's Office. He recommended that the Commission create a subcommittee to discuss the use of leaf blowers in the City. He noted that the Division received few complaints from the public regarding leaf blowers. He discussed problems produced by leaf blowers that include noise, dust, and exhaust fumes. He advised that some of the benefits of leaf blowers are that they do not waste water, they help with National Pollution Discharge laws, they are tools that exist in sanitation, vector control, and general maintenance, and are a benefit to low paid wage earners. He cautioned that Commissioners should consider what other tool would take the place of leaf blowers if they were eliminated. He suggested that, rather than recommend a ban of leaf blowers, they address the problems they produce and consider setting limitations on their use. He mentioned that leaf blower companies are coming out with new models that produce less noise and exhaust and suggested that the Commission meet with someone from the business.

Chairperson McCabe stated that the intention of bringing up the item was to look at the issue and see what makes sense, learn what other cities are doing, and accept public input.

Commissioner Watson noted the good information in the packets received from the City Manager's Office, adding her support of modifications rather than elimination of leaf blowers.

Commissioners Persaud and Basile volunteered to be on the subcommittee to discuss leaf blowers and agreed to provide an update at the October 6, 2005 Commission meeting.

Commissioner Persaud expressed concern about a health and safety issue for leaf blower users from vibration and noise that is generated.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**PRIDE IN TORRANCE EXCELLENCE AWARD  
Bruce and Elizabeth Trenbeth  
315 Calle de Andalucia  
Redondo Beach, CA 90277**

This item was considered out of order.

Senior Environmental Quality Officers Jones presented a Pride in Torrance Excellence Award to Bruce and Elizabeth Trenbeth for modifications made to their single-family residence. She noted that the location was a City of Redondo Beach

address but that the property was actually in Torrance. Slides were shown of the front and rear views of the residence before and after the remodel.

Mr. and Mrs. Trenbeth accepted the certificate, thanked the Commission and staff, and posed for photographs with Commissioner Minter.

## **7. INFORMATION MATTERS**

### **7a. RECYCLING PROGRAM UPDATE**

Referring to information provided by Recycling Coordinator Sherman included in the material of record, Senior Environmental Quality Officer Richards advised that the City was now meeting guidelines set by the State. He noted that third party guidelines have been difficult to meet.

He initiated discussion on the demolition and construction material recycling program that was instituted July 1, 2005. He advised that any commercial or residential demolition as well as large construction projects were required to submit recycling plans to be reviewed by Recycling Coordinator Sherman.

Commissioner Watson noted that in her neighborhood small, yellow recycling bins were still in use.

Responding to Commissioner Chim's inquiry, Senior Environmental Quality Officer Richards provided clarification that State requirements for construction recycling began July 1, 2005 and that residential requirements have been in effect since 2000. He noted that the refuse diversion rate was determined by weight.

Chairperson McCabe requested that staff arrange a tour the recycling center in the City of Carson to observe recycling efforts.

Commissioner Watson discussed classes offered and books written on the subject of garbology.

Senior Environmental Quality Officer Richards distributed fliers on an October 10, 2005 Green Building 101 Seminar at the Downey Energy Resource Center, a September 7, 2005 lecture by William McDonough on "Building Better Cities" at Woodbury University in the City of Burbank, and the September 16, 2005 Employee Variety Show to benefit the American Cancer Society at the James Armstrong Theatre.

Commissioner Chim reminded Commissioners to vote in the September 13, 2005 election.

Chairperson McCabe stated that he attended the "Lights, Power, Action: an Energy Expo" on August 17, 2005 at the Cultural Arts Center. He stated that it was informative but that he would have liked to see the public more involved.

He shared information about his visit to the Green Building Resource Center in the City of Santa Monica, noting that Santa Monica has been involved with green building for 25 years. He requested that staff arrange a tour of the Resource Center and the NRDC green building on Main Street.

Commissioner Watson mentioned that a construction supervisor for Santa Monica who lives in the City of Torrance would be willing to answer questions.

## **9. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Senior Environmental Quality Officer Jones announced the retirement of Senior Environmental Quality Officer Richards, noting that his last day would be September 29, 2005. She offered to email Commissioners information regarding his retirement party.

Chairperson McCabe related his observation that their Commission was very well informed and that it was crucial that what they are doing is put on the website.

Senior Environmental Quality Officer Richards relayed comments received from staff regarding the Commission's draft flier "Green is Good." He stated that the content was found to be excellent, but that it was unclear from the cover what would be inside, and that the glossary was not related to the theme of the handout. He suggested that the Commission generate a subcommittee to prepare it.

Commissioner Watson stated that the intent was to bring together information about the Commission and environmental resources, and to provide links that are supported by the Commission.

Chairperson McCabe announced that the Commission would co-sponsor presentations at homeowners associations in the City with Marilyn Lyons over the next several months.

He requested that staff provide the action plan or list that was generated by the City government during the 2001 energy crisis. He noted that there were several things that the Commission could promote right now on the website as well as make recommendations to City Council in preparation for the expected energy crunch next summer.

He initiated discussion on the possibility of adopting and incorporating LEEDS standards into public and commercial buildings.

Senior Environmental Quality Officer Richards advised the Commission to get the LEEDS standards together, make recommendations on what exactly they would like to see, and then staff would explore the process of implementation.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 8:14 p.m., Commissioner Persaud moved, with a second by Commissioner Watson, to adjourn the meeting to Thursday, October 6, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

Approved as Written November 3, 2005 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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