

November 1, 2007

**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 7:03 p.m. on Thursday, November 1, 2007 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

Present: Commissioners Chim\*, Decker, Gobble, Reilly, and Chairperson McCabe.

Absent: Commissioners Griffiths and Watson.

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

**MOTION:** Commissioner Decker moved to grant Commissioner Watson an excused absence for the November 1, 2007 Commission meeting. Commissioner Gobble seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

It was noted that Commissioner Griffiths was granted an excused absence for this meeting at the October 4, 2007 Commission meeting.

\*Commissioner Chim arrived at 7:07 p.m.

**3. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Reilly.

**4. POSTING OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Gobble, seconded by Commissioner Decker, 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 Commissioners Griffiths and Watson).

**5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**6A. MEETING OF OCTOBER 4, 2007**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Gobble, seconded by Commissioner Decker, moved for approval of the October 4, 2007 Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission meeting minutes as submitted; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Griffiths and Watson).

**7. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

**7A. GREEN PRIDE IN TORRANCE AWARD  
NORTHWEST TORRANCE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION**

Glen Terry, representing Northwest Torrance Homeowners Association, discussed the October 24, 2007 tree planting project along Crenshaw Boulevard. He stated that approximately 34 volunteers rose to Mayor Scotto's challenge to "pay it forward" and planted 18 cork oak trees between Artesia Boulevard and 182<sup>nd</sup> Street. He expressed appreciation for assistance from Streetscape Manager Emerson and Public Works Department staff.

Responding to Commissioner Decker's inquiry, he stated that pictures of the event have been posted on the Northwest Torrance Homeowners Association website [www.nwtha.org](http://www.nwtha.org).

Chairperson McCabe commended Northwest Torrance Homeowners Association for their efforts and Senior Environmental Quality Officer Jones presented Mr. Terry with a Green Pride in Torrance award as well as hats and mugs to distribute.

Deputy Director Cessna advised that City Council would recognize Green Pride in Torrance awardees on December 11, 2007.

**7B. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT 2006-2007**

Deputy Director Cessna presented the revised Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission Annual Report for 2006-2007.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Gobble moved to approve the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission Annual Report for 2006-2007 as presented and to forward it to City Council. Commissioner Reilly seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Griffiths and Watson).

**7C. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA FOR DECEMBER 11 MEETING WITH CITY COUNCIL**

Chairperson McCabe distributed copies of a possible draft agenda for the December 11, 2007 joint meeting of the Torrance City Council and Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission.

Commissioners discussed items on the draft agenda that include recommendations regarding signage, particularly electronic reader boards; adopting a City green building program and guidelines; providing incentives to encourage businesses and residents to adopt green practices; revising the Municipal Code to address solar and wind rights; adopting a cooperative solar program; and using City rooftops for solar panels. Adding businesses and multi-tenants to the City's recycling

program; hosting a light exchange; starting a composting program; providing a status report on the Cool Cities program and energy audit to determine a base line; adopting a native tree program; adopting a green purchasing policy; the interdepartmental Green Task Force setting standards for City buildings and remodels; showcasing new technologies; promotional events and awards; and animal matters were also considered as possible topics for recommendation at the joint meeting.

Deputy Director Cessna stated that it was important for the Commission to make policy rather than operational recommendations to City Council.

Commissioner Chim shared information about the status of recent State legislative bills regarding building standards.

There was a general consensus that an inspirational DVD should be presented and Commissioner Gobble offered to look for one.

Deputy Director Cessna advised that it would take six to eight months to establish a base line.

She offered to speak to Parks and Recreation staff about their tree policy to determine what the Commission could recommend and provided an update on the feral cat charter club.

Chairperson McCabe brought up the possibility of transferring the overseeing of Animal Control to another Commission.

He offered to prioritize and revise the draft agenda and bring it back to the next Commission meeting for further discussion.

It was determined that Commissioner Griffiths would be assigned to focus on signage issues, Commissioner Watson on promotion and events, Commissioners Chim, Reilly, and Griffiths on green building/recycling, and Commissioners Decker, Gobble, and McCabe on energy issues, a tree program, and the interdepartmental Green Team.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**9. ORAL COMMUNICATION**

**9A.** Chairperson McCabe stated that he was meeting with Dr. Stabler on November 2, 2007 and would provide a report at the next Commission meeting.

**9B.** Commissioner Chim suggested that the word “green” actually originated with the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission a few years ago.

**9C.** Commissioner Chim shared information about a Governor bill signing event that she attended at the University of California at Santa Barbara, noting that the School of Environmental Engineering was Leeds platinum certified.

**9D.** Commissioner Chim stated that she attended a Global Warming Town Hall and Resource Fair and enjoyed the presentation by Los Angeles attorney Nick Karno.

**9E.** Commissioner Reilly stated that she enjoyed the October 5, 2007 Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting with Assemblyman Lieu as well as the Global Warming Town Hall and Resource Fair.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 9:47 p.m., Commissioner Decker moved to adjourn the meeting to December 6, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Reilly and, hearing no objection, Chairperson McCabe so ordered.

Approved as Submitted December 6, 2007 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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