

March 3, 2016

**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, March 3, 2016 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall. Due to the absence of Chairperson DeWitt, Vice-Chairperson Montgomery led the meeting.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners Deemer, Martin, Stecker, Wright, and Vice-Chairperson Montgomery.

Absent: Commissioner Endo-Roberts and Chairperson DeWitt.

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

MOTION: Commissioner Martin moved to grant Commissioner Endo-Roberts and Chairperson DeWitt excused absences for the March 3, 2016 Commission meeting. Commissioner Wright seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 5-0 approval.

3. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Martin 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; the motion passed on a 5-0 roll call vote.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC - None.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 4, 2016

Vice-Chairperson Montgomery offered the following correction: Page 2, 7A, paragraph 3: "...a list of participants from the Earth Day event at Polliwog Park."

MOTION: Commissioner Wright moved to approve the Commission meeting minutes of February 4, 2016 as amended. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; the motion passed on a 5-0 roll call vote (absent Commissioner Endo-Roberts and Chairperson DeWitt).

7. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

7A. TEQECC WORK PLAN

Deputy Director Cessna reviewed areas of interest in the Commission's work plan. She noted that, after feedback from the previous City Council at a joint meeting, the Commission moved forward with chickens and bees, and it was understood that Climate Action Planning would be a continuing focus for the Commission. She noted that Council expressed little interest in pursuing leaf blowers, outdoor smoking, temporary signage, and yard sales at the time; however, because there are new Councilmembers, the Commission could again present these items for consideration in at a joint meeting in July or August. She stated that the chickens and bees item is going back to Council on April 12 and that staff is presenting Council with information about yard sale regulation on March 15.

She noted that the Commission would continue to hear issues that include oil wells, vicious dog hearing appeals, Environmental Fair planning, and Green Pride in Torrance awards. She presented possible areas of interest that could be part of a new work plan: Leaf Blower Regulation, Regulation of Outdoor Smoking, Code Enforcement for Temporary Signs, and E-cigarettes. She asked Commissioners to discuss these areas or add any other priorities they would like to focus on in a future work plan.

In response to questions from Commissioner Martin, Deputy Director Cessna stated that permanent signage but not temporary signage is now under the Planning Commission's purview, and that sign twirlers are legal.

Responding to Commissioner Deemer inquiries, she advised that by the end of the year something should come back on Transportation or one of the other components of the Climate Action Plan, and that any chicken and bee appeals would come before the Commission. She described the various regulations regarding outdoor smoking in other cities, and Commissioner Deemer indicated it would be more efficient to combine outdoor smoking with E-cigarette regulation.

Vice-Chairperson Montgomery stated that he reached out to residents and relayed their interest in personal windmills, reducing the number of streetlights, and integrated pest management. He distributed a February 24 Times Community News article "Irvine council decides to go organic on pesticides and herbicides."

Deputy Director Cessna stated that the City has already conducted a survey to reduce streetlights for energy conservation.

Russell Akiyama, Leadership Torrance, owner of Sunflower Farms, discussed integrated pest management practices at his nursery, return of pollinators, opening up access to the Los Angeles River and its tributaries, and soil conditions in the South Bay. He noted that the last USGS soil survey in our area was conducted in 1903 and that another study would be useful to see how conditions have changed.

Commissioner Wright stated that compaction studies done in the 1950s might be available, Deputy Director Cessna offered to check on availability of studies that were done on the expansive soil areas of the City, and Commissioner Deemer suggested researching 4-H Club archives and programming from the 1960s.

In response to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry, Mr. Akiyama discussed County and State Department of Agriculture regulations for pesticides and herbicides.

Deputy Director Cessna stated that she would bring back a plan of action and speakers for work plan areas at the April 7 Commission meeting.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATION

8A. The Commission welcomed guest Jack Walser.

8B. Commissioner Deemer received clarification from staff that the Airport Commission is specifically tasked with Airport noise issues and that the final phase of storm drain street work will begin later this year when funding becomes available.

8C. Responding to a question from Commissioner Wright, Deputy Director Cessna stated that the State does not have Climate Action Plan minimum requirements yet but that elements were included in the City's General Plan.

8D. Commissioner Martin shared information from the February 26 South Bay COG "Governing in an Era of Disruptive Technology" presentation and announced monthly tours of Henrietta Basin.

8E. Vice-Chairperson Montgomery stated that he has received 5 rain barrels over three years from the South Bay Environmental Services Center.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:05 p.m., Commissioner Martin moved to adjourn the meeting to April 7, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Vice-Chairperson Montgomery so ordered.

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Approved as amended April 7, 2016 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk
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