

## ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE MINUTES

September 15, 2011

5:30 P.M.

Police and Fire Community Facility

420 15th Street Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

### 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

In attendance: Environmental Task Force co-chair Councilmember Amy Howorth, ETF Members Kim Matsoukas, Greg Monfette, Julie Gonella, Gretchen Renshaw, and Paul Beswick; and City Staff Public Works Director Jim Arndt, Maintenance Superintendent Juan Price, Utilities Manager Raul Saenz, Environmental Programs Manager Sona Kalapura, and Utilities Division Secretary Christina Lopez.

### 2. BUSINESS ITEMS

Kalapura then began introductions of the ETF and public in attendance before continuing on with the ETF timeline and project deadline below.

#### **ETF Timeline:**

- September 24<sup>th</sup> & Oct 1-2<sup>nd</sup> : community outreach at Moving Planet and Hometown Fair
  - ETF Booth
  - Botanical Garden Booth
- October 4<sup>th</sup> – present recommendations to City Council
- October 20<sup>th</sup> – ETF Meeting – report on initial interested in programs (Neighborhood Conservation Contest and Green Business Challenge)
- November 17 & December 15: ETF Meetings – monitor initial program results, develop final recommendations for City Council.
- December 20<sup>th</sup> – Provide final status report and recommendations to City Council

### 3. ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE ITEMS

**Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy** (Energy Work Group members: Andy Cobb, Stacia Costa, Audrey Judson, Kim Matsoukas, and Daniel Salzman)

Presenter: Kim Matsoukas:

Manhattan Beach Climate Commitment

- Energy Conservation Contest
  - Emphasis on education and outreach
- Green Business Challenge
  - Scorecard for businesses
    - Scorecards have time period to monitor improvements/reductions
- Metlox Solar System

- Proposal
    - Install a 4.7 kw solar PVelectric system in Metlox Common Area
    - Monitoring Portal
  - Purpose
    - Power Escalator/Farmers Market
    - Educational/awareness
    - Community Relations
  - Financial
    - Funded by Private donations
    - No net costs for City of Manhattan Beach
    - City manages all funds
  - Next Steps
    - Seek Council approval for recommended programs on October 4<sup>th</sup>
    - If approved:
      - Work with City to develop solar display RFP for installation
      - Continue to develop community-wide “green business challenge” with ICLEI/EPA and SBESC
      - Explore other energy efficiency incentives and outreach for residential contest
  - Continue to develop ETF outreach articles in the Beach Reporter
  - Complete Investment Grade Solar Audit
- Timeline
- September 24<sup>th</sup> & Oct 1-2<sup>nd</sup> : community outreach at Moving Planet and Hometown Fair
  - October 4<sup>th</sup> – Present recommendations to City Council
  - October 20<sup>th</sup> – ETF Meeting – report on initial interested in programs (Neighborhood Conservation Contest and Green Business Challenge)
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Discussion:

Councilmember Amy Howorth suggested samples of the scorecards be provided for the City Council Meeting.

**Water Conservation and Sustainable Landscaping** (Water Conservation work group members: Paul Beswick, Julie Gonella, Ann Lin, Greg Monfette, and Gretchen Renshaw)

Presenter: Paul Beswick

Water Conservation & Sustainable Landscaping: Recommendations for City Council

- ETF Water Conservation Goals
  - o Statewide goal to reduce water consumption 20% per capita by 2020 in order to maintain the health and stability of water resources
  - o 20% consumption target = 5,280 acre feet (note: this figure has been updated with receipt of new data to 5,397 acre feet)
  - o City reached the 5,280 target with implementation of the Water Conservation Ordinance
  - o Now the City needs to encourage residents to adopt permanent behaviors that will sustain this level of water consumption for the long term
  - o ETF recommendation will lead to this type of behavior change
  
- Recommendations to City Council
  - o Landscape Sustainability Check-up
  - o Community Mulch Pilot Program
  - o School – wide Efficient Water – use slogan contest

Presenter: Greg Monfette

- Landscape Sustainability Audit

Goal: A program to assist residents in identifying the aspects of their landscaped property which can be changed to conserve water, reduce runoff, and maintain landscapes which are CA-friendly.

- What the resident will receive
  - o The Environmental Task Force will provide the resident with a list of approved landscape contractors who will complete the landscape audit developed by the ETF to promote principles of sustainable landscaping
  
- What we are doing to vet contractors?
  - o Contractor Approval Criteria
    - The contractors will be required to meet qualification criteria to participate in the program, including maintaining the proper licenses and insurance, certifications, and additional experience in sustainable landscape projects.
  - o Meeting the Contractors
  - o What should the property owners do?
  - o Questions for the property owners to assist.
    - Any default on the criteria, or negative feedback from residents will result in removal from the program
  
- Program Cost
  - o Advertising = \$1,000
  - o Brochure and workshop materials = \$500
  - o Staff time: 5 hours/week

Note: These costs are currently available in the FY 11-12 budget.

- Program Value to Overall Goal
  - o Sustainability landscaped properties use 35-40 % less water than traditional landscapes. The landscape audit will provide residents with an actionable tool to guide them in conserving water; reducing runoff, and saving money while maintaining an environmentally sustainable landscape.
- Sustainability of the Program
  - o The audit will be a finalized document the City can present to homeowners using the vetted list of landscape contractors. Should the City wish to continue this program, it can vet contractors with the assistance of City staff, the Environmental Task Force or another volunteer group such as the Manhattan Beach Botanical Garden.

Discussion:

Councilmember Howorth suggested that the Contractor should also be an expert on Sustainable Landscaping.

Presenter: Julie Gonella  
- Post Office Demonstration

Goal: Create demonstration garden showcasing the principles of the Landscape Sustainability Audit Pilot Program and the Pilot Mulch Program, generating awareness of sustainable landscaping practices

- Design Elements
  - o Paths
    - “Circulation Paths” linking common destinations – the corner of 15<sup>th</sup> and Valley cutting through the grass to the post office entrance.
    - Use Decomposed Granite (DG) – mulch is a tripping hazard, color of DG compliments stone on building
  - o Rose Box Garden
    - Replace 2 or 3 white roses with “Pink Iceberg” roses. They are drought – tolerant and will add some color
    - Apply mulch between plants
  - o Plants
    - Use some cuttings from City Hall satellite garden succulents
    - Other plants with lots of green, and gray accents, like Old Venice garden which has been very popular
    - Trees – keep pepper trees, remove dead trees, check pine tree for safety (it leans)
    - Mulch between plants.
  - o Other Elements

- Seating – provide a community atmosphere with some sort of seating. Examples include concrete benches that match the city hall plaza, river rock which are wide and flat and would complement building – great for children. Or combination of both.
    - Rocks at artwork – anchors plantings visually, add interest
    - Artwork – recondition existing artwork
  - Budget
    - Complete project in phases
      - The first phase would encompass the grassy square at the corner. It includes the flag pole, Pepper trees and signage area.
    - Plants, Installation and to Oversee project \$5,000
    - Mulch is free
    - Need costs for decomposed granite, benches, rocks, site prep, and irrigation.

### Discussion

Councilmember Howorth asked the question as to whether the Library was due for the upgrade. Juan Price replied explaining that it was in future plans to upgrade the Library.

Paul Beswick emphasized the need for us to create programs to “Make Them Care”.

Greg Monfette suggested that we post before and after pictures for the post office demonstration garden.

Presenter: Julie Gonella

- Got Mulch?

Goal: Promote water conservation by impeding evaporation and runoff. The ETF would like the City to provide a sustainable, free, local source for it, as opposed to the energy intensive store-bought mulch that most residents currently use.

- Location of Mulch Pile
  - ETF worked with the Public Works and Fire Departments to locate a safe area to store the mulch
  - The Public Works Yard on Bell Avenue has an available space large enough for truck deliveries and residential pick – up
  - PW also has the material and staff needed to maintain a safe mulch pile
- Program Cost
  - Advertising: newspaper, street banner, bill inserts/flyers = \$1,500
  - Brochures and signage materials = \$500
  - Staff time = 2 hours/week

Note: These costs are currently available in the FY 11-12 budget.

- Program Value to Overall Goal

- The goal of the project is to raise awareness on sustainable landscape principles including the use of mulch to aide water conservation and soil health
  - Benefits to the residents will be seen in reduced water and energy consumption to maintain landscape properties
- Sustainability of the Program
    - The program is intended as a 6 – month pilot that will be monitored by City Staff and the Environmental Task Force. Should the City wish to continue this program, it can assign the program to City Staff, or seek the assistance of other volunteer groups

Presenter: Paul Beswick

- Efficient Water Use Slogan Contest

Goal: Engage the youth of Manhattan Beach in developing an efficient water use message with which residents can identify and feel ownership. The goal of the contest is to design a message that will be broadcast community – wide as a statement on the need for efficient use of water as a lifestyle change to maintain the reliability and sustainability of the region’s water resources.

- Program Cost
  - Advertising = \$500
  - Prizes = \$500 (or donated)
  - Staff time = 2-5 hours/week for duration of contest

Note: Funds are currently available in the FY 11-12 budget for this program.

- Program Value to Overall Goal
  - Public education and engagement of youth are the primary values of this project.
  - The program’s primary goal is development of a creative way to communicate more efficient use of water as part of a permanent lifestyle change, and to communicate this in a manner that will be well received by Manhattan Beach residents
- Sustainability of the Program
  - The program is intended as one – time contest that will be monitored by City staff and the Environmental Task Force
  - Should the City wish to continue this program in the next school year, it can assign the program to City staff
- Next Steps
  - Seek approval from City Council
  - Develop Slogan Contest details for implementation
  - If approved, kickoff sustainable landscape and mulch programs in mid – October

Discussion:

Councilmember Howorth also stressed the emphasis on Education and Outreach for the ETF programs. Also highlighting programs like the slogan/art contest which seem intangible

actually have a tangible idea behind them and the ETF can explain the impact it will have on the community. She also addressed the upcoming October 4<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting and explained that it would be beneficial for the ETF to bring supporters for these initiatives in the event that further input from the public is necessary for the programs to move forward.

Sona Kalapura stated Audrey Judson (ETF member) had spoken with the School Superintendent Matthews, and that he had approved district support for the art contest and energy contest.

Support from the Surf Rider Foundation was offered by a Manhattan Beach resident, Craig Cadwallader, who is also a member of the Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter. Stating the idea of the “Art of the Surf” with a Water Conservation Theme.

Valerie Hill co-Director of the Roundhouse Aquarium also offered her assistance in judging the art contest and reaching out to the student and teachers to gather participation.

Craig Cadwallader also suggested contacting Surfrider’s Ocean Friendly Garden program for funding on the Post Office demonstration garden.

Manhattan Beach residents Robert Poor, Mark Machuszek, and Gary McCullough, were also in attendance.

#### 4. ADJOURNMENT

The next ETF meeting will be held on Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 **PM** in the Manhattan Beach Police Fire Community Room: 420 15<sup>th</sup> St., Manhattan Beach, CA 90266.

Regular meetings of the ETF are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month. Meeting information will also be posted on the Going Green webpage at [www.citymb.info](http://www.citymb.info).