

## ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE MINUTES

October 26, 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 Councilmembers Amy Howorth and David Lesser, ETF Members Kim Matsoukas, Daniel Salzman, Audrey Judson, Julie Gonella, and Paul Beswick; and City Staff Public Works Director Jim Arndt, Maintenance Superintendent Juan Price, Utilities Manager Raul Saenz, and Environmental Programs Manager Sona Kalapura. Marilyn Lyon, Program Manager of the South Bay Environmental Services Center, and staff member Carmen Mark were also in attendance. An additional 10 residents were in attendance to participate in the Energy Efficiency 101 workshop.

### 2. BUSINESS ITEMS

Kalapura welcomed attendees to the meeting, and explained the special meeting date to coincide with the Energy Efficiency 101 workshop to be presented by the South Bay Environmental Services Center. She then began introductions of the ETF and public in attendance before continuing on with the ETF timeline and key project dates.

#### **ETF Timeline:**

- i. November 15th: Kickoff of ETF programs
- ii. November 17 & December 15: ETF Meetings – monitor program participation
- iii. December 6<sup>th</sup>/January 17<sup>th</sup> – Provide status report and recommendations to City Council

### 3. ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE ITEMS

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

Presenter: Julie Gonella

Gonella provided a recap of Council-approved programs to help the City meet a water conservation goal of a 20% reduction in water used by 2020. The ETF programs to help the City achieve this goal include:

- i. Landscape Sustainability checkup: Free landscape audits to the community offered by vetted landscapers, program kickoff November 15th. A workshop to vet the contractors is being held on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- ii. Community mulch pilot program: Free mulch available to the community at the Public Works Yard, 3621 Bell Avenue. The program is available to the entire community and the site is nearly ready to receive the first mulch delivery. The public will need to bring their own tools to gather the mulch.

- iii. Post Office Demonstration garden: Proposal to renovate the existing landscape by implementing the principles of sustainable landscape; estimated start date January 2012. The project will be a case study utilizing aspects of the other ETF programs: landscape audit and mulch. A partnership with other organizations, such as Leadership Manhattan Beach is being presented to offset the costs of the project.
- iv. School-wide water conservation contest: Paul Beswick summarized a proposal to engage MBUSD schools in the annual West Basin “Water is Life” art contest. He stressed that it was important to promote a behavior and attitude change when it comes to water conservation and sustainability. He also mentioned trying to coordinate with the Centennial Committee to partner on their art contest that will potentially run during the same time.

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

Presenter: Audrey Judson

Judson provided a recap of approved programs to help the City meet a 15% below 2005 greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal by 2020. The ETF programs to achieve this goal include:

- i. Residential Energy Conservation Program: “Watt” Watchers program will reward the household with the most energy conservation over a 3-month period. Residents will be asked to complete Edison’s 15-minute online survey to gauge current energy use and enter the contest. The ETF is working to engage local students to help promote the contest, as well as secure prizes for the school that is able to sign up the most contest participants. Residents will be asked to monitor energy usage beginning January 1st.
- ii. Green Business Challenge: free program for local businesses to begin monitoring and implementing sustainable business practices. Participating businesses will be recognized by the City and awarded “green” seals and certificates to denote participation in the program. The businesses will conduct a self-audit of current business practices, which goes beyond just energy conservation to include water conservation and zero waste principles as well. The ETF will provide the scorecards and resource list to give the businesses ideas on how they can incorporate sustainability measures. The ETF is partnering with Waste Management to conduct the audits and promote the program through the business associations and Chamber of Commerce.
- iii. Solar display in Metlox Plaza: educational display to raise awareness on the use of renewable energy. The solar panels will not generate a lot of power, but will be designed to illustrate the potential of renewable energy use in the community. The panels will offset the energy use of the escalators in Metlox Plaza, and the weekly Farmers Market. The display will also include an LCD screen to show the public how much electricity is being generated and what that would offset (e.g. number of homes powered, cars driven, etc.).

### Discussion:

Councilmember Lesser questioned how the ETF/City would verify that the mulch was disease-free. Julie Gonella explained that a specific request had been made to several reputable tree trimmers that have been vetted by the Manhattan Beach Botanical Garden. A condition of participation in the program was a commitment by the tree trimmers to provide disease free, high-quality mulch. The mulch will also only be delivered during business hours so that City staff can ascertain the quality of the delivery.

A resident asked about the best time to irrigate landscaping and use indoor appliances. Kalapura answered that use of appliances was encouraged in the evenings, after 6pm/7pm, in order to save energy. To save water, appliances such as dishwashers and laundry machines should only be used for full loads. The City's permanent water conservation measures are still in effect, which disallows outdoor irrigation during the day, unless drip irrigation is present. Landscapes should only be watered after 6pm, or before 9am.

Councilmember asked about the solar installation and whether or not the power generated would go back onto the grid. The power would go back to the electricity grid and the power generated would be counted towards the energy use of the escalators and Farmers Market.

### **III. Energy Efficiency 101 Workshop**

Several residents and two staff from the South Bay Environmental Services Center (SBESC) were in attendance for the Energy Efficiency 101 workshop. The workshop covered simple tips and measures for residents to reduce electricity consumption in their homes. Each area of the home was discussed, and options to improve the energy efficiency of that area were presented, along with rebate information and incentives available.

#### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

The next ETF meeting will be held on Thursday, November 17<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).