

ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE MINUTES

February 16, 2012

5:30 P.M.

City Council Chambers

1400 Highland Avenue Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

In attendance: Environmental Task Force co-chair Councilmember Amy Howorth, ETF Members Audrey Judson, Kim Matsoukas and Environmental Programs Manager Sona Kalapura. Andrea Nylund from EcoHatchery was in attendance to discuss the new Light Bulb Finder application. Grace Farwell-Granger from the South Bay Environmental Service Center Several was in attendance to lead the workshop on the Energy Upgrade CA program. An additional eight community members attended the meeting and workshop.

2. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Lillian Light, former ETF member and Environmental Priorities Network member, announced the date for the City's 4th annual Solar Homes Tour (May 12, 2012), and signed up volunteers for the event.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE ITEMS

Kalapura gave a brief status update on each of the energy efficiency and water conservation initiatives being pursued by the Environmental Task Force. A similar update was provided to City Council on February 7, 2012. Kalapura discussed each program and then mentioned that several of the Environmental Task Force programs will culminate during the 2012 Earth Day celebration (April 28th, Polliwog Park). The remaining programs can conclude in June 2012.

Following the brief updates summarized below, Grace Farwell-Granger from SBSEC gave a presentation on the Energy Upgrade CA program. Fred Koch from Koch Development is one of the Energy Upgrade CA approved contractors, and was on hand to discuss the program as well.

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

Landscape Sustainability checkup:

- Landscape Sustainability Audit available online
- Local landscape contractors will go through landscape checklist for residents at no charge
- Several residents have expressed interest in the program
 - 5 audits conducted to date
- Interest in the program expected to increase with warmer weather, increased irrigation, and higher water billing
- Completion of the Sustainable Garden at the Post Office by Leadership Manhattan Beach – May 2012 – will generate additional interest
 - Final audit results will be reported to City Council July 1st

Community mulch pilot program:

- The Community Mulch Pilot is a successful, self-service program (at Public Works Yard)
- Local tree trimmers provide safe, organic mulch to the City at no cost

- Program can be continued if Council chooses

Post Office Demonstration garden:

- ETF & LMB partnership
- Community meeting held to discuss tree removal
- Initial design was approved, and work has begun
- LMB is raising funds for project completion by May 2012
- Plant installation starts April 2012

School-wide water conservation contest:

- Designed as a program to engage the youth of Manhattan Beach in developing an efficient water use message
- Due to a conflict with the timing of an existing Centennial Committee program, the Water Use Contest has been postponed for the time being

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

Watt Watcher Energy Contest:

- Contest is well-received by the community – over 150 participants
- Several community partners sponsoring the contest by providing energy conservation tools and prizes
- 3-month contest period, closes April 15th, winners to be announced April 28th during Earth Day Festival

Green Business Certification:

- Partnering with Waste Management to run this green business recognition program through the California Green Business Program Network
- ETF and Waste Management will target businesses that currently participate in City's environmental programs (approx. 140 businesses)
- Waste Management will continue to run the program as part of the new solid waste contract

Metlox Solar Display:

- ETF coordinated with City departments to submit site design plans
- Install a 4 KW Solar PV electric system in Metlox Common Area
 - Renewable power to offset escalator/Farmers Market
- Project will be funded through private donations
 - \$15,000 raised to date
 - 2 additional donors pending
- City manages all funds
- Construction complete by July 1, 2012

4. Energy Upgrade CA Workshop

The South Bay Environmental Services Center gave a presentation on how residents can make their homes more energy efficient, and receive rebates and incentives from the County of Los Angeles and Southern California Edison through the Energy Upgrade CA program.

5. Audience Participation

Andrea Nylund from EcoHatchery explained how the new Light Bulb Finder application from iPhone and Android smart phones will work, and how the free tool can help residents reduce their energy consumption.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The next ETF meeting will be held on April 19, 2012 in the Police and Fire Community Room, and meeting information will be posted on the Going Green webpage at www.citymb.info.