

CITY OF MONTEREY PARK  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
STUDY ROOM #2, BRUGGEMEYER LIBRARY  
DECEMBER 13, 2011  
MINUTES

Item 1– Meeting Called to Order: 5:04 p.m.

Item 2 – Roll Call:

Present: Commissioners: Vincent Chang, William Wheeler, and Thomas Wong.

Also Present: Rey Alfonso, Assistant City Engineer; Amy Ho, Principal Management Analyst; Zenni Duong, Youth Advisory Board appointee; and Margaret Baca, resident.

Item 3 – Approval of November 8, 2011 meeting minutes:

The minutes of the November 8, 2011 meeting were approved with the correction of a typo on the date of the minutes – November 8, 2011 – and the insertion of “the the County’s ordinance is fully implemented and “ in the last sentence of the first paragraph on page 2, Item 6B.

Item 4 – Oral Communications:

Zenni Duong introduced herself as the new Youth Advisory Board appointment to the Commission. Margaret Baca introduced herself as a resident of Monterey Park who is interested in pursuing the Recycling and Resource Internship Program with the City.

Item 5 – Agenda Changes, Deletions, or Postponements:

None.

Item 6 – Old Business

A. Adoption of Wilderness Society/San Gabriel Mountains Forever Coalition Resolution.

Staff related Elias’s concerns about the revised resolution. While language referring to the Wild Rivers was removed in response to concerns about the impact to water resources and flood control, “wilderness designations” may infer support for protecting the natural waterways. Chair Wong felt it important to support the creation of a National Recreation Area in order for the ~~Wilderness Society~~San Gabriel Mountains to receive federal funding. He requested that the resolution be further

revised to only include language to support the creation of a San Gabriel Mountains National Recreation Area. All Commissioners present unanimously agreed.

B. Student Meet/Greet Mixer.

Thomas Wong briefed the Commission on the student mixer event that was held on Nov. 29. Approximately 40-50 students (per sign-in sheets) and 20 professionals attended the event. More college students attended compared to last year. Athens paid for the heat lamps and other equipment and Mayor Steven ~~Yee~~Ly of Rosemead contributed \$200 toward expenses.

C. Climate Action Plan.

Staff updated the Commission on the next step of the Climate Action Plan (CAP). The public comment period will continue until the end of the month with public hearing planned for early next year. The Commission voiced their disappointment in not being involved in the development of the document. Thomas offered to draft a formal letter to Council that expresses these sentiments and requests changes to the draft document such as monitoring/accountability and Commission involvement in updates. He asked that each Commission member continue to review the CAP and provide individual comments.

D. Earth Day 2012.

Staff related that Earth Day will fall on the same day as the Cherry Blossom Festival and that the Commission can take advantage of the large draw of attendees. The Commission asked to be included in the planning of the Cherry Blossom Festival to coordinate the joint event. The Commission would like to hold the exhibits on the front lawn again and possibly conduct workshops in the Council Chambers.

Thomas will set up a meeting with Paul Talbot to discuss another bike ride and Vincent will prepare the bike routes. William will work on sponsors.

Item 7 - New Business

E. Election of Chair and Vice Chair.

The Commission unanimously approved Thomas Wong as Chair and William Wheeler as Vice Chair for calendar year 2012.

F. Appointment of Student Commissioners.

The Youth Advisory Board appointed Zenni Duong as the new Environmental Commissioner but do not have a second appointment. They have agreed to select the second student from several candidates who have approached Thomas about being a member. The Commission provided Zenni with a list of criteria that they would like the YAB to consider (e.g., interest in environmental/green issues, involvement in environmental activities, outgoing/passionate, commitment, etc.).

G. Recycling and Resource Management Internship Program.

Margaret Baca briefed the Commission on the Recycling and Resource Management Internship Program that is offered through Golden West College. Margaret would like to participate in this internship program with the City. Amy suggested that the Commission can take advantage of the internship to assist the Commission in activities such as carrying out the Earth Day event. The Commission welcomed the assistance. Thomas will draft up a workplan for the internship and Amy will obtain approval from the Director of Public Works.

Item 8 – Announcements

Amy related that Nancy Ramirez's request to include an item on changing the time of the regular meetings did not make it on the agenda on time. Thomas suggested that the meeting be changed to 6:00 PM to accommodate the participation of the general public who do not get off work until 5:00 PM. The item will be included in the January meeting agenda.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:18 PM.