

CITY OF MONTEREY PARK
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
ENGINEERING CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL

July 14, 2015
MINUTES

- Item 1 - Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:14 PM.
- Item 2 - Roll Call:
Present: Commissioners Johanna Bonillo, Jessica Ramos, Doris Tsai, and Karl Wong.
Also Present: Frank Heldman, Water Utility Manager; Amy Ho, Principal Management Analyst; Thomas Wong, SGVMWD Board Member; and Dave DePinto, DePinto Morales Communications.
- Item 3 – Approval of the Minutes
The minutes of the June meeting were unanimously approved.
- Item 4- Oral Communications:
None.
- Item 5 – Agenda Changes, Deletions, or Postponements:
None.
- Item 6 - Old Business
- A. Plastic Bag Ban: Commissioners asked if there is data that exists for them to review and make a determination on a plastic bag ban for the City. Amy suggested the Los Angeles County Dept. of Public Works as a resource. The Commission requested that the item be tabled until more information becomes available from the State.
- B. Waste Hauling: Amy reported that the RFP for consultant services to assist in the development of the waste hauling contract should be released in the next month. She indicated that the Commission will be asked to review the contract provisions and provide feedback.
- C. Water Conservation: Frank Heldman, Water Utility Manager, provided an update on the City's water conservation program. For the month of June 2015, the City achieved a reduction of 17.5%. The goal is 20%. He reported that City Council adopted the Stage 2 water conservation ordinance at the July 1, 2015 meeting and the ordinance will take effect in 30 days (August 1, 2015). Emphasis will be on education however fines will be assessed to those who ignore their notices. Frank talked about next steps to include reclaimed water for the City's golf course and other large landscape areas.
- Johanna asked about public outreach and suggested social media. Frank mentioned that the ordinance will be sent to every mailing address in the City. Amy will talk to the City's communications staff regarding the use of Twitter or other social media.

The Water District announced that a Demonstration Garden is being constructed on Orange Ave. across the street from the Garvey Ranch Tennis courts. The garden will be a showcase for drought tolerant landscape options for the community. Dave also mentioned the District has previously funded workshops from Thomas Paine Foundation on the use of native plants. He indicated that it may be possible to provide workshop to the City.

Johanna asked about rebates/incentives for lawn replacement. Frank responded that the City Manager is looking to set aside funding for this program. Dave mentioned that the program can be expensive and labor intensive to manage. Johanna suggested that perhaps the financial subsidy can be provided to low income residents and seniors who would otherwise not be able to make the improvements. Frank took note of that suggestion.

Announcements

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:51 PM.