

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 22, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Judith Mitchell, Chair
Judy Bayer
Britt Huff
Craig Knickerbocker
William Larson
Rod Paulsen
Bridget Stamos

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

David Amin
Deborah Davis

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Greg Grammer, Assistant to the City Manager
Kelley Thom, Associate Planner

AUDIENCE ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Bayer moved, seconded by Member Larson

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 25, 2008.

There being no objection, Chair Mitchell so ordered.

PRIORITIZATION OF GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Assistant to the City Manager Grammer summarized the staff report and reviewed potential goals and objectives for prioritization, which relate to energy efficiency and conservation, water and wastewater systems, green building, water reduction and

recycling, climate-friendly purchasing, renewal energy and low-carbon fuels, efficient transportation, land use and community design, storing and offsetting carbon emissions, and promoting community and individual actions.

Member Larson expressed an interest in outreach and education among cities, school districts and homeowners associations to promote community and individual action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Committee Chair Mitchell mentioned that the City could host a community meeting with the HOAs and other groups as a forum to discuss environmental issues.

Member Stamos inquired about permit fees for solar panels and inquired if such fees could be reduced or eliminated to serve as an incentive for homeowners.

Associate Planner Thom explained the difference between planning fees and building permit fees. Staff indicated that it would bring a report back to the Committee on the permit fee schedule for the installation of solar panels and other renewal sources of energy.

After much discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee that establishing Green Building incentives and minimum standards, which also includes sustainable landscaping, “purple pipe” connections for recycled water, the promotion of renewable sources of energy, and walkable neighborhoods in new development, would be a top priority for the Committee, and directed staff to bring back some specific options and recommendations.

PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL HANDBOOK

Assistant to the City Manager Grammer summarized the staff report on the cost of preparing and printing an Environmental Handbook to highlight the City’s green programs and activities. Grammer reported that the total cost to print 500 copies of a 20-page handbook, including artwork and design, using 100% post-consumer recycled paper and soy-based ink would cost \$3,653; the cost to print 250 copies was only marginally less expensive, at \$3,275.

Member Paulsen moved, seconded by Member Bayer

TO RECOMMEND TO THE CITY COUNCIL THAT THE CITY PREPARE 500 COPIES OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL HANDBOOK AND AT A TOTAL COST OF \$3,653.

There being no objection, Chair Mitchell so ordered.

DRAFT MODEL WATER CONSERVATION ORDINANCE

Assistant to the City Manager Grammer summarized the staff report and reviewed a draft model ordinance that was prepared by the West Basin Municipal Water District to address water conservation and drought management. Grammer reported that the draft ordinance would establish permanent water-use restrictions and provide for three drought response levels to be implemented by the City Council during declared water shortages.

Member Larson suggested that the term “water shortage” replace “drought” throughout the ordinance since it more accurately describes the current statewide situation.

Member Bayer asked for an explanation of the California Water Code, particularly Section 350 that is referenced in the draft ordinance. Staff indicated that they would provide clarification at the next Committee meeting.

Grammer suggested that, instead of establishing permanent water-use restrictions, the ordinance could be revised to provide for four response levels, each implemented by a resolution of the City Council.

Member Stamos stated that the water-use restrictions contained in the draft ordinance could serve as water conservation tips in the City’s new Environmental Handbook.

After much discussion, the Committee directed staff to bring back a revised draft version of the ordinance for consideration and review at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm. The next meeting will take place on Monday, October 27, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Grammer, Assistant to the City Manager

GG:hj