

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 26, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Judith Mitchell, Chair	Craig Knickerbocker
Judy Bayer	William Larson
Deborah Davis	Bridget Stamos

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

David Amin
Britt Huff
Rod Paulsen

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 Davis

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 8, 2008.

There being no objection, Chair Mitchell so ordered.

GREEN BUILDING STANDARDS

Associate Planner Kelley Thom summarized the staff report and reviewed potential voluntary incentives and mandatory green building standards, as requested by the Committee. Associate Planner Thom reviewed provisions of the California Green Building Standards Code, which will become mandatory in 2010 when the California Building Code is adopted and goes into effect.

After some discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee that green building standards should be voluntary rather than mandatory, particularly in light of the fact that several new green building requirements will be incorporated into the California Building Code sometime next year.

The Committee directed staff to publicize the new green standards shortly before the revised Building Code is adopted, and to promote suggested green building guidelines in the City's Newsletter and on the City's website.

Mayor Mitchell stated that the City Council could provide further direction on the issue of mandatory v. voluntary green building standards.

Member Larson suggested that the City promote water conservation and green gardening techniques, and indicated that West Basin Municipal Water District has offered to conduct residential irrigation audits and water surveys.

Member Bayer discussed the benefits of grasscycling and composting, and suggested that residents be educated about the workshops that are held at the South Coast Botanic Gardens.

Member Stamos thought that the City could provide public outreach on green building standards and energy efficiency at community events.

Assistant to the City Manager Grammer stated that the City sponsors an environmental booth at the City Celebration and Palos Verdes Street Fair each year, and will be working with the Promenade of the Peninsula, Waste Management and the South Bay Environmental Services Center to organize another Earth Day event at the shopping center.

Member Davis discussed a new manure recycling device that she thought could be utilized at the City's remodeled Equestrian Center.

GREEN BUILDING RESOURCE GUIDE

Assistant to the City Manager Grammer summarized the staff report on the preparation and distribution of a green building resource guide that was suggested at the last meeting. Assistant to the City Manager Grammer suggested that the City use the "Home Remodeling Green Building Guidelines" and the "New Home Construction Green Building Guidelines" prepared by *Build It Green*. Copies can be purchased for \$15 and \$10 each and be made available to contractors and homeowners involved in home remodels and minor construction, and a link to both sets of Guidelines could be posted on the City's website. It was the consensus of the Committee to use the *Build It Green* Guidelines.

FUTURE AGENDAS

Mayor Mitchell indicated that at the next meeting she would like the Committee to review a Work Plan for 2009, which would include the preparation of a Climate Action Plan and public outreach and education on green building and environmentally-friendly practices.

Associate Planner Thom stated that staff would like feedback from the Committee regarding possible amendments to the Municipal Code to allow for the installation of grasscrete as an alternative to standard concrete surfaces.

Assistant to the City Manager Grammer stated that Waste Management has submitted a proposal for household battery recycling for the Committee's review at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm. The next meeting will take place on Monday, February 23, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Grammer, Assistant to the City Manager