

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 23, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Judith Mitchell, Chair Rod Paulsen
Britt Huff Bridget Stamos
Craig Knickerbocker

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

David Amin William Larson
Judy Bayer
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 Stamos moved, seconded by Member Huff

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 26, 2008.

There being no objection, Chair Mitchell so ordered.

PROPOSAL FROM WASTE MANAGEMENT FOR A RESIDENTIAL MAIL-BACK BATTERY RECYCLING PROGRAM

Vickie Wippel, Community Relations Manager for Waste Management, presented a proposal for a one-year pilot program to provide a residential mail-back battery recycling program to address the problem of improper disposal of household batteries. Ms. Wippel stated that under the program Waste Management would provide every residence with a battery recycling box for residents to store their used household batteries; the box would include a pre-paid return label so that it can be placed in the mail for pick up by the postal carrier when the box is full. Ms. Wippel stated that the cost of the program would be \$18.00 per household, or \$1.50 per month.

Discussion ensued about the implementation and cost of the program, and the feasibility of charging a much smaller fee and setting up battery drop-off sites at locations throughout the City, such as grocery stores, the library and at City Hall.

Associate Planner Thom pointed out that, under that scenario, non-residents would be able to participate without having to pay for the program.

Member Knickerbocker stated that he was uncomfortable with the idea of requiring residents to pay \$18 for a cardboard box to participate in the program.

Ms. Wippel stated that she would look into the cost and feasibility of setting up drop-off collection sites and would present alternative suggestions at a forthcoming Committee meeting.

GREEN OFF-STREET PARKING DESIGN

Associate Planner Thom provided a verbal update on the Planning Department's review of the installation of "grasscrete" as an alternative to standard concrete surfaces.

DISCUSSION OF 2009 WORK PLAN

Assistant to the City Manager Grammer summarized the staff report and reviewed a list of suggested issues to include in the Committee's 2009 Work Plan, including the development of a Climate Action Plan; enhanced public outreach and education through improvements to the City's website, participation in the City's Earth Day event; future coordination with the South Bay Environmental Services Center (SBESC); and, the establishment of a green purchasing policy.

Chair Mitchell added that she would like the Committee to also look into recognizing residents with a Green Ribbon Award for good and sustainable new construction or home remodels, and for the City to promote composting practices through educational workshops at the South Coast Botanic Gardens.

It was the consensus of the Committee that the City should sponsor a community outreach workshop on solar panel installation, to include a variety of vendors and experts.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm. The next meeting will take place on Monday, April 27, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Grammer, Assistant to the City Manager