

Meeting Minutes and Action Items: November 5, 2009

Present: Glover, Guido, Gordon, Marquez, Marshall, Schaaf, Smith
Absent: Mootchnik, Rice
City Staff: Aaron Klemm
Commission: None
Liaison: None
Public: Dr. Gerald Chapman, Past President/Bolsa Chica Land Trust
Guests: Don Torres

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved for the October 1, 2009, meeting.

III. Public Comments

Dr. Gerald Chapman informed the Board that Jan Vandersloot, a well known Orange County environmental activist, passed away on November 14. He also wanted to hear about the Board's position on the Ridge Project in preparation for Planning Commission comments. Aaron Klemm mentioned to Dr. Chapman that the Environmental Board already sent their comment letter on the project to the City Council. Chairman Smith summarized the contents of the Board's letter; Sue Marquez added her concerns; and Robert Schaaf provided his comments. Dr. Chapman made additional remarks concerning the development of the project and the manner in which it and surrounding projects are proceeding.

Action: Aaron will forward the Board's comment letter to Dr. Chapman.

IV. Informational Items:

Permaculture Principles

Dan Torres, a recent graduate of the Permaculture Design Certificate Program, spoke to the Board about Permaculture and how it is applicable to more than just gardens. Permaculture is an ecosystems approach to sustainable home design and industrial and municipal planning, where every element relates to the other and is multifunctional. You minimize the use of external resources and focus on what is available on site. Look for a solution that has cascading benefits. If the product can only do one thing then you may want to find another product. Dan stated that the problem is the solution. For more information go to www.earthflow.com.

Acknowledgement of Minority Positions

A discussion took place concerning Board comment letters in the context of the most recent comment letter on the Ridge Project. Discussion centered on best practices of drafting comment letters including the Chair's development role and handling of minority positions. The Board members acknowledged that comment letters should be brief, recognized there is usually a short turnaround time to respond, and noted the Chairman's need for flexibility to determine what points should be included with input from and consensus of the Board. Mike Marshall urged the members to be cautious with the content of the letter. If every

position is included, the salient points may be crowded out thereby diluting the letter's message. To build Board credibility as an advisory body to Council, the Chair should consider all members' input, but when developing the letter have the discretion to decide what main points will be embodied in the letter. Those members holding differing point(s) of view may write a letter to Council as a citizen.

V. Action Items:

Chairman Smith requested that part of Item VIII, Adjournment, be moved up to the Action Items for Board approval. That part of Item VIII is to change the start time of the Environmental Board meeting from 6:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The item passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Action: Effective with the meeting of December 3, 2009, meetings of the Environmental Board will start at 5:30 p.m.

After the vote, the agenda returned to the normal order.

A. EIR Ad Hoc Committee (Marquez, Gordon, Schaaf)

- The Ridge EIR Issues Discussion & Resolution – Much of this item was discussed under the aforementioned Informational Items, *Acknowledgement of Minority Positions*. Bob Smith stated that there is a problem with the short time frame between when the Board receives project documents and when comments are due. As a result, all reviewers may not be able to properly review and comment.

Action: The Board will work closely with Aaron to obtain environmental documents as soon as feasible.

B. Energy/Green Committee (Mootchnik, Gordon, Marshall, Smith)

Bob Smith reported that at a previous committee meeting, Dave Mootchnik suggested that the Energy/Green Committee be combined with the Sustainability Framework Committee since there seemed to be a duplication of purpose and resources. The Executive Committee would remain the same. A discussion of this along with a suggestion from Aaron regarding forming a new committee is found in the next bulleted item, *HB Municipal Solar Report*.

- HB Municipal Solar Report – Aaron advised the Board that the Solar RFP responses had been received. He suggested that the Board form a Solar Project Committee to help design and participate in the Solar Project RFP selection process. The process must be wrapped up by April 2010. A motion was moved and seconded to dissolve the Sustainability Framework Committee and form the Solar Project Committee. Robert Schaaf, Bo Glover, and Dave Guido volunteered to be on this committee.
- Committee Goals and Work Product – The Executive Committee will assume this project and will revise the goals to reflect the new solar committee project. A motion was moved and seconded that the Executive Committee presents the seven goals to Council for their prioritization. A mid month meeting with Aaron and the Executive Committee and HB Solar Committee was scheduled.

Action:

1. **Eliminate the Sustainability Framework Committee and form the HB Solar Committee comprised of Board members Glover, Guido, and Schaaf.**
2. **The Executive Committee will assume responsibility for Board Goals and will present them to Council for prioritization.**
3. **The Executive Committee will schedule a regular midmonth meeting with Aaron to discuss upcoming agenda items.**

C. Sustainability Framework (Smith/Schaaf/Gordon/Guido)

- Goals and Annual Report – As a result of Action B.2, this item will be assumed by the Executive Committee.
- Bylaws Options & Local Community Elements – No discussion of this item.

D. Communications (Glover/Rice/Marquez/Smith) –

- LED Holiday Lights Trade-in Program – HB Building and Safety will set up and will help staff a Christmas tree light exchange booth with EB members at Surf City Nights.
- Media (Web, PSA, Sands, etc.) – Articles for the exchange were in the online Community Connection newsletter as well as in the local section of the Register.

E. Environmental Awards (Marshall/Marquez/Guido) – Aaron stated that we can start advertising for the awards. Time frame for application submission would be 6 weeks with handing out the awards at a ceremony in January 2010.

VI. Administrative Items

A. Correspondence/News Articles/Announcements – Bo announced a public workshop for Bolsa Chica on November 14 for input into construction of a nature center at Harriet Weider Park. Bob Smith announced that the Governor had signed the water bill and that the bond issue will be on the next ballot.

B. Requests to Place Items on the Next 3 Agendas (Dec., Jan., Feb.) –

- Budget Neutral Financing Project - December Agenda, Aaron to be speaker

C. Update on Wetlands Maintenance Message to Council, Attorney (HOA Agreement) – No information.

VII. Good and Welfare - No information.

VIII. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. The next meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. on December 3, 2009.