

**CITY OF ALHAMBRA  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, September 8, 2016 - 7:00 pm  
Alhambra City Hall, 111 S. First St.  
Conference Room A, Second Floor**

**I. Roll Call**

Joseph Fong  
Linda Yamauchi  
John Vuong  
Kim Luu  
Vacant

**II. Flag Salute.**

**III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Each year the committee is appointed by the City Council. At that time it is appropriate to conduct an election to determine which members will chair the meeting as president and in the event the chair cannot attend the meeting, determine which member will step in as Vice President to conduct the meeting.

**Recommended Action:** That the Committee elect a new president and vice president to chair the meeting.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETINGS OF MAY 14, 2015 AND FEBRUARY 6, 2014**

**Recommended Action:** That the Committee review and approve the minutes for the meetings of May 14, 2014 and February 6, 2015. There was no formal meeting due to lack of a quorum at the March 10, 2016 meeting. Due to lack of a quorum the regularly schedule meetings of May 12, 2016 and July 14, 2016 were cancelled.

**V. HERO PROGRAM**

The HERO Program (Home Energy Renovation Opportunity) is a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program, which provides financing for energy-efficient, water-efficient and renewable energy products to home and business owners in approved communities within California. The financing provided by the HERO Program is repaid through annual property tax payments, which are collected by the County and in some cases may be passed on to a new property owner if the property is sold. Nicole Ochoa, the HERO's representative for Alhambra, will provide an overview of the HERO program.

**Recommended Action:** Information only. No action required.

**VI. COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES**

Committee members will report on environmental interests or concerns they have received from the City Council and provide information or discuss as appropriate.  
**Recommended Action:** Information only. No action required.

#### **VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Discussion from the public of any item not specified on the agenda. Comments are welcome, but must pertain to the business of the Alhambra Environmental Committee. Please limit all oral communication to five (5) minutes. Speakers must fill out a blue speaker's card, prior to the meeting and submit it to the Committee Secretary. Comments must pertain to the business of the Environmental Committee. Please limit all oral communications to five (5) minutes.

#### **VIII. COMMITTEE COMMUNICATION**

Discussion from the Committee members of any item not specified on the agenda. Items must pertain to the business of the Alhambra Environmental Committee.

#### **IX. Adjournment**

*If you wish to address the Committee during the meeting, please complete a speaker's card and give it to the secretary. When making your presentation, please give your name and address for the record. Please make your statement as brief as possible. The maximum time for addressing the Committee is five minutes.*

*If you wish to address the Committee on an item which appears on the agenda, your comments will be heard during the Committee's discussion of that item. If you wish to address the Committee on a subject which does not appear on the agenda, but is of an environmental concern, your comments will be heard under Public Comments. Please be advised that under the State of California's Ralph M. Brown Act, the committee cannot take action on any item which does not appear on the agenda.*

*Copies of staff reports or other written documentation relating to each item of business described above are on file in the Management Services office and are available for public inspection upon request during regular office hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Any question concerning agenda items should be directed to Cynthia Jarvis, Environmental Resources Director at (626) 570-5011.*

**MINUTES**  
**Environmental Committee**  
**Regular Meeting of May 14, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Environmental Committee was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on May 14, 2015 at Alhambra City Hall, 111 S. First Street, Conference Room A, Alhambra, CA.

**I. Roll Call**

Committee Members Present: Yamauchi, Gonzales

Committee Members Absent: Fong

Also Attending: Environmental Resources Director, Jarvis.

Staff introduced herself, told of her background with the City and described several environmental projects she had been exploring such as electric vehicle charging stations, battery storage system for public buildings, the HERO PACE (residential) and Figtree (commercial) programs and tracking proposed bills.

**III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Committee member Gonzales was nominated to chair the meetings. He accepted the responsibility.

**IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING - FEBRUARY 6, 2014**

This item will be carried over to the next regular meeting for action.

**V. SUPERFUND SITE 3 UPDATE**

Staff advised the committee that a new Remedial Project Manager for the Superfund Division of the EPA has been hired and that staff had met with the Project Manager a few weeks prior to this meeting. At that time, the new Project Manager expressed a desire to meet with the Environmental Committee in order to introduce herself and to provide an update on the status of the Superfund remediation project for Site 3, of which Alhambra is a part. Staff explained that when asked to attend the May meeting, the new Project Manager stated she preferred to have a little more time to become more knowledgeable about the project and its history. The Project Manager further stated that she felt waiting until the September meeting would be too long, so in spite of July typically being a vacation month, the Project Manager requested being put on the agenda for the meeting of July 9, 2015. Staff told the committee that historically there has been interest in this issue by other groups, therefore there would be extra publicity about the July meeting, in an attempt to reach other interested members of the public that might be interested in attending.

Committee Member Gonzalez expressed concern about the potential cost of clean-up so staff explained that EPA, not the City of Alhambra is responsible for this clean-up project and that it is because one of the areas is in Alhambra that the EPA is working with the City to keep them informed of steps being taken regarding Alhambra's portion of the project.

Committee Member Gonzalez expressed concern over the EPA's sudden interest in addressing the committee and feared that there must be some present danger. Staff explained that the EPA has been working on the project for a number of years, that the EPA has stated that although soils contamination has been discovered in areas, the contamination has not reached the groundwater, that the soils sample portion of the project has been completed and that that soils analysis is underway, but that during the interim between project managers the EPA had nothing new to report. Now that a new Project Manager is on board, that person would like to introduce herself to the committee and provide a report on the status of the project.

Committee Member Gonzalez inquired about the timeline for the site clean-up and staff stated that the EPA had been asked that question at the earlier meeting and the EPA said it is too soon in the process to develop a timeline for clean-up, but that they hoped to have more information to share by the time the July 9<sup>th</sup> meeting was held.

Committee member Gonzales expressed concern about holding the meeting under the umbrella of the Environmental Committee for fear that it would be contentious in some way. Staff assured the committee that although there is a small faction of discontented public members who have been vocal about the Superfund issue, their discontent appears to be generalized about the City's governance and that the EPA's update that should not prove contentious in any way. Staff further stated that the City desires to work closely and cooperatively with the EPA, that keeping the public informed about this issue is very important and that having the EPA address the Environmental Committee in a meeting, which is open to the public, seems to be a logical choice. If, however, the Environmental Committee chose to not provide the forum for the EPA update at their upcoming meeting, the City would still host a public meeting in which the EPA could provide an update, just not under the umbrella of the Environmental Committee.

On the motion of Committee Member Yamauchi, with a second by Committee Member Gonzalez, the committee approved that the item be agendaized for the July 9, 2015 meeting.

## **VI. COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES**

Committee Members Gonzales stated that he would like clearer direction about what his duties are as a committee member and felt that the description of the committee was vague. Staff stated that the committee is advisory and that if there are issues of environmental concern the committee members should bring them to the attention of staff. At the same time, staff would keep the committee members informed of issues in which the City is involved or is watching. Staff further explained that the

[Type here]

description was most likely intentionally vague in order to give the committee room to explore and grow within their roles.

Committee Member Gonzalez stated that he was disappointed that he had not heard anything more about a bike plan. Staff stated that the bike plan was not a part of her duties, but if she heard anything more about it she would report to the committee.

Committee Member Gonzalez stated that he had seen that the General Plan was being updated and wanted more information about what was happening. Committee Member Yamauchi mentioned that all of the commissions and committees had been invited to participate at the first meeting and that there is a second meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup> that he could attend as well. Staff mentioned that the information about the meetings is on the City's website and said she would send the link to the committee for their convenience. Committee Member Gonzalez asked if he could get a copy of the comments so far. Committee Member Yamauchi stated that a compilation of comments had not been released.

Committee Member Gonzalez suggested that the next time the trash contract is negotiated, that an item for curbside collection of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) be included; in particular, household batteries. Committee Member Yamauchi stated that she took her batteries to the camera shop. Committee Member Yamauchi stated that the very successful Neighborhood Clean-Up program underscored the need for more convenience of disposal of HHW. Staff suggested that having people to assist the residents in corralling and removing the HHW from their property was key to the project's success and that there would most likely be additional projects such as that in the future.

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**VIII. COMMITTEE COMMUNICATION**

None

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM to the next regular meeting of Thursday, July 9, 2015 at 7:00 PM, location to be determined.

Copies of staff reports or other written documentation, if any, relating to each item of business described above are on file in the Alhambra City Hall, Utilities Department, 111 S. First Street, Alhambra California 91801 and are available for public inspection upon request during regular business hours of 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

[Type here]

**MINUTES  
CITY OF ALHAMBRA  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE  
February 6, 2014, 7:00 p.m.**

**1. Roll Call**

Committee Members Present: LeBrun, Gonzalez, Fong, Yamauchi  
Committee Members Absent: None

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 10, 2013**

On the motion of Committee Member Yamauchi with a second by Committee Member LeBrun the minutes of January 10, 2013 were unanimously approved.

**3. 2014 ECO DAY**

Staff presented the list of confirmed and proposed vendors for the 2014 Eco Fair, scheduled for Saturday, May 3, 2014. Committee President Gonzalez inquired if the U. S. Forestry Service had been contacted to attend this year. Secretary Meeker responded that they were contacted for the 2013 event but they did not respond. She indicated that the City would make contact with them again. President Gonzalez also said that he would contact the San Gabriel Mountains Forever group to ask if they would be available. Committee member Fong stated that he had the name and phone number of a company which has been offering the sale of solar infrastructure through Southern California Edison Company's Net Energy Metering Program. The Committee members all agreed to think about other possible vendors/presenters for the Eco Fair and would submit any suggestions before the next meeting.

**5. PROPOSED COMMITTEE PROJECTS**

Secretary Meeker presented the members with information about the CoolCalifornia City Competition sponsored by *Energy Upgrade California* with support from California Air Resources Board and the University of California Berkeley's Renewable and Appropriate Energy Laboratory. The Environmental Committee reviewed and discussed the vendors and activities that are being planned for the day. Secretary Meeker suggested that this may be a good project for the Committee to undertake this year, as the focus of the competition is to address and reduce carbon footprints, save energy, and help build sustainable communities. Various discussions ensued relative to dissemination about the competition to the community via existing avenues of social media, schools, community organizations such as the Rotary Club, etc. and how effective that would be. Due to the time frame to apply to the competition, it was decided by the Committee that it would be best to hold off on this year's competition and focus on a comprehensive plan to engage the public and solicit maximum participation.

Other ideas discussed the status of the City's Bike Plan and how that fits in with the goals/objectives of the Environmental Committee. The members asked if Chris Paulson, Assistant to the City Manager, could attend the next meeting to give an update on this plan. President Gonzalez indicated that in order to garner community support for environmental objectives, it is important for the City (government) itself to "walk the walk and talk the talk", and lead by example. Secretary Meeker suggested that the members meet individually with their respective Council Member to ask what the priorities are for the Council/City relative to such issues as climate change, conservation efforts, greenhouse gas reduction, etc. Once it is known what the priorities are, the easier it will be for the Committee to focus on projects and outcomes. Committee member Yamauchi made the point that it would be helpful for the members to understand the current challenges the City faces with environmental mandates and budgeting to comply with those mandates. It would also be helpful to know what challenges are encountered by local businesses and residents. Do they have the resources necessary to meet those challenges? Ms. Meeker replied that sources of funding exist to tackle some of these issues, but the priorities need to be clarified first in order to seek out and apply for the appropriate funds from various government agencies and non-profit organizations. The members agreed that they would speak with their respective Council member prior to the next meeting and bring back comments for discussion.

Ms. Meeker distributed informational flyers from other cities and organizations regarding local programs and projects for the community such as eco-gardening. Ms. Meeker will also e-mail additional information to the members concerning sustainability practices for local governments.

**6. CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS**

Secretary Meeker gave a summary of recent City Council actions taken relative to environmental issues in the City, including the moratorium on the sale of E-Cigarettes, the approval of a Resolution of Support for the National Recreation Areas in the San Gabriel Mountains, and the adoption of a new Fats, Oils, and Grease Ordinance.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**8. COMMITTEE MEMBERS, EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS AND/OR STAFF COMMENTS**

It was discussed whether the Committee would be amenable to changing the time of the meeting to 6:00 or 6:30 PM. It was determined that this time change would be welcomed and Secretary Meeker indicated that she would inquire as to what needed to be done to effect this change.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 8:19 PM to the next regular meeting of Thursday, March 13, 2014 at 7:00 PM in Conference Room A.

Copies of staff reports or other written documentation, if any, relating to each item of business described above are on file in the Alhambra City Hall, Utilities Department, 111 S. First Street, Alhambra California 91801 and are available for public inspection upon request during regular business hours of 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

Should any person have a question concerning any of the above agenda items prior to the meeting described herein, he or she may contact Claudine Meeker, Deputy Director of Utilities, either in person at the Utilities Department at Alhambra City Hall, 111 South First Street, or by calling via telephone at (626) 570-5080 during regular business hours.