

MINUTES
CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE
SPECIAL COASTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, February 21, 2013 @ 7:00 p.m.
Community Center, Ole Hanson Fireside Room
100 N. Seville, San Clemente, CA 92672

1. CALL TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Hart called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Committee Member Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Susan Ambrose, Don Brown, Robert Jordan, Michael Smith;
Chair pro tem Peter Salgado and Chairman Bill Hart

Absent: Ken Nielsen

Staff Present: Tom Bonigut, Assistant City Engineer
Eileen White, Recording Secretary

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of the Regular CAC Meeting of December 13, 2012

MOVED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER JORDAN, SECONDED BY CHAIR PRO TEM SALGADO, AND CARRIED 5-0-1, WITH COMMITTEE MEMBER BROWN ABSTAINING, to receive and file the minutes of the Regular CAC Meeting of December 13, 2012, as submitted by staff.

B. Minutes of the Regular CAC Meeting of January 10, 2013

MOVED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER BROWN, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER SMITH, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED to receive and file the minutes of the Regular CAC Meeting of January 10, 2013, as submitted by staff.

4. PUBLIC INPUT - None

5. OLD BUSINESS - None

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Potential Revisions to Existing City Policy for Award of Environmental Grants

Tom Bonigut, Assistant City Engineer, reviewed the staff report, a memo regarding existing City Policy concerning eligibility of ongoing programs for Award of Environmental Grants in response to a request from the Commission at their January 2013 meeting. Staff recommended the Commission review existing policy, discuss potential revision, and provide direction to staff.

Chair Hart recused himself from considering this agenda item, citing involvement with a community organization that has received grants in the past.

Committee Members considered options to revise language in the Policy in order to allow the Committee some discretion when considering grant awards for ongoing programs; commented that deserving programs, whether ongoing or not, should have the ability to be considered for grant monies if they provide a clear benefit to the City and/or community; concluded to revise language accordingly.

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER SMITH, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER BROWN, AND CARRIED 5-0-1, WITH CHAIR HART ABSTAINING, TO RECOMMEND REVISION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND GRANT FUNDING POLICY AND PROCEDURE DOCUMENT AS FOLLOWS:

Page 2, first paragraph, replace the first sentence with the following: "Grants are not intended to provide ongoing funding to well-established programs or services unless a clear benefit to the City of San Clemente and the community would be provided by the proposed activity. Grants are also not intended for any political or religious activity."

B. Potential Plastic Bag Ban

Assistant City Engineer Bonigut advised that a recent survey by the City's street sweeping contractor indicated that an average of 20,000 single use plastic bags are collected annually during street sweeping and catch basin cleaning maintenance.

Chair Hart reviewed results of his research on the number of municipalities that currently have in place or are anticipating enacting a single use plastic bag ban. He provided a listing of cities, and using Google population figures, calculated that 28.46% percent of Californians are currently living without single use plastic bags. He speculated that the bans, especially in cities

along the coast, have the ability to greatly reduce the number of single use plastic bags that pollute the Pacific Ocean.

Assistant City Engineer Bonigut noted that another Congressional Bill promoting a state-wide ban, similar to the one endorsed by the grocery store industry, has been introduced in the California legislature; provided the Bill's title, author's name, and website for information. He advised staff's future work on the ban, including research regarding bans enacted by other cities, is dependent on Council direction at the March Strategic Priorities meeting.

Committee Member Smith expressed concern that the proposed ban would not clarify the types of plastic bags to be banned and/or inform whether the ban would be expanded to include dry cleaner and newspaper bags; urged the Committee to keep the public's needs in mind and find middle ground for public acceptance during consideration.

Chair pro tem Salgado agreed with the importance of establishing guidelines/details for any ban; suggested the Committee would consider guidelines/details dependent on the discussion/results of the City Council presentation on the ban scheduled for March; volunteered to make the presentation and clarify the purpose of the ban at the meeting.

Committee Members concurred that the information gathered during Chair Hart's research should be added to the prepared presentation as well as statistics provided by staff.

Assistant City Engineer Bonigut advised the March 13 meeting date may be tentative and subject to change by the City Council; he will keep the Committee Members informed if anything changes.

Chair Hart advised that part of the Committee's strategy is to allay fears of uncertainty/doubt; develop a middle ground to ensure the public will still have bags to pick up dog waste, protect newspapers, purchase vegetables in, etc., if the ban is enacted; inform the public of the devastation plastic bags wreak on the ocean. Dependent upon Council's reaction, staff may be able to contact other cities to determine how bans are working, and devise one for the City that will be consistent with other bans. He commented that opposition to the ban, especially from the plastic bag industry, will be in force at any meeting where a potential ban is discussed. He speculated that the number of cities with bans has increased due in part to court rulings finding that CEQA studies were not needed, and also the number of lawsuits brought by the plastic bag industry that did not prevail.

Chair pro tem Salgado commented that discourse on the subject and extensive public discussion should be encouraged so that all opinions are heard and all are aware of the pros and cons of the issues. He noted that the City of San Clemente has shown real leadership in the past, enacting

controversial Styrofoam and beach smoking bans that have become more commonplace in recent years. He advised that representatives from Surfrider Foundation, San Clemente Green, and the Watershed Task Force will be made aware of meetings where this issue will be discussed so they can provide input.

Committee Member Brown suggested that hard copies of the presentation and research should be on hand at the March meeting to distribute to area newspapers and interested parties.

Report received and filed.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Bacterial Monitoring Report Dated February 13, 2013

Discussion ensued regarding unpredictable deviations, including a large gathering of seagulls, which can affect bacteria monitoring results; the Poche Beach water filtration system mechanism; the process of developing diversion systems to keep polluted water from entering the ocean.

B. January 2013 Environmental Programs Update

Assistant City Engineer Bonigut commented that staff is seeing more instances where the City's Styrofoam Ban is being ignored by established businesses and described the City's efforts to enforce the ban. In addition, he noted that staff has compiled information on the Clean Ocean Program, including its key accomplishments and future goals, for presentation at the March future strategic planning session.

Committee Members received and filed items 7A and 7B.

8. ITEMS FROM STAFF

A. Potential Future Agenda Items

Assistant City Engineer Bonigut reviewed the Potential Future Agenda Items and requested the Committee Members provide input.

Committee Members added an Outreach Evaluation and Poche Beach Update (potential pond solutions) to its April agenda; Watershed Tour Follow-up and Informative Report Regarding the City of Dana Point's Pharmaceutical Disposal Program to the June agenda.

Assistant City Engineer Bonigut advised the Committee Members to review previously-distributed materials to decide on locations to visit during its Watershed Tour. In addition, the Committee Members should decide on

presenters at each location, and discuss speakers, logistics, etc. in advance of the Tour.

Chair Hart described the format agreed upon at the last Committee meeting. Committee Members will be providing their own transportation to avoid the public perception of potential discussion in transport; the meeting will be noticed to the public, including approximate arrival times at each location; a follow up discussion has been added to the June agenda for benefit of the Committee and public.

Committee Member Brown commented that he has started following the watershed and provided staff with location of malfunctioning valve for follow up.

Committee Member Smith established from staff that Committee Members should be reviewing the Watershed on their own in advance of the Watershed Tour; stated that it would be interesting to see results of test studies where seaweed and cobble were removed from the beaches to determine the rate at which they returned. In addition, he would like to see results of study to determine why some beaches lose sand while others retain it.

Chair Hart commented that prior studies have indicated that the presence of cobble on the beach is related to the amount of sand disappearing; advised current data suggests that removal of cobble might make the situation more instable; noted the ongoing Army Corps of Engineers' Sand Replenishment Study may provide answers/solutions to these issues.

B. Staff Announcements

Assistant City Engineer Bonigut announced that that selected CAC mebers are free to meet with California Coastal Commission (CCC) staff with the stipulation that CAC members are not officially representing the City or City positions. None of the Councilmembers indicated an interest in attending the meeting. Mr. Bonigut will contact CCC staff and research potential meeting dates.

9. **ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Committee Member Smith reported that at their last meeting, the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Commission categorized Capital Improvement Projects for recommendation to City Council, canceled their February meeting, and will be traveling to a conference in March, where staff will be accepting awards for Vista Hermosa Sports Park site planning and the Aquatics Center.

In response to a request from Committee Member Ambrose, Assistant City Engineer Bonigut agreed to provide a summary of Clean Ocean Program grants

awarded since the inception of the grant program. Committee Member Ambrose complimented staff for recent outreach ads, especially one concerning proper pharmaceutical disposal.

Chair pro tem Salgado commended Committee Member Smith for his letter concerning the watershed recently published in the San Clemente Times; noted importance of informing all that they can make a difference.

Committee Member Brown reported that at their last meeting, the Planning Commission finished its review of the General Plan Update. In the coming months they will be reviewing environmental studies and receiving public comment before the document is presented for final review.

Chair Hart announced annual Earth Day activities scheduled for April 20, 2013, including a beach cleanup from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m., with live music, informational booths, and potentially surf-related vendors at Parque del Mar until 2:00 p.m. In addition, he noted the Watershed Task Force is receiving nominations for its Blue Water Business Awards. The awards are public recognition undertaking cleanup projects, and all businesses, schools, etc., are eligible. He encouraged Committee Members to nominate deserving groups.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER BROWN, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER AMBROSE, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED to adjourn at 8:52 p.m. to the next regular meeting of the Coastal Advisory Committee on Thursday, March 14, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room at the Community Center located at 100 N. Seville, San Clemente, CA.

Respectfully submitted,



Bill Hart, Chair

Attest:



Tom Bonigut, Assistant City Engineer