

MINUTES

CONVENING: The Board of Public Utilities Water Conservation Subcommittee met on April 24, 2017 at 9:07 am in the Municipal Service Center/South Conference Room 5, with Vice Chair Kaun and Board member Watts presiding.

PRESENT: Jennifer Burke                      Colin Close                      Deb Lane  
Rhianna Frank                      Sara Roberts                      Nikkole Suka

OTHERS PRESENT: None

ITEM NO. 1: PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE

ITEM NO. 2: WATER AWARENESS MONTH

Rhianna Frank gave a brief overview of May activities. Council will recognize May as Water Awareness Month with a Proclamation on May 2. Council will also recognize the Water Use Efficiency Award winners during this meeting. On May 5, staff will participate in the Roseland Cinco de Mayo Festival by staffing a Water outreach booth. On May 16, City Council will recognize the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade Poster Contest winners. In total, 2,559 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders participated from 28 schools. This year's Water Smart Expo will be held in Courthouse Square on May 31 at the Wednesday Night Market. Nearly two dozen vendors will have information booths related to water and sustainability.

ITEM NO. 3: WATER USE EFFICIENCY AWARDS

Colin Close discussed the Annual awards. Candidates were selected by reviewing Water Use Efficiency program participation and water use to identify customers who have made exceptional efforts to use water wisely in 2016. The single family McAleer residence participated in several elements of the WUE programs. They installed a recirculating hot water pump, received free toilets through the giveaway program, and replaced lawn with low water use landscaping for a combined water savings of 28,000 gallons per year. By replacing turf with low water use landscaping, Glengreen HOA Board saved 237,000 gallons per year and inspired other homeowners in the association to convert their lawns to water efficient landscapes. Commercial candidate, Peter Allsman, replaced all turf in fall 2016 and saved 50,000 gallons over the irrigation season. year. Rescue Mission replaced toilets and replaced paper towels with air blowers in the restrooms. They are saving 47,000 gallons per month. Board Member Watts commented that it was exciting to see different types of individuals taking action. Vice Chair Kaun commented that she was surprised by those involved and asked if photos could be taken. The Subcommittee unanimously recommended that City Council recognize these individuals.

ITEM NO. 3: UPDATE: EFFICIENT FIXTURES DIRECT INSTALL PROGRAM

Mr. Close discussed the next steps for the program. The department was awarded \$2.5 million to conduct a direct install program to upgrade toilets in single- and multi-family residences. The program has come in under budget, so additional toilet packages are being added to the program, along with additional plumbing contractors to do the installation work. The program has been successful and will be wrapping up by December. Vice Chair Kaun commented that it is an awesome program and has been saving on her own bill. Mr. Close mentioned that there hasn't been much customer interest in the pre-rinse spray valve offered through the program. It is a high-quality product but it has been difficult to get restaurants interested, with only 11 or 12 installed to date and 239 remaining. Vice Chair Kaun asked if there were any barriers to participation? Board Member Watts asked if products can be returned if not used with Mr. Close noting we should be able to get through them all as the program continues.

ITEM NO. 4: UPDATE ON CITY HALL SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION GARDEN

Deb Lane gave an update on the City Hall Sustainable Education Garden and noted a grant for \$806,000 was received for this project. The plans and specifications were completed in early 2016. After public input, the project plans were approved April 2016 and construction commenced in August. A videographer has been hired to create 2-3 min short film of construction and 60 sec sizzle highlighting the new garden. Extensive educational signage was developed to explain various features of the garden, including the large rainwater harvesting system. The ribbon cutting is scheduled for June 14<sup>th</sup>. A briefing will be given to the BPU in June as well. Board Member Watts commented that she is excited about the video that is being created to show what was being done.

A homeowner workshop will be held for irrigation controllers to teach outdoors in an area that can hold 60 attendees. Vice Chair Kaun asked if we were moving forward to bring in smart pest and weed control with saving water for landscape? Ms. Burke commented that it is definitely a thought for the team and work is occurring to get more information out in storm water programs for nontoxic options. Vice Chair Kaun also asked if more information could be prepared for homeowners about nature fills in blank spaces that are easier to manage. She added that she would hate to see water use decrease only for pesticides to increase. Board Member Watts gave congratulations on the project and having it come to fruition.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:53 am

/s/

ATTEST:

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Nikkole Suka, Senior Administrative Assistant