



**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

**Council Chamber
1424 Mission Street, South Pasadena, CA 91030
February 22, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.**

VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

South Pasadena Natural Resources and Environmental Statement of Civility

As your appointed governing board we will treat each other, members of the public, and city employees with patience, civility and courtesy as a model of the same behavior we wish to reflect in South Pasadena for the conduct of all city business and community participation. The decisions made tonight will be for the benefit of the South Pasadena community and not for personal gain.

NOTICE ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & ACCESSIBILITY

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953, subdivision (e) (3), the meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission for February 22, 2022 will be conducted remotely and held by video conference. Members of the public have the option to participate via Zoom using the following link:

Natural Resources and Environmental Commission
Zoom Meeting Information
Webinar ID: 860 3006 0446
Passcode: 975574

1. Go to the Zoom website, <https://zoom.us/join> and enter the Zoom Meeting information accordingly; or
2. Click on the following unique Zoom meeting link:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86030060446?pwd=cmtlL0lxZHZeXNlbnVWTEdNZONyZz09>; or
3. You may listen to the meeting by calling: +1-669-900-6833 and entering the Zoom Meeting ID and Passcode when prompted to do so.

For additional Zoom assistance with telephone audio, you may find your local number at:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcqijC6iQx>

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

The NREC welcomes public input. If you would like to comment on any agenda item, members of the public may participate by means of one of the following options:
Option 1: Participants will be able to “raise their hand” using the Zoom icon during the meeting, and they will have their microphone un-muted during the comment portion of the agenda to speak for up to 3 minutes; or

Option 2: Email public comment(s) to: nrecpubliccomment@southpasadenaca.gov. **Public Comments received in writing will not be read aloud at the meeting, but will be part of the meeting record.** Written Public Comments will be uploaded online for public viewing under Additional Documents. There is no word limit on emailed Public Comment(s). Please make sure to indicate: 1) your name (optional), and 2) what agenda item you are submitting public comment on, or if it is a general public comment, and 3) your comment. **Public Comments must be received by 12:00 p.m., February 22, 2022** to ensure adequate time to compile and post.

CALL TO ORDER: Amy Davis Jones

ROLL CALL: Commissioners Rona Bortz, Michelle Hammond, Casey Law, William J. Kelly, Michael Siegel; Chair Amy Davis Jones.

COUNCIL LIAISON: Mayor Michael A. Cacciotti

STAFF PRESENT: Ted Gerber, Public Works Director
Arpy Kasparian, Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Amy Davis Jones

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS *(Public Comments are limited to 3 minutes)*
Pursuant to state law, the NREC may not discuss or take action on issues not on the meeting agenda, except that members of the NREC or staff may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising public testimony rights (Government Code Section 54954.2). Staff may be asked to follow up on such items.

1. General Public Comment

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. City Stormwater Projects

ACTION ITEMS

3. Approval of Minutes - Meeting of January 25, 2022

4. Adoption of Annual Report

5. Adoption of March 2022 – June 2022 Work Plan

COMMUNICATIONS

6. City Council Liaison Communications

7. Commissioner Communications

8. Staff Liaison Communications

9. Upcoming Events

- Waste Collection Survey – Deadline March 3, 2022
- LA County Smart Gardening Webinars - Various dates
(<https://www.ladpw.org/epd/sg/webinars.cfm>)
- MWD Turf Removal + CA Native Landscape Webinars - Various dates
(<https://greengardensgroup.com/turf-transformation/>)

ADJOURNMENT

FUTURE NREC MEETINGS

March 22, 2022	Zoom	7:00pm
April 26, 2022	Zoom	7:00pm
May 24, 2022	Zoom	7:00pm

PUBLIC ACCESS TO AGENDA DOCUMENTS AND BROADCASTING OF MEETINGS

Prior to meetings, agenda related documents and complete agenda packets are available for public inspection online at <https://www.southpasadenaca.gov/government/boards-commissions/natural-resources-environmental-commission>.

ACCOMMODATIONS



The City of South Pasadena wishes to make all of its public meetings accessible to the public. Meeting facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. If special assistance is needed to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Division at (626) 403-7230. Upon request, this agenda will be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with disabilities. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will assist staff in assuring that reasonable arrangements can be made to provide accessibility to the meeting (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title II).

I declare under penalty of perjury that I posted this notice of agenda on the bulletin board in the courtyard of City Hall at 1414 Mission Street, South Pasadena, CA 91030, and on the City's website as required by law.

2/17/22
Date



Arpy Kasparian
Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager

ITEM 3

Approval of Minutes – Meeting of January 25, 2022

CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION – SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES – January 25, 2022

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:01p.m. Present at the time of roll call were: Commissioner Rona Bortz, Commissioner Casey Law, Commissioner Bill Kelly, and Commissioner Michael Siegel. Commissioner Michelle Hammond had an excused absence. Mayor Michael Cacciotti was present. Staff present: Ted Gerber, Public Works Director; and Arpy Kasparian, Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1) Public Comments

There were no general public comments.

ACTION ITEMS:

2) Approval of Minutes - Meeting of December 6, 2021

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER KELLY, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER LAW, MOTION CARRIED 5-0, TO APPROVE MINUTES

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

3) Annual Report 2021

Kasparian asked the commission for assistance in completing the Annual Report. Chair Jones volunteered to complete a message to be included in the report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

4) Strategic Plan Review and Development of 2022 Work Plan

Gerber discussed the commission analysis and possible changes to the development of the Work Plan and its alignment with the City's Strategic Plan. Gerber reviewed the actions and goals of the Strategic Plan that would tie into the commission's work plan. The commissioners discussed what they would like to see in the upcoming work plan and expressed desire to go beyond the strategic plan to include items such as water conservation and education and plastic reduction.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

5) Selection of Officers

Gerber recommended that the commission postpone the selection of officers in the event that the commission analysis changes the structure of the commission. The commission agreed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

6) SB1383 & Food Scrap Collection Update

Kasparian provided the commission with an update on the progress of SB1383 implementation. Commissioner Kelly provided an update on the options the Athens' Ad Hoc Committee is discussing. Kasparian informed the commission of staff's pursuit of a grant to assist with SB1383 implementation and provided information on the residential food scrap collection program in the City. The commission asked questions and discussed several aspects of SB1383 implementation including collection, reporting, SB619, and education & outreach.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

COMMUNICATIONS:

7) City Council Liaison Communications

Mayor Cacciotti updated the commission on the meetings he attended and elaborated on the commission analysis. He shared new practices he will be implementing as mayor.

8) Commissioner Communications

Commissioner Bortz had no comments. Commissioner Kelly updated the commission on the Leased Facilities Ad Hoc Committee and requested a presentation on the Arroyo stormwater projects. Commissioner Siegel had no comments. Commissioner Law updated the commission on City plans for heat emergencies and encouraged the involvement of a CERT group in the City. Chair Jones shared support for Commissioner Kelly's request for a presentation on stormwater projects.

9) Staff Liaison Communications

Kasparian reminded the commission of the commission survey and workshop and informed them that staff will be recommending City Council to upgrade the commercial default power service from 50% clean energy to 100% green energy. Gerber provided additional updates on the City's electrification projects and on the Arroyo Seco project.

10) Upcoming Events

- Nature Park Volunteer Day – Feb. 19, 2022
- LA County Smart Gardening Webinars – Various dates
(<https://www.ladpw.org/epd/sg/webinars.cfm>)
- MWD Turf Removal + CA Native Landscape Webinars – Various dates
(<https://greengardensgroup.com/turf-transformation>)

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Jones adjourned the meeting at 8:27p.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing minutes were adopted by the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission of the City of South Pasadena at a meeting held on February 22, 2022.

Amy Jones, Chair

ITEM 4

NREC 2021 Annual Report

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION



A Message from the Commission Chair

I am pleased to present the South Pasadena Natural Resource and Environmental Commission Annual Report for 2021. This report outlines the accomplishments of the NREC over the last year. The NREC is committed to meeting the challenges of conserving energy and protecting our community's natural resources while also conducting tree removal hearings when needed.

This year the NREC, in collaboration with City Staff and Council, continued to advocate for and implement new initiatives and ordinances to improve our community environment and health. The NREC is grateful for the continued support of the community and would also like to thank our City Council and City Manager for their ongoing leadership. The NREC is especially grateful for the hard work and expertise of Environmental Services and Sustainability Manager, Arpy Kasparian and Public Works Director, Ted Gerber. I am honored to serve as Chair for the NREC and would also like to thank my commissioners for their time, expertise, and dedication to the City.

Sincerely,

Amy Davis Jones
Natural Resources and Environmental Commission, Chair

Purpose Statement

The Natural Resources and Environmental Commission (NREC) is a seven member body that is advisory to the City Council in all matters pertaining to energy, science and technology, and natural resources and the environment. The NREC assists the City in the planning, programming, use, and conservation of energy and natural resources, as well as administers the City's tree ordinance. Qualifications for serving on the commission consist of being a resident elector (registered voter) of the city. Members are appointed to a three-year term, with a maximum length of service of two full consecutive terms, plus one partial term (if applicable).

Natural Resources & Environmental Commission (NREC)

Amy Davis Jones	Commission Chair
Madeline C. Di Giorgi	Commission Vice-Chair
Rona Bortz	Commissioner
Michelle Hammond	Commissioner
William J. Kelly	Commissioner
Casey Law	Commissioner
Michael Siegel	Commissioner
Michael Cacciotti, Mayor Pro-Tem	City Council Liaison
Arpy Kasparian, Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager	Staff Liaison

NREC meetings are held every fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm. Meetings are held at the City Council Chamber: 1424 Mission Street. Due to COVID-19 safety protocols, Commission meetings were held virtually in the beginning of the year and in a hybrid mode since July 2021.

2021 Accomplishments

Virtual Earth Day

In 2020, the COVID pandemic shut down plans for a 50th celebration of Earth Day. In 2021, the commission celebrated remotely by sending the community messages on what makes the City so inspiring for them, by launching the new South Pasadena Tree Guide, and by creating a video that illustrated how easy it is to get around town without a car.

Mandatory Organics Recycling Ordinance

Per Senate Bill 1383, jurisdictions are mandated to provide organics collection services and require all residents and businesses to divert organic waste from landfills. The NREC received several presentations, conducted thorough discussions, and recommended a Mandatory Organics Recycling Ordinance to City Council which was ultimately adopted in 2021.

Recommendation of Tree Ordinance

Per the 2019 adopted Green Action Plan, the NREC reviewed and provided a recommendation for the amendments to Chapter 34 (Trees and Shrubs) of the South Pasadena Municipal Code. These amendments aim to strengthen the Code to reflect the City's goal of protecting and maintaining a healthy tree canopy.

Ordinance Banning Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

Per the Climate Action Plan and the Green Action Plan, the NREC discussed and recommended to Council an ordinance prohibiting the use of gasoline-powered leaf blowers in the City. Emissions from gas-powered lawn equipment including leaf blowers are a significant source of air and noise pollution in our community and can have severe impacts on the health of gardeners and landscape workers. With Council's ultimate adoption of the ordinance, the City is taking another step towards a cleaner and more sustainable community.

Review of City Cool Roof Codes

The commissioners were joined by several building officials from Transtech Engineers to review the City's cool roof requirements. The commission asked questions and engaged in discussion regarding how cool roofs affect the urban heat island, the feasibility of adopting more restrictive cool roof codes than the state, and the alternative of offering incentives for cool roof installations rather than seeking approval for an upgraded code. Per the Green Action Plan, the commission will continue to investigate ways the City can implement practices that mitigate urban heat.

2021 Tree Removal Hearings

NO.	ADDRESS	MEETING DATE	MEETING NOTES
1	706 Magnolia	January 26, 2021	A request to remove a tree was denied and a recommendation was made to approve staff's recommendation to trim the tree.
2	822 Orange Grove Place	March 23, 2021	Commission moved to approve removal of a Schefflera and a Black Pine tree; and requested the property owner to re-design driveway to preserve a Camphor tree on the parkway.
3	23 Short Way	April 27, 2021	Commission approved the removal of 3 non-native trees.
4	1100 El Centro Street	April 27, 2021	Commission tabled item, requesting more information.

ITEM 5

NREC Work Plan March 2022 – June 2022

Provided Under Separate Cover