

**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA**  
**NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING**  
**MINUTES – April 27, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:23p.m. Present at the time of roll call were: Commissioner Bill Kelly, Commissioner Michelle Hammond, Commissioner Casey Law, Commissioner Michael Siegel, Vice Chair Madeline Di Giorgi, Chair Amy Jones, and Mayor Pro Tem Michael Cacciotti. Commissioner Rona Bortz had an excused absence. Staff present: Anteneh Tesfaye, Acting Deputy Public Works Director; Garret Crawford, Acting Deputy Public Work Director; Arpy Kasparian, Water Conservation and Sustainability Analyst, and Reyna Salazar-Martin, Public Works Management Assistant.

**1) GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Edgar Pelayo, VP of Development for South West Green – Provided information on electric lawn care equipment being offered by South West Green.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

**2) Tree Removal Hearing: Proposed Removal of 31 Non-Native Trees at 1100 El Centro Street**

Staff G. Crawford presented Tree Hearing Item. The applicant was present and made a statement. The commission discussed and received some clarification on the damages the existing trees are causing and how the number of replacement trees were calculated. The commission expressed concerns over removing healthy, mature trees and uncertainty over the supposed damages. The commission requested the applicant return with an engineer's report indicating the damages being caused by the trees. In addition, it was requested that the trees planted in the past not be included in the required replacement tree count.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Tucker Nelson, Resident – Expressed concerns over the removal of the trees on the sidewalk which are popular with pedestrians and provide shade. Urged commissioners to make a condition of approval that replacement shade trees be planted along the sidewalks.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER KELLY, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER LAW, MOTION CARRIED 6-0 TO TABLE ITEM FOR FUTURE MEETING PENDING REQUESTED ENGINEER'S REPORT

**PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**3) Green Action Plan Progress Report**

Kasparian provided an update on the progress of the Green Action Plan. She reported that water bottle refill stations were installed in 5 locations including City Hall and the Library with 3 more pending locations including the Senior Center and Recreation Center. Kasparian provided information on a possible Greywater Direct Install program funded partly by the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District. Kasparian provided information on the possible updates the staff is working on for the water conservation program for the next fiscal year.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments

4) SB1383 Organic Waste Reduction Requirements - CalRecycle

Samuel Sasu from CalRecycle presented on the jurisdiction requirements for the upcoming organic waste requirements in regards to State Bill 1383. Representatives from CalRecycle answered questions from the Commission.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments

**ACTION ITEMS:**

5) Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

Kasparian presented possible changes to the NREC 2021 Work Plan in order to advance establishing the ordinance banning gas-powered leaf blowers in the City. Kasparian explained that staff would work to keep as many items as possible on the 2021 NREC Work Plan while working on the ordinance, first. Mayor Pro Tem Cacciotti ensured staff that he would provide resources for the majority of the work and recommended the commission keep the Work Plan as is with the addition of the ordinance.

MOTION BY VICE CHAIR DI GIORGI, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER KELLY, MOTION CARRIED 6-0, TO ADVANCE THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN TIMELINE FOR DEVELOPING THE ORDINANCE BANING GAS-POWERED LEAD BLOWERS.

Vice Chair Di Giorgi left the meeting at 9:20pm.

6) Appointment of Athens Contract Ad Hoc Committee

Vice Chair Di Giorgi can no longer serve on the Athens Contract Ad Hoc Committee and will need a replacement. Commissioner Hammond was nominated by Chair Jones and accepted the nomination.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LAW, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SIEGEL, MOTION CARRIED 5-0, TO APPROVE NOMINATION

7) Approval of Minutes- Meeting of March 23, 2021

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SIEGEL, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HAMMOND, MOTION CARRIED 5-0, TO APPROVE MINUTES

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

8) City Council Liaison Communications

Mayor Pro Tem M. Cacciotti shared updates on the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Gold Line construction. Mayor Pro Tem is working with AQMD to mitigate pollution from diesel trucks coming from warehouses.

9) Commissioner Communications

Commissioner Law had no comments. Commissioner Siegel had no comments. Commissioner Kelly had no comments. Commissioner Hammond thanked Mayor Pro Tem for working on the diesel truck pollution mitigation and asked if bike parking in the City Hall courtyard could be re-installed. Staff will follow up. Chair Jones suggested enlisting the help of the High School Environmental Club for writing the proposal for the monarch butterfly grant opportunity.

**10) Staff Liaison Communications**

Kasparian provided updates on the City's Earth Day outreach including blog posts, Spring Sustainable South Pasadena Newsletter, the Tree Guide, message from NREC, the Library Tree Scavenger Hunt, and the Earth Day video from Commissioner Siegel.


**11) Upcoming Events**

- FREE Household Hazardous and E-Waste Collection Event – May 29 (San Gabriel)
- 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 Amy Jones adjourned the meeting at 9:41 p.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 May 25, 2021.

DocuSigned by:  
  
PC308890ACF74F2...

---

Amy Jones, Chair