

**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES – May 25, 2021**

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 Michelle Hammond, Commissioner Casey Law, Commissioner Bill Kelly, Commissioner Michael Siegel, Chair Amy Jones, and Mayor Pro Tem Michael Cacciotti. Vice Chair Madeline Di Giorgi had an excused absence. Staff present: Ted Gerber, Deputy Public Works Director; Anteneh Tesfaye, Water Operations Manager; Garret Crawford, Acting Deputy Public Work Director; Arpy Kasparian, Water Conservation and Sustainability Analyst; and Sheila Pautsch, Community Services Director.

1) GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

PRESENTATIONS:

2) Introduction of Ted Gerber, Public Works Deputy Director

Ted Gerber, the new Public Works Deputy Director, introduced himself and gave a brief background.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments

ACTION ITEMS:

3) Appointment to City Leased Recreational Facility Ad Hoc Committee

Pautsch explained that City Council requested up to two NREC commissioners to join the Ad Hoc Committee which would assist staff in determining the future terms of use of City leased recreational facilities including the Arroyo Seco Golf Course, the Arroyo Seco Racquet Club, and the All-Star Baseball School and Batting Cages. Commissioner Bortz and Commissioner Kelly volunteered to join the Ad Doc Committee. Chair Jones nominated Commissioner Bortz and Commissioner Kelly to join the Ad Hoc Committee.

MOTION BY CHAIR JONES, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SIEGEL, MOTION CARRIED 6-0, TO APPROVE NOMINATION

4) Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

Kasparian presented a draft ordinance prohibiting the use of gas-powered leaf blowers in the City. The commissioners and City staff discussed enforcement, the placement of the ban within the code, outreach, the addition of other small off-road engines to the code, and focusing outreach and enforcement on property owners instead of gardeners/landscapers. The commission requested staff include in the staff report to City Council that staff will work to establish a tool lending library to assist with the outreach and education of switching from gas-powered to electric leaf blowers.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HAMMOND, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER KELLY, MOTION CARRIED 6-0, TO RECOMMEND TO CITY COUNCIL TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWER ORDINANCE WITH THE AMENDMENT TO DIRECT ENFORCEMENT/RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS PROPERTY OWNERS PER CITY ATTORNEY'S REVIEW

5) Approval of Minutes- Special Meeting of April 27, 2021

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LAW, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HAMMOND, MOTION CARRIED 6-0, TO APPROVE SPECIAL MINUTES

6) Approval of Minutes- Meeting of April 27, 2021

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SIEGEL, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER BORTZ, MOTION CARRIED 6-0, TO APPROVE MINUTES

COMMUNICATIONS:

7) City Council Liaison Communications

Mayor Pro Tem M. Cacciotti shared updates on AQMD's decision to transition to cleaner fuels for diesel trucks from warehouses and talked about the innovative battery technologies that use recycled, repurposed, lithium ion batteries to power lawn mowers.

8) Commissioner Communications

Commissioner Law had no comments. Commissioner Kelly had no comments. Commissioner Siegel had no comments. Commissioner Bortz had no comments. Commissioner Hammond had no comments. Chair Jones shared her disappointment with the South Pasadena Unified School District's decision to remove several healthy trees from their new property.

9) Staff Liaison Communications

Kasparian walked through how to sign up for Connect South Pasadena, a mass notification system for City emergencies, and encouraged all to sign up. Kasparian let the commission know that bike racks were re-installed in the City Hall courtyard. Crawford updated the commission on the status of the tree code update.

10) 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 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 June 22, 2021.



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Amy Jones, Chair