

**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES – May 24, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:02p.m. Present at the time of roll call were: Commissioner Rona Bortz, Commissioner Ella Hushagen, Commissioner Amy Davis Jones, Commissioner William J. Kelly, Commissioner Michael Siegel, Vice Chair Michelle Hammond, Chair Casey Law, and City Council Liaison Mayor Michael Cacciotti. Staff present: Ted Gerber, Public Works Director and Arpy Kasparian, Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager.

1) General Public Comment

One public comment was submitted and is included in additional documents provided to the Commission.

PRESENTATIONS:

2) Welcome Commissioner Ella Hushagen

Commissioner Hushagen is a resident in South Pasadena and is excited to share her input on environmental issues while serving on the Commission.

3) eSGV Program: Free Home Assessments- SGVCOG, Johanna Read

Johanna Read sharED the no-cost home energy assessments (eSGV or Efficient San Gabriel Valley) program provided through the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments. The goal of this program is to encourage residents to implement energy efficiency upgrades in their home. Appointments can be made online at <https://www.sgvkog.org/esgv> – residents may select online or in-person format for the assessment. Residents will receive a tailored report with long-term and short-term priority recommendations. Each report includes a detailed list of applicable rebates, incentives, and savings programs.

Commissioners requested the checklist for the assessments to be available for residents online. The program is geared toward both renters and homeowners. It was suggested to review what other cities done in order for their residents to participate in the program.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

4) Commission Congress

The commission received information regarding the Commission Congress taking place on Wednesday, June 22. Each Commission will showcase their accomplishments and share future plans. This event is open to the public. Commissioners discussed what they would like to include in their presentation. The idea of future joint commission meetings was brought forth.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

ACTION ITEMS:

5) Approval of Minutes – Meeting of April 26, 2022

MOTION BY VICE CHAIR HAMMOND, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SIEGEL, MOTION CARRIED 7-0, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 26 NREC COMMISSION MEETING.

6) Fiscal Year 2022/23 Water Conservation Program Recommendation

Arpy Kasparian shared a summary of the discussion of the proposed fiscal year 2022-23 Water Conservation Program from the April 26 NREC Commission Meeting. It is recommended that the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission recommends City Council approve the proposed Water Conservation Programs for the 2022-23 fiscal year including the declaration of a Stage 2: Serious Water Supply Shortage and adding a multi-family clothes washer city rebate.

Commissioners discussed the new Greywater Pilot Program as well as the other proposed programs. Commissioners also questioned why the City will be declaring Stage 2 rather than Stage 3 Water Supply Shortage. There are a series of exemptions under the water restriction that will be imposed. Commissioners recommended expanding on the City Rebate Program to include multi-family residential clothes washing machines.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Cacciotti – Had questions regarding if places of worship are considered residential or commercial in regards to rebate qualification.

Tucker Nelson, Resident - Shared concerns of low-income residents being unable to afford the upfront cost of conservation devices as well as labor fees. In terms of turf removal for apartments, children do not have a place to play, recommending for apartments to be lower on the list.

MOTION BY VICE CHAIR HAMMOND, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER JONES, MOTION CARRIED 7-0, TO RECOMMEND CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE PROPOSED WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS FOR THE 2022-23 FISCAL YEAR INCLUDING THE DECLARATION OF A STAGE 2: SERIOUS WATER SUPPLY SHORTAGE AND ADDING A MULTI-FAMILY CLOTHES WASHER CITY REBATE.

COMMUNICATIONS:

7) City Council Liaison Communications

Mayor Cacciotti thanked those who participated in the Open Streets event through Active SGV. Cacciotti attended a series of meetings including Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Gold Line Construction Authority Meeting, ACT (Advanced Clean Transportation), and AQMD retreat.

8) Commissioner Communications

Commissioner Bortz reported on the Greywater Garden Tour and thanked the few hundred participants who visited the gardens. Commissioners Siegel, Jones, and Kelly had no comments. Commissioners welcomed Commissioner Hushagen to the Commission. Commissioner Hushagen had no comments. Vice Chair Hammond shared the demonstration coming up on Mission T. for a road reconfiguration. Chair Law encouraged everyone to vote.

9) Staff Liaison Communications

Ted Gerber shared the Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Included in this plan is fleet electrification and the infrastructure necessary to complete the program. Appreciation for the staff members, vendor, and officials who assisted with the purchasing of the Chevy Volt for City use. Gerber shared that the wetland project is in preliminary design and there will be a community meeting on May 26 at 6pm to collect comments. Commissioner positions are still open, please submit an application if you are interested in serving your community in an essential way.
<https://www.southpasadenaca.gov/government/boards-commissions>

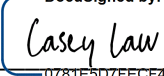
10) Upcoming Events

- Friends of the Nature Park Volunteer Day- June 18
- Commissioner Congress- June 22
- 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 Casey Law adjourned the meeting at 9:20 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 June 28, 2022.

DocuSigned by:


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Casey Law, Chair