

CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES – June 22, 2021

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00p.m. Present at the time of roll call were: Commissioner Rona Bortz, Commissioner Michelle Hammond, Commissioner Casey Law, Commissioner Bill Kelly, Commissioner Michael Siegel, Vice Chair Madeline Di Giorgi, Chair Amy Jones, and Mayor Pro Tem Michael Cacciotti. Staff present: Ted Gerber, Deputy Public Works Director; Garret Crawford, Public Works Operations Manager; and Arpy Kasparian, Water Conservation and Sustainability Analyst.

1) GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

2) Review of City Cool Roof and Parking Lot Codes

The commission was joined by several building officials from Transtech Engineers including Dennis Tarango, Ayla Jefferson, and Jeffrey Cau. Transtech is contracted by the City to provide building and safety services including enforcement of California construction codes as adopted in Title 24. Tarango explained that the City’s classification as Climate Zone 9 exempts residential developments from cool roof requirements; however, commercial buildings can choose to install cool roofs to comply with the energy code unless they choose alternative measures such as additional insulation. Cool roofs reflect heat and are just one of the prescriptive measures to comply with building energy requirements to reduce energy consumption. Since the City is prominently residential, there aren’t many cool roofs.

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.

The commission also discussed the need to strengthen the enforcement of the City’s parking lot codes and how they can be incentivized. Other heat island mitigation mechanisms were mentioned including carports with solar panels and cool paving. Chair Jones stated that the next step would be for the commission to review the current codes related to landscape in parking lots, update it if necessary, and explore ways to incentivize and enforce the code.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments

ACTION ITEMS:

3) Recommendation of Tree Ordinance

Crawford reviewed the changes made to the Tree Ordinance with the commission including edits to the definition of “shrubs” and clarifying the number of tree replacement requirements.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

MOTION BY VICE CHAIR DI GIORGI, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SIEGEL, MOTION CARRIED 7-0, TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF TREE ORDINANCE TO CITY COUNCIL

4) Approval of Minutes- Meeting of May 25, 2021

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LAW, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HAMMOND, MOTION CARRIED 7-0, TO APPROVE MINUTES

COMMUNICATIONS:

5) City Council Liaison Communications

Mayor Pro Tem M. Cacciotti shared that the Council approved the budget and budgeted an additional \$50,000 for tree replacement and planting. He shared the City's response to a fallen tree branch on Oak St. and took a tour of the district with staff and community members to show conditions of our streets and tree canopy. Mayor Pro Tem shared updates from AQMD and Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy. Lastly, he explained how City staff are working with Southern California Edison in their Charge Ready Program to update infrastructure to accommodate installation of several EV chargers.

6) Commissioner Communications

Commissioner Law had no comments. Commissioner Bortz shared that Transition South Pasadena will be providing reusable 4th of July decorations for businesses on Mission St. She suggested that the City plant a tree at the Fremont entrance to the City. Commissioner Kelly requested an update on the Athens Ad Hoc Committee and was interested in discussing how the City can use Measure W to create more water capture features in the City. Commissioner Siegel had no comments. Commissioner Hammond asked staff to provide information on any maintenance plans for all the new tree plantings. Vice Chair Di Giorgi shared the "Plastic Against Plastic" art classes. Chair Jones encouraged fellow commissioners to forward information on the leaf blower webinar to their community groups. The commission discussed recommendations of gardeners and concluded that South Pasadena Beautiful and Transition South Pasadena could offer gardener recommendations.

7) Staff Liaison Communications

Kasparian updated the commission on the gas-powered leaf blower ordinance and the Athens Ad Hoc Committee. Mayor Pro Tem asked staff to provide an update on SB619.


8) Upcoming Events

- Transitioning to Electric Landscaping Equipment - Free Webinar - June 23, 7pm
- South Pasadena Beautiful Plant Swap - Library - June 26, 10am-12pm
- Celebrate National Pollinator Week with "The Pollinators" - June 21 - June 27
- 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 8:35p.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 July 27, 2021.

DocuSigned by:

D3875715DD5442F...
William J. Kelly, Commissioner