

**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA  
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES – JUNE 28, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03p.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, and Chair Casey Law. Staff present: Ted Gerber, Public Works Director and Arpy Kasparian, Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager. City Council Liaison Mayor Michael Cacciotti was present a few minutes after roll call.

**1) General Public Comment**

Mark G – Resident – Asked commissioners to speak clearly into the microphone during discussions.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**2) Huntington Drive Green Street Stormwater Project**

Public Works Director, Ted Gerber, presenting a plan for South Pasadena to mitigate the issue of urban runoff being diverted into the ocean. This project is in its early stages and funding avenues are being explored. Next steps of the program were presented.

Commissioners asked questions pertaining to the location of the project as well as the infrastructure type. Commissioners also asked how the project would proceed if the environmental studies did not give the expected results. It was recommended the city explore smaller scale diversion projects.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments.

**DISCUSSION:**

**3) Environmentally Friendly Cleaning Product Discussion**

Janitorial contracts are ending at the conclusion of the fiscal year. This item has been brought to NREC to request feedback from commissioners regarding the addition of language or guidelines that should be included in the RFP pertaining to cleaning products. For example, EPA's Safer Choice certification.

Commissioners shared their concerns regarding reusable cleaning items such as rags to replace single-use, disposable items. Another commissioner shared that South Coast Air Quality Management District and the California Air Resources Board have certifications in place that should be explored. Commissioners also urged the importance of monitoring the packaging of the cleaning products. The recommendation to offer training of some type with products or equipment in order to make them not only safer but ways to lessen their impact as well as asking vendors to green their operations. Mayor Cacciotti recommended monitoring and educating the staff responsible for working with the cleaning products.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

4) Approval of Minutes – Meeting of May 24, 2022

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER JONES, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SIEGEL, MOTION CARRIED 7-0, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 24 NREC COMMISSION MEETING.

5) Approval of NREC Fiscal Year 2022-23 Work Plan

Comments shared during the previous NREC meeting have been implemented into a draft work plan for the 2022-23 fiscal year. Commissioners discussed adding a budget presentation and connecting with other commissions on items related to natural resources and sustainability.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER JONES, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER BORTZ, MOTION CARRIED 7-0, TO RECOMMEND CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE WORK PLAN AS PRESENTED AND TO INCLUDE (IF FEASIBLE) A BUDGET PRESENTATION, EXPAND ON THE WASTE GUIDE FOR CITY FACILITIES AND EVENTS, AND INCORPORATE ITEMS FROM OTHER COMMISSIONS RELATED TO NREC.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

6) City Council Liaison Communications

Mayor Cacciotti, the representative on the Gold Line Foothill Construction Authority, shared the project has reached 50% completion. The July 20 City Council meeting will be discussing electrification projects such as chargers and electric vans.

7) Commissioner Communications

Commissioner Siegel thanked the staff for the Commission Congress. Commissioner Bortz had no comments. Commissioner Jones encouraged residents to take advantage of the City's water rebates. Commissioner Kelly shared more information on the electric vehicle demonstration taking place on July 18. Commissioner Hushagen had no comments. Vice Chair Hammond thanked the staff for the Commission Congress. Chair Law shared the CERT training program and the Neighborhood Watch program.

8) Staff Liaison Communications

Kasparian thanked the commissioners for joining the Commission Congress and updated the commission on the Council's declaration of Stage 2 water restrictions. Rebate values will be updated on July 1.

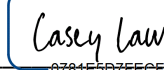
9) Upcoming Events

- 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 9:00 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 July 26, 2022.

  
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Casey Law, Chair