

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

CALL TO ORDER:

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

1) GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

2) South Pasadena Community Forest Proposal – Natural Urban Forests

The commission received a presentation by two South Pasadena high school students, Frances Lee and Sophie Yeung, who proposed growing a natural urban forest on the corner of Monterey Road and Via Del Rey. They presented the method to be used, the benefits of an urban forest, and the estimated costs.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ally Luis - Resident – Expressed her support for the proposed urban forest.

Mehran Murabi – Resident – Lives next to the proposed site. Expressed his concerns with the proposed urban forest including the fire hazard, the type of plants to be planted, the pests the forest would attract, liability issues, and the maintenance of the project.

The commission asked the students questions regarding the educational component of the project, the method used to grow the forest, the maintenance requirements, the selection of the proposal site, the costs of the project, and discussed the challenges of the project. The commission asked the students to conduct further research to address concerns and to bring back a stronger proposal with additional information at a later commission meeting.

ACTION ITEMS:

3) Approval of Minutes- Meeting of June 22, 2021

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SIEGEL, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HAMMOND, MOTION CARRIED 4-0, TO APPROVE MINUTES

COMMUNICATIONS:

4) City Council Liaison Communications

Mayor Pro Tem M. Cacciotti shared an update from the July 7th City Council meeting on the leaf blower ordinance and shared that the City has submitted a letter of support for AB1346, which would restrict the use of gas-powered small off road engines.

5) Commissioner Communications

Commissioner Law shared his interest and concerns with the City's plans to adapt to more frequent heat waves and heat emergencies. He expressed his desire to raise this as an issue that the commission could provide a recommendation on. Commissioner Siegel shared that Energy Efficiency Day is coming up in October and suggested our Council proclaim an Energy Efficiency Day to promote energy efficiency in the City. Commissioner Hammond had no comments. Commissioner Kelly provided an updated on AB1346 which is before the Appropriations Committee. He agreed with Commissioner Law's call to discuss the City's heat emergency plans.

6) Staff Liaison Communications

Kasparian updated the commission on the gas-powered leaf blower ordinance and the Athens Ad Hoc Committee. She welcomed everyone to join Public Works and the sustainability team at National Night Out. Ted Gerber updated the commission on the status of SB619 and the City plans for installing EV chargers through some AQMD funding and through the So Cal Edison Charge Ready Program. Gerber updated the commission on the City's stormwater infrastructure projects including two at the Arroyo Seco, a potential Huntington Green Street project, and a potential pocket park project.

7) Upcoming Events

- National Night Out – August 3 – Orange Grove Park – 6pm
- 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:

Commissioner Kelly adjourned the meeting at 8:30p.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 August 24, 2021.



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Amy Jones, Chair