



**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 25, 2023, AT 7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Meeting of the South Pasadena Natural Resources and Environmental Commission was called to order by Chair Siegel on Tuesday, July 25, 2023, at 7:02 P.M. in the City Council Chambers, 1424 Mission Street, South Pasadena, California.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

Chair	Michael Siegel
Commissioner	Amy Davis Jones
Commissioner	Casey Law
Commissioner	Richard Tom

ABSENT

Vice Chair	Ella Hushagen
Commissioner	Rona Bortz
Commissioner	Michelle Hammond

Melanis Stepanian, Management Assistant, announced a quorum.

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

Ted Gerber Public Works Director; Arpy Kasparian, Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager; Melanis Stepanian, Management Assistant were present at Roll Call. Other staff members presented reports or responded to questions as indicated in the minutes.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Flag Salute was led by Chair Michael Siegel.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. PUBLIC COMMENT – GENERAL (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

In Person Comments:

Mieke Kramer spoke regarding a concern with tree removal practices on private property. Michael Ten raised a series of questions regarding the tree replacement policy in the City.

Zoom Comments:

Jim Kramer spoke on the tree located on his property and the concern with the development occurring at the neighbor's property.

PRESENTATIONS**2. FISCAL YEAR 2023-24 BUDGET**

Finance Director, John Downs shared an update on the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget summary for Public Works.

ACTION**3. PLASTICS TASK FORCE SELECTION****COMMISSION ACTION AND MOTION**

A motion was made by Chair Siegel, seconded by Commissioner Tom and approved by roll call vote to nominate Commissioner Hammond, Commissioner Jones, and Commissioner Bortz as the Plastic Task Force. The motion carried 4-0-3, by the following vote:

AYES: Siegel, Jones, Law, Tom
NOES: None.
ABSENT: Hushagen, Bortz, Hammond
ABSTAINED: None.

4. Approval of Minutes of June 27, 2023 NREC MeetingRecommendation

It is recommended that the Commission review and consider approval of the June 27, 2023, Meeting Minutes.

COMMISSION ACTION AND MOTION

A motion was made by Commissioner Tom, seconded by Commissioner Jones and approved by roll call vote to approve the June 27, 2023 NREC Meeting Minutes. The motion carried 4-0-3, by the following vote:

AYES: Siegel, Jones, Law, Tom
NOES: None.
ABSENT: Hushagen, Bortz, Hammond
ABSTAINED: None.

COMMUNICATIONS

5. **CITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS**

Councilmember Cacciotti provided updates from the South Coast AQMD Governing Board.

6. **COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioner Jones shared her concern with trimming trees during the warmer season. She suggested when the Commission reviews the ordinance to revisit the time of year when trees are pruned and recommends the City Arborist look into this issue.

Chair Siegel commented on processes for tree trimming throughout the City. He discussed the Athens trash collection and brought attention to the Materials Recovery Facility (MFR) which sorts the City's waste for items that can be recycled. He highlighted Public Works efforts with the 4th of July parade and celebrations.

Commissioner Tom had no comments.

Commissioner Law had no comments.

7. **STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS**

Arpy Kasparian discussed a Green Action Plan update from the Sustainability Division. She shared upcoming events with the Commission and members of the community. Arpy Kasparian highlighted the City's efforts related to the Athens waste collection negotiations and thanked the community for attending the Solid Waste Community Meeting.

Ted Gerber shared 2 upcoming projects: The Slow Streets Program and the 626 Golden Streets Arroyo Fest.

Melanis Stepanian commented that the Sustainability Division will be tabling at the South Pasadena Farmer's Market on Thursday evenings.

8. **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- ACE Hardware and STIHL Leaf Blower Demonstration – Farmer's Market, July 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

There being no further matters, Chair Siegel adjourned the meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission at 8:46pm to the next Regular City Council meeting scheduled for August 22, 2023.

Respectfully submitted:

DocuSigned by:
Arpy Kasparian
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Arpy Kasparian
Staff Liaison, Environmental Services &
Sustainability Manager

APPROVED:

DocuSigned by:
Michael Siegel
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Michael Siegel
Chair

Approved at Commission: August 22, 2023