



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

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 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, October 24, 2023, at 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers, 1424 Mission Street, South Pasadena, California.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

Chair	Michael Siegel
Vice Chair	Ella Hushagen
Commissioner	Casey Law
Commissioner	Richard Tom
Commissioner	Michelle Hammond
Commissioner	Amy Davis Jones
Commissioner	Rona Bortz

ABSENT

None

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

Arpy Kasparian, Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager and 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:

Tucker Nelson promoted the Woman’s Club blood drive taking place on Monday, October 30, 2023.

Written Public Comment:

Staff received 1 written public comment prior to the meeting.

No additional public comments were submitted.

PRESENTATIONS**2. CITY ELECTRIFICATION PROJECTS**

Public Works Director, Ted Gerber, presented on the various electrification projects throughout the city. Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager, Arpy Kasparian, shared an update on the progress on the Ban on Gas Powered Leaf Blowers.

DISCUSSION**3. PLASTICS SUBCOMMITTEE LED DISCUSSION**

The Plastics Tasks Force Subcommittee, comprising of Commissioner Hammond, Commissioner Jones, and Commissioner Bortz, presented their findings and ideas.

ACTION**4. Approval of Minutes of September 26, 2023, NREC Meeting**Recommendation

It is recommended that the Commission review and consider approval of the September 26, 2023, Meeting Minutes.

COMMISSION ACTION AND MOTION

A motion was made by Commissioner Tom, seconded by Commissioner Hammond and approved by roll call vote to approve the September 26, 2023, NREC Meeting Minutes. The motion carried 6-1-0, by the following vote:

AYES: Siegel, Hammond, Hushagen, Law, Tom, Jones.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTAINED: Bortz.

COMMUNICATIONS**5. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS**

Councilmember Cacciotti shared updates on various projects. He also recognized Ted Gerber and Arpy Kasparian for their efforts with the leaf blower ordinance and the City's electrification projects.

6. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Siegel commented on the success of the charrette community meetings and promoted the SoPas Active weekly bike bus.

Vice Chair Hushagen had no comments.

Commissioner Law touched on the traffic due to street expansions and the impact on greenhouse gas emissions.

Commissioner Tom had no comments.

Commissioner Jones had no comments.

Commissioner Bortz shared a student volunteer group called Food Chain LA.

Commissioner Hammond promoted the upcoming ArroyoFest event.

7. STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager, Arpy Kasparian, promoted the ArroyoFest event on Saturday, October 29, 2023. She shared that City Council advised staff to proceed with drafting a new agreement with Athens Services with the same terms as the existing contract.

Ted Gerber, Public Works Director, did not have any comments.

8. UPCOMING EVENTS

- Compost and Mulch Giveaway: Saturday, November 4, 9am-12pm
- Upper District Free Workshop: Resilient Alternatives to Removing Your Turf – 11/9, 6pm, Monrovia (upperdistrict.org/water-smart-workshops/)
- 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 8:56 P.M. to the next Regular Commission meeting scheduled for November 28, 2023.

Respectfully submitted:

DocuSigned by:

Arpy Kasparian

A8668A5FD73B40E...

Arpy Kasparian
Staff Liaison, Environmental Services &
Sustainability Manager

APPROVED:

DocuSigned by:

Ella Hushagen

430459B03FEB4F1

Ella Hushagen
Vice Chair

Approved at Commission: November 28, 2023